

THE CUSTOMS JOURNAL

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PREVENTIVE STAFF ASSOCIATION

VOL. 39. No. 963.

DECEMBER, 1942.

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CHANGES IN THE STAFF

TO 10th DECEMBER, 1942.

TRANSFERS.

PREVENTIVE OFFICERS:—

Boodle, F. G., London to Liverpool.
Oakes, J., Stornaway, Inverness to Manchester.
Spencer, W. C., Manchester to London.

OBITUARY OF SUPERANNUATED OFFICERS.

Smallwood, J., Preventive Officer.
Gilmartin, L., Chief Preventive Officer.

OBITUARY

SERGT. CYRIL G. WARNER, L.R. BDE.

The news of the death in action at the early age of 27 of Cyril Warner, late A.P.O., London, has come as a shock to all his colleagues and friends in the London Division. As a Territorial, he was called to the Colours upon the outbreak of the war, and eventually was promoted to the rank of sergeant in the London Rifle Brigade.

He had been overseas for only a short period, and was killed on the 2nd November in the Western Desert. Cyril, or "Plum" as he was known to most of us, entered the department in February, 1935, and quickly proved himself to be a loyal and helpful colleague and was popular with all ranks. His last letter to me, dated 10.9.42, told of his general well-being and good spirits, and closed with his regard to all. We shall miss his cheery ways, and the "Harpy" in particular will be lacking. During this particularly tragic period in their lives we extend to his bereaved parents our deepest sympathy.

"Greater love hath no man than this,
That a man lay down his life for his friends."

MR. JAMES A. PERCIVAL, P.O.

It is with sincere regret that the passing is reported of Jimmy Percival. He had been ill for a considerable period prior to his death, but with that characteristic fighting spirit so well known to us all he determined to get back to his job as soon as was possible. Jim succeeded, and once more for a brief period he was to be found in the office at Surrey Docks. Alas! it was not for long, and word was passed round that Jim had entered the hospital again. On Friday morning, the 27th November, it was learned that he had passed on, and the Port of London is the poorer for his loss.

He entered the department in March, 1914, being promoted in April, 1926, to the rank of Preventive Officer. The whole of his service was spent in London.

The funeral took place at Sidcup, Kent, on the 3rd December, being preceded by a service held in St. Peter's Church, Brockley. Four of his colleagues were bearers: Messrs. Burt and Eldridge, P.O.s, and Drury and Longman, A.P.O.s. Others who attended included Messrs. Moloney and Standring, C.P.O.s, Baldwin, Flaxman, O'Driscoll, Songhurst and Stocker, P.O.s, and R. J. Lowe, A.P.O.

The sincere sympathies of the London staff and those who are on detached duty are extended to Mrs. Percival and her family.

R. J. L.

MR. F. PRECIOUS, A.P.O.

It has come as a great shock to his many old colleagues now in Greenock to hear of the tragic death of Fred Precious, on Detached Duty from Dover. It appears that he fell in the dock in the black-out while on duty at Inverness. The funeral took place in his home town of West Hartlepool.

Obituarists have already used so many superlatives to express but formal regrets that it is difficult to convey the sincerity of the grief which all who knew him must feel at his parting. To his young wife (they were married but a month before the war) we can but offer our true sympathy in her sorrow—a sorrow we can do no more than guess at.

Fred started his Detached Duty travels within the first few weeks of the outbreak of war, serving first at Ramsgate with the R.N. Contraband Control, then back to Dover, and then successively at Falmouth, Penzance and Inverness. It was perhaps a little indication of our regard for him that he was able to achieve at least two nicknames—"Luscious," a play on his name, and "Larsen," owing to his Nordic appearance—both of which he always took in good part. His forthright north country speech tempered by his good humour and charm of manner; his ability to take his part in a good time with the lads, coupled with an equal ability to take his share of hard work, made him a most popular colleague.

I, for one, have lost a friend.

B.A.B.

THE CUSTOMS FUND

ELECTION OF DIRECTOR.

As a result of the ballot counted on 10th December, Mr. James Merron, of the Waterguard Service, was elected as Director. The voting was as follows:—

James Merron	...	...	...	...	714
Gregory John Edmonds Chase, M.B.E.	...	...	...	...	699
William Sidney Williams	...	...	...	...	468



CURRENT COMMENTS

CUSTOMS FUND

WE have very great pleasure in announcing that Mr. James Merron has been declared elected to the Directorate of the Fund. The polling was fairly heavy and the margin of votes between Mr. Merron and the runner-up, Mr. Chase, was very narrow. However, the result is all that matters, and after some years of enforced absence the Waterguard once again takes its place on the managerial body of this important C. & E. Organisation.

We have every reason to believe that the result has been very well received in all quarters.

