

CUSTOMS JOURNAL

OFFICIAL JOURNAL EST. 1904 CUSTOMS & EXCISE

PREVENTIVE STAFF ASSOCIATION

VOL. 39. No. 962.

NOVEMBER, 1942.

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CORRESPONDENCE, LITERARY MATTER, ETC.—*Letters to the Editor, and articles and correspondence intended for publication should be addressed to the Editor, "The Customs Journal," H.M. Customs and Excise, 5, Odessa Street, Rotherhithe, London, S.E.16. It is essential that all matter for insertion in the monthly issue should reach the Editor on or before the 10th of the month of publication. Articles submitted need not be typewritten, but the use of one side of the paper renders a great assistance.*

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SUBSCRIPTIONS.—*Retired Officers and outside persons wishing to become subscribers may do so on application to the Organising Secretary, 6, Brook Lane, Bexley, Kent. The charge is 3s. 0d. per annum, post free.*

CHANGES IN THE STAFF

PROMOTIONS.

to 16th November, 1942

PREVENTIVE OFFICER:—

Neill, T. J., to Officer (Acting), Special Inquiry Staff.

ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICER:—

Bowes, K., to Officer (Acting), Special Inquiry Staff.

OBITUARY OF SUPERANNUATED OFFICERS.

Johnson, L., Waterguard Superintendent, 1st Class.

Tremayne, R. C., Preventive Officer.

Williams, C., Preventive Officer.

A CORRECTION

Following the Notice by the Customs Fund, published in our last issue in this space, there inadvertently appeared a short paragraph from the September issue referring to the Civil Service Distress Fund.

This was obviously a printer's error, but any inconvenience or misunderstanding that may have occurred is to be regretted.—Ed.



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THE CUSTOMS FUND

A Special Meeting of Subscribers to the Customs Annuity and Benevolent Fund, Incorporated, was held at the Refreshment Club, City Gate House, Finsbury Square, E.C.2, on Thursday, 26th November.

The President referred to the great loss sustained by the death of Sir John Sutton, and paid a high tribute to his unwearyed and unstinted devotion to the work of the Fund. The President deprecated the necessity for a postal ballot in war-time, and, since there were three candidates for Sir John's vacancy, he formally declared that a poll of all subscribers would be held, the candidates being Gregory John Edmonds Chase, Esq., M.B.E., James Merron, Esq., and William Sidney Williams, Esq. The voting papers will be despatched on Wednesday, 2nd December, and the poll will close and votes be counted at 5 p.m., on Thursday, 10th December, at the office of the Fund, at City Gate House.

OBITUARY

SGT-OBSERVER J. REDHEAD, R.A.F.

The funeral of Sgt-ObsERVER Jack Redhead, R.A.F. (late A.P.O. at Cardiff), took place on 24th October, at Weston Mill Cemetery, Plymouth. His death occurred in hospital from injuries received during an operational flight on the 19th inst. An R.A.F. bearer party, under Pilot Officer Chambers (of Sgt. Redhead's own Squadron), the Devonport Corps of the Salvation Army, and Officers of the Plymouth Waterguard Staff formed, with the family mourners, the cortege at the cemetery. Amongst the many floral tributes was one from the Waterguard Supts. and Staff, Cardiff and Plymouth.

The Staff at Plymouth joins with Cardiff in expressing condolences with Jack Redhead's parents and fiancée, Miss E. Maddocks, in their tragic loss. Sgt. Redhead was only twenty-five years of age. He joined this department in 1938, and had been two years in the Royal Air Force in which he had already distinguished himself. He was hoping to be married next month.

G.T.C

CUSTOMS FUND ELECTION

To the Subscribers.