WATERGUARD SECTIONAL COMMITTEE

Arrangements are being made for a meeting of the Sectional Committee as soon as practicable. The Staff Side request was for a meeting during the last week in December or the first week in the New Year, but owing to the impending retirement of the Chairman (see next paragraph) the meeting may have to be deferred until later in January. The date of the Sectional meeting will decide the date of the next (full) Executive Committee meeting, because it had previously been decided to re-late the two meetings.

Six new references to the Sectional Committee have been granted and will appear on the agenda:—

- (i) Suspension of the seven-hour day.
- (ii) Maintenance of the strength of Rummage crews.
- (iii) Increased duty limit for Preference.
- (iv) Abolition of automatic seizure rewards to P.O.s.
- (v) Increased option limit for C.P.O.s in relation to seizures.
- (vi) Claim for increased maximum salary for C.P.O. Grade.

J. B. HARDIE, Esq.

We learn that Mr. J. B. Hardie, Assistant Secretary, who reached the age of 60 in June last, will be retiring from the Department on the 31st December next.

Mr. Hardie has been Chairman of the Waterguard Sectional Committee since 1937, following the retirement of Mr. A. S. Lupton, and covered a period which, although not the most hectic, was certainly one of the most important in Waterguard history.

Older members will remember Mr. Hardie as Superintendent of Stores between 1922 and 1926 during which the Staff Side obtained revolutionary changes in uniform style and material.

As a point of interest, "off the record," Mr. Hardie's son was the first of the Military to board the m/v "Pomona" when the attempt was made to scuttle the ship in one of the London docks when war was declared. An incident in which the prompt action of Waterguard Officers played an important part.

We extend our best wishes to Mr. Hardie on his retirement.

THE BEVERIDGE REPORT

Members will have joined in the chorus of approval of Sir William's gigantic effort to kill the first of the five giants—"Want, Disease, Ignorance, Squalor and Idleness"—and having voiced that approbation will be forgiven for looking again at the scheme, this time from the point of view of the Civil Servant.

Among the changes from the present system the following appear to affect our position:—

Change 14 suggests a minimum retiring age of 65 for men and offers increased pensions for service beyond that age (para. 133).

The policy of the National Staff Side is towards a retiring age earlier even than the present rule.

Change 16 abolishes exceptions from insurance of

(a) Persons in particular occupations, such as the Civil Service, etc.;

(b) Persons with above £420 a year.

Sir William's view here is "that as regards pensions and sickness insurance those occupations which have already made provision should do so in the future in the light of the basic provisions being made for all, including these members, by the new Plan. All that is needed is that they should be given time to re-adjust their own schemes" (para. 149). Further, "there will be no exception of employees on the ground of regularity of employment or that it entitles them to a pension" (paras. 314 and 359).

Still further, "provision for retirement additional to or exclusive of old age pension is now made in many occupations as a whole (Civil Service, Local Government service, etc.). No

special action by the State is called for, except that of making its own development of compulsory insurance for retirement gradual, so as to give time for any necessary re-arrangement of occupational schemes" (para. 381).

Change 21. Transfer to Ministry of Social Security of the work of the C. & E. Department in respect of non-contributory pensions (para. 173).

The wholesale transfer of such a large block of work from this Department and

the consequential redundancy thus created may well have repercussions on other grades.

We haven't, of course, had time thoroughly to analyse this lengthy document, but we have seen enough to indicate a need for very close examination both departmentally and nationally.

STAFF IN ORKNEYS, SHETLANDS, ETC.

It looks as if at long last something is being done to meet the peculiar and extremely hard cases arising from the total inadequacy of war-time subsistence when applied to staff in outlandish places.

The Ministry of Labour Staff Side has recently found a sympathetic ear on the Official Side, and an agreement of importance was reached. Officers of the Ministry working in the Orkneys, Shetlands and the Hebrides (other than those locally entered) are to be paid £50 allowance extra from 1st August if their annual salary does not exceed £420. This is, of course, only a step, but it is quite a big one and in the right direction.

The National Staff Side has taken up the case of Civil Servants generally who are placed in similar circumstances, and we have supplied the necessary details of our members affected.

YE OLDE RIVERITES

We hear from a reliable source that arrangements (so far provisional) are in train for this annual meeting or reunion, and that the venue may well be the "Three Nuns," Aldgate, as it was last year. The first Saturday in March is a very probable date, and is one well worth noting in your new diary, if you managed to get one.

A BARD AMONG US

We have to congratulate Mr. J. Kennedy, A.P.O., Newport, who has contributed several topical poems to the "Customs Journal," on securing recognition for his undoubted talent. Three of his poems were published in the "Poetry Review," and, what is more, he was given the premium award for the month.



Customs and Excise Departmental Whitley Council

The two hundred and fifty-sixth meeting of the Council was held in the Conference Room, City Gate House, E.C.2, on Wednesday, 18th November, 1942, the Chair being taken by Sir Archibald Carter, Chairman of the Board of Customs and Excise.

This being the first meeting for the year 1942/43, it was agreed that at the Council meetings during the ensuing year the Chair should be taken by the senior member of the Board present; it was also agreed that Mr. F. G. Perkins should be Vice-Chairman.

Both sides intimated that their present Secretaries, Messrs. J. F. Bell and H. A. Mather, would continue in office.

The Standing Committees of the Council were re-appointed.

MAN POWER

(a) Old Age Pensions Work

The Staff Side had given consideration to the question of redundancy in the Woman Pension Officer Grade which would result from the transfer of certain Old Age Pensioners to another Department, and expressed their views as to the procedure desirable for adoption as follows:—

(i) Transfers to other Departments should be made in the following order:—

(a) Volunteers.

(b) The Juniors in the Grade (not in town or Collection).

(ii) (a) Where two or more Stations are merged the senior officer involved shall be declared the officer of the re-made Station.

(b) All displaced (redundant) Women Pension Officers should be placed on a common list and given the opportunity in order of seniority to apply for all new and vacant Woman Pension Officer Stations.

(c) Any unfilled Woman Pension Officer Station should be filled from the remaining Women Pension Officers in order of seniority.

(iii) Women Pension Officers transferred to other Departments should be regarded as being on loan, with a right to return to the Customs and Excise Department to fill future vacancies in the Grade.

(iv) Posts of Assistance Officer in the Assistance Board and Employment Officer in the Ministry of Labour are not consonant with the abilities of the Woman Pension Officer Grade. The Official Side should press for transfers to better posts, e.g., Assistant Inspectors in the Ministry of Health.

(v) Members of the Woman Pension Officer Grade should be allowed to volunteer for service with H.M. Forces and Civil Nursing with balance of Civil Pay.

(vi) Retention of existing rights for Woman Pension Officers who may be transferred, includes the provision in paragraph 166, Vol. 1, Establishment Instructions "to remain in the Service . . . until she attains the age of 65 . . ."

The Official Side said that the foregoing statement of the Staff Side's views would require careful examination, and they suggested that informal discussion appeared desirable in the first place. An instruction regarding the transfers was already in preparation, and it would be necessary to consider the foregoing before determining the final form of that instruction. Since the last meeting they had been informed that the Ministry of Health had certain posts of Assistant Inspector for which some of the surplus Women Pension Officers might be eligible. They were in communication with the Ministry of Labour, the Assistance Board and the Ministry of Health with a view to obtaining definite information as to the exact nature of the duties to be performed, salaries, etc., in the posts in those Departments. The Official Side hoped to have definite information on all these points and to issue an O.W.O. on the subject very shortly.

The Staff Side concurred in the proposal for an informal discussion, and this was arranged to take place on 24th November.

(b) Rae Committee

The Official Side intimated that the Liaison Officers would for the time being be confining their visits to Collectors' Offices

and Ports where shipping had declined. Excise Stations and Old Age Pensions work would not at present be the subject of investigation. It had been arranged that a few days' notice should be given of visits to Collectors' Offices in order that the Staff Side could be adequately represented.

(c) Position of Watchers

The Official Side intimated that the Watcher previously reported as likely to be surplus to requirements at Liverpool was being retained, and that the services of the Watcher at Bristol normally terminable during the present month were being retained until the end of this year, by which time it was anticipated that the Ministry of Labour would find him employment.

PROMOTION AND TRANSFER QUESTIONS

(a) 1943 Surveyorship Examination—Postponement

The Official Side mentioned the representations made to the Board by the Customs and Excise Federation regarding the holding of an examination in 1943, for promotion to the Surveyor Grade, and announced that the points of agreement reached as a result of the discussion were as follows:—

(1) A six-months' postponement of the examination to be notified to the Service as a postponement until the spring of 1944.

(2) Further consultation to take place before the actual date of the examination is finally fixed.

(3) The field of candidates to remain that laid down in G.O. 30/1942, paragraph 2.

The Staff Side in noting this agreement, reminded the Official Side of their disagreement on the proposed method of selection, and said there was no change in their policy.

(b) Retirement: Effect on Promotion or Re-employment or Deferment

The Staff Side observed that the discussion under this head appeared to have deviated from the general question to the specific position of a number of surplus Chief Clerks, but other Grades were also concerned. They were unable to discern any definite line of policy as regards the retention of personnel in any Grade beyond the normal age of retirement. It was understood that retention for short periods for the purpose of completion of forty years' service was customary, but there were cases of retention which they could not reconcile with definite practice or policy. In their opinion any individual who had reached the retiring age and was surplus to requirements should be retired.

The Official Side said they were keeping the general question under review, and would investigate any cases of retention of personnel who were genuinely redundant.

The item was readjourned.

(c) Vacancies in the Waterguard

The Official Side supplemented the information communicated at the last Council meeting, and said that of the two Chief Preventive Officers interviewed for posts under the Censorship Control one had accepted a post and the other had declined. Two other Chief Preventive Officers had been absorbed at other Ports, and the fifth was still on sick absence.