Gentlemen,

By this time you will have been notified that I have been nominated as candidate in the coming election to the Directorate of the Customs Fund. I have been urged to stand by many people from all sections of the Department. These supporters of my candidature are firmly of opinion that the Waterguard should be represented so that they may enjoy with others a fair share in the government of the Fund. I have no doubt that every Waterguard Officer will share that view. The Fund is a most important feature of our Departmental life, and any failure on our part to appreciate this fact would not be creditable to us. For this reason I have accepted nomination, and I feel sure that I shall have your full approval for this. I appeal to each and every Waterguard subscriber to register his vote in my favour, and also to enlist the support of others with whom contact can conveniently be made. Although I am not now so prominent in staff side affairs as I have been in the past I still have the welfare of our own department very much at heart. I venture to claim that my wide experience in serving on all sorts of Committees, Councils, etc., has given me a knowledge of things which qualifies me for the responsibilities of Directorship. Added to this I have had long periods of unattached service as Chief Preventive Officer, Surveyor, and, finally, as Assistant Inspector; and this has brought me into practical and personal contact with a great many in our own Service as well as with people in other branches of the Department. I have made a point of keeping in personal touch with all topical matters concerning all grades, and thus have maintained an up-to-date outlook on current affairs.

Should I succeed in this election I would endeavour to use my best efforts in the interests of all subscribers.

Yours sincerely,

J. MERRON.



CURRENT COMMENTS

Executive Committee.

THE November meeting of the Executive Committee (P.S.A.) takes place at the C. and E. Federation Offices, Walter House, Strand, London, on the 27th of the month, and commences at 10 a.m.

Public Holidays in Scotland.

An intriguing situation appears to be developing in this Department on this question.

As far as we are aware the proposal to restrict Public Holidays in Scotland is still under discussion on Committee "A" of the National Whitley Council, and the Minutes of the last meeting (November 6th) confirm this. Notwithstanding the fact that the matter is still undecided, instructions have been issued in this Department, and local discussions on the method of restricting the Public Holidays are proceeding—indeed, in some cases the negotiations are complete.

It may be that Departmental action was based on intelligent anticipation, but the situation will require some explanation.

Billeting at Liverpool.

The particular hardships arising from the Billeting system as applied to Liverpool officers schemed to irregular periods of duty have occupied the attention of the Association for some time. At the first stage the question was treated as general, and unsuccessful efforts were made by the National Staff Side to remove Liverpool from the official Billeting List. Having failed in this direction, permission was obtained from the N.S.S. to table the matter for Departmental treatment. A motion "that action be taken to secure the removal of the Outdoor Grades of the Customs and Excise from billeting conditions at Liverpool" had been adopted by the Joint Committee (C. and E. Associations).

A.R.P. Equipment.

Some time ago a claim was made for the issue to Waterguard officers of Steel Helmets and C.D. Respirators. The discussions, both on the Departmental Council and on the National Whitley Council (whence it was referred) were restricted to the Steel Helmets, and eventually these were issued. At that time the country was hard put to it to supply essential equipment to the Armed Forces and Civil Defence Services, and the withdrawal from Dunkirk worsened the position. For these reasons we did not press for the issue of respirators, even of the C.D. type, but at the Annual Conference it was decided that the matter should be re-opened, and that Service type respirators should be sought. The new claim is supported by the Departmental Staff Side, and has been sent forward.

Uniform Supplementary Coupons.

In accordance with instructions from the Annual Conference, steps have been taken (through the Joint Committee of C. and E. Associations) to get the Board of Trade to recognise the fact that Waterguard Officers have to purchase additional articles of clothing to complete the official uniform and to issue supplementary coupons for this purpose.

Since the date of the Council Meeting in August last the Board of Trade have authorised a generous allowance of supplementary coupons for the purchase of occupational clothing. This, of course, was not anticipated by the Council, but it may augur well for the present claim.

Detached Duty—Travelling Time.