Regarding the Preventive Officer candidates for the Deputy Assistant Censor posts, it had transpired that the posts offered were not so attractive as had been indicated. Two men had, however, accepted posts, and one had refused. There was no redundancy in the Preventive Officer Grade.

(d) Staff Side Proposal that the Treasury be notified on the lines of paragraph 45 of the 1920 Reorganisation Report of the names of Executive Officers in the Department suitably qualified for admission to the Administrative Class.

The Official Side intimated that the replies to a Circular issued to Heads of Offices, etc., in connexion with this proposal had not all been received, and the Council readjourned consideration of the item.

(e) Upgrading of Temporary Clerks, Grade III

The Official Side said that progress on this matter was satisfactory. So far, sixty-seven posts had been up-graded to Grade II—twenty-nine had been filled and thirty-eight were in course of filling. One hundred and twenty-three posts had been determined as Grade III, and the grading of fifty-nine further posts remained to be determined.

Readjourned.

(f) Staff Side Proposal that Officers successful at the last two Surveyorship Examinations, but not yet appointed to the Surveyor Grade, be given a presumed

date of appointment based for each of these Officers on the date upon which a vacancy would normally have occurred in the Surveyor Grade, such presumed date to govern salary and conditions of service at the date of actual appointment to that grade.

The Staff Side mentioned that thirty-three successful candidates from the last two examinations were not yet appointed to the Surveyor Grade and their claim would be for the fixing of a notional date from which their service in the Surveyor Grade should be regarded as having commenced—a date to govern also the point in the incremental scale at which their salary would commence on actual appointment to the Grade. They considered that such a date could be determined by reference to normal retirement dates of the older personnel in the Grade, and that a precedent for such treatment could be found in the notional date adopted for men entering the Officer Grade after the last war. It was generally understood that the number of successful candidates covered the requirements for the ensuing two years.

The Official Side observed that appointments to the Surveyor Grade were made to the pool of Unattached Surveyors at Headquarters normally in the spring of the year before leave officiating commenced, and that the appointments were not coincident with or immediately following on individual retirements. The number of men in the pool at Headquarters was variable. The Staff Side realised this, and were of opinion that the notional date could be related to normal springtime appointments—one date covering a small group of prospective appointees.

The Official Side saw some difficulty in recommending adoption of the proposal, and on their suggestion the Staff Side promised to furnish a note giving more detailed information.

The Council adjourned consideration of the proposal.

REMUNERATION FOR EXTRA WORK PERFORMED BY CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENTAL GRADES (51-HOUR WEEK).

The Staff Side said this item had been on the Council agenda for a long time, and after a series of adjournments they now wished to restate their claim for an allowance of fifteen per cent. of salary for the following Grades:—Controlling Grade, Surveyors, Women Pension Surveyors, Waterguard Superintendents and Inspectors, Waterguard Surveyors, Senior Chief Clerks and Chief Clerks. All these grades had shared liability to extended hours, and in the Staff Side opinion they were entitled to some additional remuneration in respect of the extra work involved by exceptional conditions resulting from war-time.

The Official Side were not convinced that the conditions of service of the personnel in these grades were not common to the Civil Service generally, and that accordingly the matter was outside the province of Departmental consideration. The Staff Side observed, however, that these were distinctly Departmental Grades, and that the salaries and conditions of service had been determined departmentally. In other Departments the good promotion prospects were some compensation. The Official Side said they were very doubtful about the outcome of the claim should they feel able to support it, and asked the Staff Side if they would be prepared to substantiate in greater detail their argument for differentiation from grades in other branches of the Civil Service.

The Staff Side said they would do so.

The item was readjourned accordingly.

STAFF SIDE PROPOSAL THAT ALL POSSIBLE MEASURES BE TAKEN TO MAKE USE OF THE WELL-ESTABLISHED MACHINERY WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT IN CONNECTION WITH THE PERFORMANCE OF ANY NEW WAR-TIME GOVERNMENTAL DUTIES

In submitting this proposal the Staff Side made reference to various items of work which had been allotted to new Departments or to other existing Departments, e.g., Export Licences, Tobacco Control, Industrial Alcohol Control, Security Control—for each of which the Staff Side thought that this Department had a personnel and machinery well equipped and sufficiently widespread through the country. Their present proposal did not contemplate the withdrawal of these or similar functions from the Departments at present operating them, but they felt strongly that any new Governmental duties which might be forthcoming should be examined from the point of view of this Department's assumption of responsibility for the execution thereof. A great number of men had been loaned to other

Departments for other work, and the time would come for the return of such personnel to this Department. In the Staff Side's view these men would be out of touch with the normal organisation of Customs and Excise work, and readjustment might prove a difficult problem. If new war-time work were brought within the Department's activities, when the time came for its discontinuance and the resumption of Customs and Excise Departmental functions the nucleus of trained personnel would be ready to hand.