The following extract from the "Whitley Bulletin" is reproduced for the information of members:—

The question has been raised as to how travelling time granted to evacuated staff should be taken into account for attendance purposes where overtime is being worked. There is no Treasury regulation governing the point, which is one for departmental discretion. In one Department the practice is to credit the normal day, i.e., an officer normally conditioned to a 42-hour week but actually working an overtime week of 51 hours, and attending from 9 to 6.30 on Monday to Friday would be credited with an attendance of 7½ hours for Friday if he were allowed to leave early on that day, e.g., at 2.30 p.m. This is the reasonable line to take, as otherwise travelling time is not so much a concession in terms of leave as a re-arrangement of working hours.

C. and E. Federation Secretary.

We learn from the current issue of "The Journal" that Mr. E. A. Burgess has been elected Hon. Secretary to the Federation in succession to Mr. H. A. Mather, who is now Departmental Staff Side Secretary.

Bonus for Pensioners.

Mr. W. J. Brown, M.P., raised the question, on the motion for adjournment, of the treatment of pensioners from the State Services, i.e., the Civil Service, Local Government Service, teaching profession, etc. In a forthright speech, Brown said it was intolerable that the old servants of the State should have to have recourse to the Public Assistance Boards to supplement their pensions.

Capt. Crookshank, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, said that the Government previously announced that they were not prepared to introduce new legislation at that stage, and, in the opinion of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the present circumstances did not justify re-opening the matter at the present time.

The House adjourned.

Customs Fund.

An unforeseen vacancy on the Directorate of the Customs Fund has arisen, and the consequential election, now proceeding, provides an unexpected opportunity to secure the return of a Waterguard candidate—thus regaining the seat that was lost to us some years ago.

We are more than pleased to note that Mr. J. Merron has agreed to stand for election, and the purpose of this paragraph is to ensure that every Waterguard vote is used, and, of course, in his favour.

In all elections a number of votes are lost by default for one reason or another, and we make a particular appeal to all Waterguard members of the Fund to make sure that their vote is valid and effective. They should comply strictly with the Ballot instructions, see that the Ballot form is returned on or before the closing date, and (need we add) plump for Mr. Merron.

Cost-of-Living Index Figure.

	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.
1941	97	98	100	100	99	99	99	99
1942	100	99	100	99	100	101	100	100

Customs and Excise Departmental Whitley Council

The two hundred and fifty-fifth and annual meeting of the Council was held in the Conference Room, City Gate House, E.C.2. on Wednesday, 21st October, 1942, the Chair being taken by Sir Archibald Carter, Chairman of the Board of Customs and Excise.

Prior to the commencement of the business on the Agenda, the Vice-Chairman expressed on behalf of the Staff Side of the Council a welcome to Sir Archibald Carter on his appointment as Chairman of the Board of Customs and Excise. He felt sure that Sir Archibald would find in the Departmental Whitley Council an organisation in which the difficulties of the Official and Staff Sides were made capable of solution to their mutual satisfaction.

Mr. Perkins then offered the congratulations of the Staff Side to Mr. Mundy on his appointment as Deputy-Chairman, and to Mr. Rhydderch on his being made a member of the Board.

Sir Archibald Carter thanked the Staff Side for their welcome. He expressed his great pleasure at the honour conferred on him by his appointment as Chairman. Although he had little experience in Whitley Council procedure, he had been for many years a strong supporter of the underlying principles of Whitleyism. He regarded Whitley Councils as an integral part of Civil Service organisation, and the Customs and Excise Council was no doubt among the most important Departmental Councils by reason of the many domestic problems inseparable from the numerous branches of revenue and other work and the varied grades of personnel employed. It would be his endeavour to ensure that full advantage be taken of the Whitley procedure.

The Deputy-Chairman and Mr. Rhydderch expressed their thanks for the Staff Side's congratulations on their appointments.

The Vice-Chairman intimated the appointment of Mr. H. A. King as a member of the Staff Side in place of Mr. J. E. Abbott, and the presence at this meeting of Mr. H. H. T. Davies in lieu of Mr. T. W. Rogers.