The Official Side appreciated the views expressed by the Staff Side, and said they would welcome any proposals for appropriate additional work which would fit into the existing machinery of this Department. They foresaw, however, some difficulty in advancing those views as an argument for the handing over of work to the Customs and Excise by the Departments in charge of a particular policy. The Staff Side felt that the institution of new work must be known to those in authority before the general public—including themselves, the Staff Side—were aware of it, and that there would be a suitable opportunity to make representations for the utilisation of Customs and Excise machinery which the Staff Side regarded as second to none in Civil Service organisation.

The Official Side observed that much would depend on the appropriateness of work to the experience of grades in this Department, but they were prepared to make enquiries on the subject.

The Council adjourned consideration.

POSITION OF AUTHORISED CAR USERS ON AND AFTER 1st JULY, 1942

The Official Side said there were no developments to report, and the Council readjourned consideration of this item.

MISCELLANEOUS

(a) Unattached Officer Allowances

The agreement reached by the Officer Grade Committee on allowances payable to Unattached Officers under Establishment Instructions, Volume 3, including Disturbance Allowance, was ratified.

It was also agreed to give effect to the new allowances from 1st October, 1942.

(b) Accountant and Comptroller-General's Office

The agreement on the constitution and staffing of the new Purchase Tax Branch was ratified.

The Council decided to hold its next meeting on 16th December, 1942.

Tyne District Topics

This being the last issue in 1942 I ask the Editor's favour in making known, through the best possible medium, the following message from Mr. G. W. Green, Waterguard Superintendent, and Mr. W. H. Clough, Waterguard Surveyor:—

"Best wishes to all our boys who have joined the Forces, and also to those who are away from their own ports on Detached Duty.

"We sincerely hope the day is not too far distant when you will all be home again. We wish you all Good Luck and Safe Return."

Forces.—Fred Chinnery has moved to Blackpool area for an extensive course. Hard work and poorly paid? Another Fred—Watson—has been under the weather. Hope you are now fit again, F. Ernie Elliott and George Wilkes are not "at sea" with the Royal Navy.

Detachees.—By the time these notes appear we shall have said au revoir to Ellis Walton, who is for Leith. All the best, Ellis.

Presentation.—Bill Allison's broken leg is progressing favourably, and it is hoped that he will be able to attend for the presentation of the I.S.M. early in the New Year. Many happy years, Bill.

Bristol News

A recent visitor to us this month was E. H. Daniels, A.P.O., now a L.A.C., R.A.F., and shortly to become a Pilot Officer.

An interesting card was sent to us by R. Ashton, wishing all here Christmas Greetings from Trinidad. Mr. Ashton is now on Immigration Duties out there, and was for many years an A.P.O. at Hull. B.J.B.

The Lads o' London

A happy, peaceful, prosperous and victorious New Year is my greeting to all members of the London staff wherever they may be; also to their families and to those who have offered their hospitality to the Forces.

We have suffered the loss by death recently of two well-known members of the staff, Messrs. Jim Percival, P.O., and Cyril Warner, A.P.O. Jim will be remembered for his love of argument. It did not matter whether the matter under discussion affected him or not, he "dived in" and sought to help the proceedings by elucidating the points raised. Cyril was the only son of his parents, and great sympathy is felt for them. News has arrived, too, that Bob Douglas, A.P.O., formerly of King George V Dock, is missing, presumed killed, at sea after a collision between his ship and another in the Atlantic. Bob, who is a signalman R.N., and an only son, had been in the Department for eighteen months before entering the Navy and is popular with all his colleagues in District III. He promised to become a good footballer for the Waterguard team. To his parents go our warm-hearted thoughts and the message that "hope springs eternal within the human breast."

Jim Sutton has received his commission and is now a Sub-Lieutenant, R.N.V.R. (Fleet Air Arm). Congratulations, Jim. Now at home enjoying a brief spell of leave after his course, he is awaiting posting overseas.

Apparently quite a number of the boys are now qualifying for commissions. I mentioned last month that Jack Berry had entered a training college to gain a commission as a naval officer. He has met there Bill Pearce and Stan Roberts (Sot'n), who also aspire to that honour. Arthur Burnham, too, has commenced his training for same.

Ken Buttenshaw wrote again recently and said that plenty of entertainment has been provided for him in his prison camp of late, and that the time appears to pass very quickly.

Tony Colan is in Shropshire, and flying. He was included in an overseas draft, but that has now been cancelled, and he still, no doubt, entertains the R.A.F. (yes, and the W.A.A.F.!) with his delightful piano playing. Denis Maguire, now an L.A.C., is also learning to fly and has "been up" quite a lot getting used to the feel of the controls of an aircraft at different altitudes.

Lt. Freddie Kippin has informed me that his parents offer their hospitality to members of the Forces who are in the Customs and Excise. Best thanks to your people, Fred. Messrs. Farmer and Skinner, P.O.s, have intimated, too, that they are willing to receive the lads into their homes.

Frank Boodle has transferred to Liverpool permanently, and Bill Love has been appointed to Holyhead.