MAN POWER

(a) Old Age Pensions Work.

In reply to Staff Side inquiry as to developments, the Official Side said that a General Order was expected to be issued within a week. As regards transfers to the Assistance Board, volunteers would be invited, and if the number of Woman Pension Officers found surplus to Departmental requirements on the transfer of Pensions work should exceed the number of volunteers, then compulsory transfers would require to be made, and juniors would be transferred irrespective of redundancy in the town or Collection of their present employment. Should there be vacant posts in a town or Collection after completion of re-scheming and of transfer of redundant Officers, the vacancies would be filled in accordance with the standing regulations regarding the appointment of displaced Officers. The Official Side also stated that inquiries regarding the grading and duties of the transferees had been made of the Assistance Board, and that it was understood that the present intention was that redundant Woman Pension Officers would fill posts of Assistance Officers and be eligible for advancement to posts of Area Officer. Assistance Officers were equivalent to Employment Officers in the Ministry of Labour, and transferees to the Ministry of Labour would be eligible for advancement to posts of Third Class Officer. There were two or three Assistance Officers attached to each Area Officer, and the work would comprise the determination of applications for supplementary pensions, unemployment assistance, and the authorisation of War Damage payments. It was indoor work, and included also general work relating to finance and accounting in the Area Offices. The Woman Pension Officers transferred would retain their existing rights, including Salary Scales.

The Staff Side expressed thanks for this further statement, but were unable to make any comment thereon at present.

(b) Rae Committee.

The Official Side stated that the general arrangements for the London Region provided for two full-time Liaison Officers

and one part-time. Visits would be made by one only, and it was not intended that any particular Liaison Officer should visit any particular Department. The instructions to these officers included an express injunction as to consultation with Staff Side representatives. In response to the Staff Side's request, the Official Side would endeavour to ensure that as long notice as possible should be given of intended visits, so that adequate opportunity could be afforded for consultation with the Staff Side.

(c) Officer Grade Complement.

The Official Side said with regard to the Officers who had declined the option of continued employment (55) and those who had retired at their own request before normal date (19), totalling 74, that 13 had accepted the offer of further employment; 41 had declined; three had requested further information; seven had failed to reply; one had died; and nine were for other reasons unsuitable for re-employment. Of the 13 acceptances, each was qualified by conditions as to locality and nature of work, and it was found possible to meet these in three cases only; the remaining ten would be reviewed when the need arose.

(d) Kennet Committee Report.

The Official Side intimated that of the twelve men who were still awaiting call at the date of the last Council meeting, ten would be called to the Royal Army Ordnance Corps during November, one had already gone to the Royal Air Force, and the other was expected to be called at an early date. The Staff Side said the matter might now be regarded as concluded.

(e) Surplus Chief Clerks.

On hearing the Official Side's statement that the Ministries of Fuel and Supply were unable to offer any appointments suitable for the surplus Chief Clerks, the Staff Side said they would not further pursue the matter at this stage.

(f) Release of Women.

The Staff Side said they had received the figures promised at the September Council meeting, and these were satisfactory.

(g) Position of Watchers.

The Official Side said with reference to one of the three posts—that at Bristol—that the retention of the individual could not be justified at the present time, and steps were being taken through the Ministry of Labour to find him suitable employment. In the second case—at Chester—the Watcher was being retained; and in the third case—at Liverpool—the Official Side were awaiting further report from the Collector.

PROMOTION AND TRANSFER QUESTIONS

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

The Staff Side inquired as to the factors determining retirement or retention, as they could observe no definite policy in operation. The Official Side said they had no new policy; they aimed at gradual retirement, which they considered was in the interest of the Department as a whole. The decision to retire or to retain depended on the nature of the work, and fitness and efficiency of the individual. It would be appreciated that timely notice of either retirement or retention was essential. The Official Side would be glad to be informed of any particular instances that caused concern to the Staff Side. In regard to cases of retention in a Grade where there was a surplus, the Official Side observed that there had been a demand for Chief Clerks in other Departments, but the position was now changed, and it had not latterly been found possible to find suitable posts. The position would be kept under review.