John McKenzie spent a large part of November and December in hospital owing to a motor-cycle accident. He sustained a lacerated leg involving injury to the muscles thereof. Happily he is recovering, and is home on embarkation leave. Mark Flynn also languished for five weeks in hospital with a knee injury, but he, too, is well again. Frequently he visits London but does not like to call at any office because he thinks that all the chaps he knew are away. Just you call, Mark, and find out how wrong you are.

Let's hear more from you fellows who are on D.D. in other ports, and you service men who have not written for ages.

The photograph album is about 50 per cent. complete. Can you help to fill the remaining pages?

Let's hear from you, then.

Till the lights o' London shine again.

R.J.L.

Southampton Notes

" — is here after the Dieppe raid. He is now a full Lieut. and has been offered another half-ring, i.e., Lieut-Commander. How in hell are these fellows coming back to earth as A.P.O.s *après la guerre*? He commands a large T.L.C., and his First Lieut. is a Landing Officer! How are the mighty fallen! —, lost his ship and all his crew except four. Then the destroyer which picked him up was sunk! He was wounded in the leg and had an ear-drum damaged. Yesterday he received word that one of his stokers is to be awarded the D.S.M. —, had recommended him, and as the young stoker is allowed to take

a friend with him to the Investiture, he asked —, to accompany him, but after thanking him, —, said, 'Take your lady friend along.' I mention this incident to illustrate the fine spirit between —, and his crew. There is no side with him; he works as hard as his men, and with his coat off, and in overalls, and is on intimate terms with them all. I never saw anything like it in my Army days. He is taking over command of a new and larger ship. I think he should have been decorated, as while dragging his First Officer (wounded) to cover, the latter was killed and —, himself wounded."

(The above is an extract from a letter recently received, and need I add that it was written before Arthur Cheney was decorated. It defies any further comment, being in itself an inspiration to us all. Well done, Arthur.)

We leave 1942 thankful for the safe-keeping of all of our boys in the Forces, and although we have no news of Davy we greet 1943 in the constant hope that the longed-for news of his well-being will soon be ours. To you all we send wishes for a Happy New Year and a safe return.

No December issue of the CUSTOMS JOURNAL must close without a sincere and well-merited message of thanks to the parents, friends and relatives of the lads, who have so enthusiastically backed up the Notes during the past year; we thank them, and once again seek their co-operation during the year ahead. In spite of a reduction in the size of the CUSTOMS JOURNAL, we shall, with the help of the Editor, continue to keep the column going; so keep writing, please.

Early in December we had the pleasure of seeing Jack Welsh again, after the two years since his departure from Liverpool. He is back on the Observer course, and early 1943 may see his overseas training commence. Best of luck, Jack; we enjoyed your company immensely.

Dudley Heal writes in with news of his well-being, after some anti-sub. activity with the Coastal Command. He now goes to Bomber Command, and takes our wishes for his continued welfare throughout. Happy landings, Dudley, and congrats. on the recent engagement. We look forward to the promised 1943 reunion, and make it as soon as you like.

Ron Greenhalgh is again on the move, after a busy spell across the Western Ocean. We expect to contact him before the end of the Old Year.

George Haywood, after a miscellaneous run of duties in South Africa, has written at length upon his experiences since entering the R.A.F. He is hoping to renew some old contacts when time permits, in between operations with Bomber Command.

The only Army news is that of Gilbert Walker, R.A., who is fit and well, down in Dorset. We hear that Dudley Jarvis is stationed in Kent, and efforts are being made to contact him.

The news from the lads in the Navy is still A.1. and we are glad to hear of Paymaster-Lieut. M. A. Freeman-Cosh, R.N.V.R., somewhere in the Mediterranean; of cheery Joe, still scanning the horizon for the "postman"; of Cliff, and his chance meeting with Bill Foot, way down the Cape. One and all send greetings to the lads at home for 1943.

With the sinking of H.M. Aircraft-Carrier "Avenger," we hasten to remind you that Ted Midlane left that vessel some time ago, and is, to the best of our knowledge, still operating ashore in this country.

Exiles, and an "All's well" report of the lads at Fleetwood, Maryport and Silloth. Good enough. Sorry for another Holyhead "howler" last month: for Sergeant substitute Lieut., Home Guard!

Home news is brief. H. C. Andrews is still in hospital; here's wishing him a better and happier year ahead; like wise Messrs. Burrows and Bacon, P.O.s, for whom 1942 has been a year of sickness. November was the month of the port's post-Conference P.S.A. Meeting, a report of which will be seen elsewhere in this issue. Note the references to the correspondence suppression, and the financing of the Customs Fund Directorate Candidate. The lack of support for the P.S.A. by the C.P.O. grade is disappointing to those in the port who have the staff interests so much at heart. Post-war conditions are the subject of much correspondence, and the ideas are versatile. And finally a couple of Press reports from the "Soton Echo" concerning the smuggling of Naval rum and tobacco, which bring to mind an old-established team in the persons of Mr. T. H. Sherlock, C.P.O., and Mr. L. Pead, P.O., who operated in the cases concerned.