(b) Vacancies in the Waterguard.

The Official Side stated that one of the surplus Chief Preventive Officers had already taken up an appointment under the Ministry of Food, and that two applicants for posts under the Censorship Control would shortly be interviewed. The Departmental demand for Chief Preventive Officers was, however, increasing, and one or two who had at an earlier date been regarded as surplus would probably be absorbed, and the apparent redundancy would disappear. Another Chief Preventive Officer was at present on protracted sick absence.

In reply to a question regarding applications for the Deputy-Assistant Censor posts, the Official Side said there had been seven applications for three posts, and the interviews therefor were pending, but that there were no surplus Preventive Officers at present.

- (c) **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 said that following on further inquiry since the last meeting of the Council, they could state that the names of any Executive Officers found fully qualified to occupy junior administrative posts would be sent to the Treasury, and they would be adjudged according to peace-time standards. The title junior administrative post was a war-time name, but the posts were not permanent Assistant Principal posts. It was not considered right to fill substantive Assistant Principal posts while men were in H.M. Forces. In reply to Staff Side inquiry, the Official Side said the first move in such cases would come from the Department by recommendation.

- (d) **Upgrading of Temporary Clerks, Grade III.**

Another meeting of the informal committee had been held, and progress thereon was satisfactory. A further meeting would be necessary, and the Council readjourned the item.

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

The Official Side said with reference to the one outstanding case that its determination was awaiting the results of local Whitley discussion on the readjustment of work in London Port Collection.

The item was re-adjourned.

MISCELLANEOUS

- (a) **Immingham.**

The adjourned disagreement from the Officer Grade Committee on travelling expenses and overtime claims was converted to an agreement on the Official Side's offer to make *ad hoc* payments in settlement of the three outstanding claims, and in future to remove the Unattached Officers to be employed at Immingham to Grimsby, and to allow travelling expenses thence to Immingham, but not travelling time for the journeys to and fro.

- (b) **Remuneration for extra work performed by Customs and Excise Departmental Grades.**

This item was re-adjourned at the request of the Staff Side.

- (c) **Re-scheming.**

A local disagreement on a scheme of attendance was referred to the G.O. 32/41 Disagreements Committee.

The Council decided to hold its next meeting on 18th November, 1942.

TO OUR DISTRICT ORGANISERS

This is the third month of our, may we say *YOUR*, Membership Drive, and we are seeking your results. Have you played your part? We leave it to you to answer that one, as you have our confidence in this total attack upon apathy and lack of unity. We are gathering data rapidly, and there is ample scope remaining for you all. Don't let Battshaw steal your thunder; go after it yourself. We can already quote pleasing examples of what a little personal contact can achieve, and if we can do it, so can you. This coming month is one of your "gift" months, i.e., it's a quarter month!! And what about your being on the spot on O.T. and Salary day, not to mention the afternoon when the old Thrift Club is being doled out? We look forward to seeing Bob Farmer beaming when the December quarter returns are in his possession, and to passing along our congratulations to you all. Don't neglect any chance to operate on behalf of the P.S.A. We are preparing your 1943 Targets very soon, so now is your chance to narrow the broad margin, if we may put it like that to you. Get right in to stickers and give them no rest; *be an organiser, not just an institution*. Remember to have the "Drive" on your next Agenda, and leave your 1942 figures well behind. We'll be writing to you again soon; meanwhile, keep in touch with your Councillor, get him to do his share, and let us know how you are getting on.

BATTSHAW.

CUSTOMS AND EXCISE ORPHANS', WIDOWS' AND WAR MEMORIAL FUND

The Quarterly Meeting of the Executive Committee was held in the Conference Room, City Gate House, Finsbury Square, E.C.2, on Monday, the 5th October, at 4 p.m.