Cheerio, Forces!

L.B.

"Sunderland Calling"

Hello, Forces!

The month of December reminds us that the Festive Season is at hand; it will not be like former seasons, it will be spent in some unusual and far-flung places, but from us all to you all, wherever you may be, come Sincere Greetings for Christmas and the New Year, and the hope that you'll make the best of your chances.

Changes were responsible for the November silence.

These are the days when many of the Preventive Staff are on Detached Duty and often a gain to one becomes a loss to another.

It has befallen the lot of "Ossie Lennon" to take a spell on those Islands in the North.

We know what you have to endure, "Ossie," and that it isn't easy, but we also know the strength of the will behind it, and that it's aided by a grand kindness, so—keep the pop turning—and chin up till you can join the fold again.

Even if we must have changes, don't neglect your correspondence, Forces; help us to keep going. Ossie writes to say that there has been a letter from Charlie Scarfe recently, and that he reports being fit and well. Thanks for the "Chin-chin," Charles. I need hardly say that they are heartily reciprocated.

No news of Ron, Eddie, Jack or Brian this month, and that goes for the Navy Boys, too. We hope it won't be a long wait!

Our Exiles are also slow. Latest news tells me that Billy McKeith is fit and well, and that George Simmons is making the best of a bad job—it's a shame to have to be penned like that, George! I also hear that you are hoping for a break in the near future. If it comes, I know it will of necessity be short, but we should be glad to have a contact, if it's only a word or two on wire.

Our Chief reports having received letters from his lads, and that all is well.

Letters have also been received by George from his lads, and they, too, report all being well.

I'll keep the contacts going, Forces, as soon as I get those addresses, and now, to quote "our" copyright, the old Shack still stands, and the flag is mast high.

Cheerio, Forces! Over to you.

W.S.

Cardiff News

News this month is chiefly concerning our colleagues in the Forces. It was with deep regret that we heard of the death on active service of John Redhead, A.P.O. John, who was killed in a flying accident, joined the service in Cardiff about 18 months before the war. He was a fine colleague, and we were looking forward to his return in the happier days to come. May we never forget the sacrifice that he has made for us. Our thanks are also due to the Plymouth staff for the practical manner in which they helped us to pay our last respects.

It is always nice to have the "local lads" calling to see us. Phil Comley and Roy Jones are stationed quite handy and are looking very fit and well. Sorry you haven't been getting the Journal, Roy, but think you will find delivery better in future. Bob Jones was also a visitor this month; looks like getting that curl and band before the majority of us. Gordon Patterson is now in the thick of it; pleased to hear of your escape. News of the others is rather scarce, but let me take this chance to wish all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

And, by way of conclusion, congratulations to Ken Bowes on his appointment to the Special Inquiry Staff. Here's wishing him "Good hunting."

BRAVE NEW SERVICE

We greet 1943 with great hopes, nationally and internationally, but what of it departmentally? Do you believe in the faith of many of your colleagues that 1943 and the post-war years will see this Department on the upgrade? Will our men, now distinguishing themselves in the armed forces of the country, return to a department which has retarded, remained passive, or advanced? You can believe what you will, but we believe that they may return to their respective grades to find that we have advanced, or, at least, to find that we have made, and are making, every effort to advance. You can assist in the progress of your grade, and automatically of your department, by taking a personal interest and active part in the staff activities in your port, and we herald the New Year in with a sincere hope that YOU will regard 1943 as a year in which the P.S.A. is likely to play a decisive part in the fate of this department. Members, old, new or languishing, are part and parcel of this drive, headed by the Executive Committee, to imbue every man-jack of the Preventive Service with the spirit of forward movement and faith in the department to which they belong.

Looking back upon the years past, and especially the war years of 1939-42, we see many gaps in our ranks, not only those due to attrition, but those which, by remaining open, have obstructed cohesive effort, locally and nationally, and these we seek to close NOW. We can all criticise; it is easy to do that, but can we put something of real value in the place of that which we pull to pieces? It took us a long time to settle down to the conditions of war, as they affected the department, that is; and we can now take stock of how far we have moved since the days of 1939. There is much on the credit side, and much on the other side. Which is the heavier? We say the former, although many will contest this assertion; so, having shown our colours, we bring a challenge to the coming year and to our colleagues who have continually found fault with the way the department has been handled in recent years. The P.S.A. has a tremendous programme ahead, which it is already tackling vigorously, and only can the improvements and the progress we seek be achieved by a solid Preventive Staff in all ports, large and small, such staff belonging to and believing in their Association. *You want action, you want progress, you want to see us cast off our Cinderella status;* at least, that is what your letters and comments would have us believe when we read and hear the local points of dispute from one port after another. All right, *you are promised action,* and plenty of it, which, if correctly guided, as it will be, will assuredly bring about the changes we all long to see. *The P.S.A. Conference promised you that, the Executive Committee intend you to have it;* but while this action is going on *what are you going to do about it* in your position as a member of the staff, and, we hope, a member of the Association? Sit back and await results? If that has been your pre-1943 attitude, we regret it, and ask you to make 1943 a year of far-sighted local endeavour.