Before proceeding with the business, the Chairman, Mr. D. Moffatt, Vice-President, referred to the loss suffered by the Fund through the death of Sir John Smale Sutton, K.B.E., C.B., one of the Trustees. He expressed the appreciation of the Committee of the valuable services rendered to the Fund by Sir John Sutton since he became a Trustee in January 1934.

Minutes of the previous meeting were adopted, letters were read, and the quarterly financial was adopted.

MEMBERSHIP

Eight applications for membership were considered by the Committee. All applicants were elected. They comprised three Officers, four C.O.s and one A.P.O.

RENEWALS

Eleven widows applied for renewal of grants under Rule 26. The Committee voted one grant of £20 and eight grants of £15 each.

NEW APPLICATIONS

Two new applications were before the Committee, and in each case a grant of £15 was made.

REPORTS ON WELFARE OF THE CHILDREN

The six monthly reports were all satisfactory, and showed that the child beneficiaries were all attending school regularly, and were being well cared for.

NEW TRUSTEE

The vacancy created by the death of Sir John Sutton was filled by the election of Horace Kimber, Esq., O.B.E., as Trustee.

SUBSCRIPTIONS—LOANED OFFICIALS

Since the 31st March, 1942, members who have been loaned to other Departments are required to make their own arrangements for paying their annual subscriptions to the Fund. Will all those members whose subscriptions are outstanding kindly forward them to the Hon. Treasurer, Customs and Excise Orphans' Widows' and War Memorial Fund, Custom House, E.C.2? Members may remit the subscription by postal order or by cheque, and the Committee will be glad if, in the interests of economy, members will make one payment of their subscription. Alternatively, authority may be given by Banker's Order, until further notice, to pay the amount of the subscription to the Midland Bank, Ltd., 20, Eastcheap, E.C.3, to the account of the Fund.

Tyne Topics

Several of our lads in the Forces have called during the past few weeks. Ernie Elliott and George Wilkes, both radio mechanics in the R.N., turned up in square rig. They are well and mysteriously trained and ready for foreign clearance. I hear that Jimmie Reay is at Harwich in preliminary training for the same job. When those long-imagined R.T. sets are installed in the launches—*aprez la guerre*—we shall be well set up for maintenance! Rockie Marsden, R.A.F., gave us a good yarn. He has passed for Radio Observer, with rank as sergeant, and is, while awaiting posting, enjoying a spot of leave at home. Ronnie Stephenson is up in the N.W.P. with the R.I.A.S.C., and is happy. There is no current news of the other five A.P.O.s in Forces.

Once again we have had a series of farewells. Frank Emery has gone to Holyhead; Wilf Rutter to Greenock; Bill Malloch to Kirkwall; and Dick West and Bill Henderson to Glasgow. Good luck, fellers, and a speedy return to home port. Fred Cambridge, progressing by stages, is now at Grimsby. It's a long way to gan yet, Fred.

Association matters may not be apparent, but members can rest assured that local officials are by no means inactive.

L.N.C.