Last month we read in the "C.J." an article upon Reconstruction; what do you think of such far-reaching proposals? Admittedly they may only be a personal viewpoint of the writer, but it gives you a line as to the ideas now gaining ground in the minds of your representatives, because such ideas are contagious. Have you any constructive ideas upon the future of this Service? We want to have them—the more the merrier, as then, and then only, do your representatives know the trend of thought of the staff they represent. So we leave it to you to let your Councillor know your opinions; he will pass them along right enough; meanwhile, we leave 1942 and its predecessors, and anticipate 1943, confident that we shall show a more united staff front to all concerned. Will YOU make the extra effort to make it a real P.S.A. year, and remember that the more members we have the more united we shall be. All the best to all of you. L.B.



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Southampton Annual General Meeting

The annual general meeting was held at the Watch House, Southampton, on 20th November, 1942, at 1.30 p.m.

Mr. Benham was elected to the chair.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and signed.

Mr. Sweet, District Secretary, reported that the use of the Rummage Crew on the 11/7 p.m. duty had been discontinued prior to any approach being made by the Staff Side to the Official Side.

The Secretary further reported that the changing and cleaning of the blankets for Fire Watchers at Southampton Watch House had been arranged satisfactorily.

The report was then adopted.

Election of Officers.—The following appointments were made for 1942-3:—Chairman, Mr. Benham; District Secretary and District Organiser, Mr. Sweet; A.P.O., Mr. McNeill; Whitley Rve., Mr. Lindell; P.O. Rves., Mr. Turvey and Mr. Clarke; Auditors, 1 Mr Turvey, 2 Mr. Lindell.

Annual Conference Report.—The meeting, after consideration, expressed satisfaction with the business transacted excepting the item concerning Waterguard representation on the Customs Fund directorate. It was proposed by Mr. McNeill and seconded by Mr. Oliver: "That this meeting feels that there is no connection between the P.S.A. and the Customs Fund, and recommends that in future the P.S.A. gives no financial backing to a candidate for a seat on the directorate of the Customs Fund." Agreed.

"Customs Journal."—Following a complaint by Mr. Turvey that a letter he had written to the "Customs Journal" had been refused publication by the Editor on the grounds of it being contrary to Association policy, it was proposed by Mr. Turvey and seconded by Mr. Platten: "That this meeting expresses dissatisfaction that members are debarred from publication in their own Journal opinion upon topical matters, should that opinion run contrary to that policy already laid down by the Association." Agreed.

The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.
A. H. S.

It is possible that a totally misleading impression may be conveyed to our readers on the subject of suppression of correspondence as reported above. We would hasten to point out that the Journal is and has always been an open forum for free discussion, and that not *all* correspondence having contrary views to the Association is barred. It will be appreciated that the ethics underlying the principle of censorship dictate, at certain times, that it would not be politic to publish some contentious matter that would have a derogatory effect on the Association's efforts.

Phraseology, on similar lines, was given in my reply to our correspondent who wrote in August, 1941!—ED.

Waterguard Spotlight

"He (Arthur Cheney, D.S.C.) has been offered another half-ring, i.e., Lieut.-Commander. He now commands a large T.L.C., and his First Lieut. is a Landing Officer!"—Southampton Notes, page 143.

MISCELLANEOUS.

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The Assistant Preventive Officers,
Scotland and Northern Ireland.

10/12/42.

Gentlemen,—I beg to intimate my resignation from the post of A.P.O. Councillor for the Scotland and Northern Ireland area to which you elected me in 1938, 1939, and again in the present year; and take this opportunity of thanking you for your confidence in me during that period, and for the help I received from all Districts in carrying out my duties as your representative on the P.S.A. Council and Executive Committee.

Despite the hardships and disturbance, official as well as personal, borne by the Waterguard since the outbreak of war, it may fairly be said that the past four years have marked an historic period in P.S.A. affairs.

The present policy of the Association will, if backed by every member, ensure that the post-war period shall be, in its turn, equally memorable as marking the realisation of P.S.A. aspirations in regard to our status and function within the framework of the Civil Service.

In thanking you again, gentlemen, for your confidence and support, I can only say that if the same measure of support is given to my successor, there can be no doubt that the Scotland and Northern Ireland area will play a major part in shaping the Waterguard of the future, which it is the ideal and policy of the P.S.A. to achieve in the coming years.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours sincerely,

J. C. GRANT,
A.P.O.

THE EDITOR REGRETS—

That by reason of the reduction in size of this journal. Hull and Greenock news, together with other items, have, through force of circumstances, had to be held over.

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