LONDON OFFICERS SERVING IN H.M. FORCES

Name.	Rank.	Branch of Forces in which serving.
*Armstrong, C. V.	L.A.C.	Royal Air Force.
Ayton, J.	Sub-Lieut.	Royal Navy.
Barnes, L. L.	Coder	Royal Navy.
*Battle, A. G.	Private	Royal Army Medical Corps.
Bee, A. J.	Signalman	Royal Corps Signals.
*Benson, W. R.	Private	H.Q., 4th Indian Corps
Berry, J. W. H.	Leading Seaman	Royal Navy.
Blake, W. A.	Gunner	Prisoner of war.
Bushell, J. F. W.	Bombardier	Royal Artillery.
Buttenshaw, K. S.	Private	Prisoner of war.
Chivers, H. J. L.	Corpl.-Instructor	Royal Armoured Corps.
Colan, A. O.	L.A.C.	Royal Air Force.
Crowther, E. L.	Marine	Royal Marines.
Douglas, R. G.	Signalman	Royal Navy.
Dewey, E. G.	Private	N.C.C.
Dowdell, F. W. H.	Signalman	Royal Corps Signals.
*Dunn, J. J.	L/Sergeant	Royal Armoured Corps.
Dunstone, M. F.	Able Seaman	Royal Navy.
Farren, H. G.	L/Corporal	Royal Engineers.
Finch, A. D.	L/Corporal	Intelligence Corps
Flynn, M.	Able Seaman	Royal Navy.
*Ford, K. S.	Gunner	Royal Horse Artillery
Fozard, L. W. S.	Telegraphist	Royal Navy.
Gravett, G. P.	Captain	Royal Engineers.
Griffin, J. J.	Telegraphist	Royal Navy.
Harvey, F. B.	Sergeant	Royal Artillery, S/L Regiment.
Hoar, I. R.	Lieutenant	Hampshire Regiment.
Holden, A. E.	A.C. 2	Royal Air Force.
Jefferd, V. A.	L/Corporal	Royal Artillery.
Johnson, C.	Sergeant	Royal Air Force.
Jones, R. E. C.	Bombardier	Royal Artillery.
Kidd, R.	L/Bombardier	Royal Artillery, S/L Regiment.
Kippin, F. J.	Lieutenant	Royal Marines.
*Lamble, J. S. S.	Lieutenant	Royal Tank Regiment.
Layton, E. S.	Lieutenant	Royal Tank Regiment.
Maguire, D. J.	A.C. 1	Royal Air Force.
*McFetrich, G. K.	Sergeant	Royal Artillery.
McKenzie, J.	L/Sergeant	Royal Horse Artillery.
*Menzies, W.	L.A.C.	Royal Air Force.
*Mew, S. F.	Sub-Lieutenant	Royal Navy.
*Newlyn, H. F.	L/Bombardier	Royal Artillery.
Pearce, G. H.	Signalman	Royal Corps Signals.
Pearce, W. T.	Ordinary Seaman	Royal Navy.
Pedder, W. R.	Private	General Service Corps
*Penfold, P. G.	Pilot Officer	Royal Air Force.
Robbins, E.	Captain	R.T.O.
Scott, J. N. L.	A.C. 2	Royal Air Force.
Sherlock, J. D.	A.L.A.	Royal Navy (Fleet Air Arm).
Sides, J. D.	Coder	Royal Navy.
Smallwood, F. W.	A.L.A.	Royal Navy (Fleet Air Arm).
Sommerville, D. K.	L/Corporal	Royal Army Pay Corps.
Sutton, J. D.	A.L.A.	Royal Navy (Fleet Air Arm).
*Thompson, J. C.	L.A.C.	Royal Air Force.
Walker, L. J.	L.A.C.	Royal Air Force.
Wandless, S.	Lieutenant	1st Parachute Batt.
*Warner, C. G.	Sergeant	London Rifle Brigade.
Waters, E. F.	Driver	Prisoner of war.
Wheatley, A.	L/Corporal	Infantry Training Corps.
Withey, R. A. F.	A.C. 1	Royal Air Force.

* Serving Overseas.

Any addresses desired can be obtained upon application being made to R. J. Lowe, Esq., Liverpool.

Bristol News

Ron Gardiner, A.P.O., paid us a visit quite recently. He looks and keeps well. He is now a Lieutenant, R.W.R.

—B.J.B.

The Lads o' London

This issue of the "C.J.," the last before the arrival of the festive season, prompts me once more to extend to all who are in the forces and to those on detached duty, the best wishes of the Superintendent (Mr. Purser), the staff at home, and myself for a happy and enjoyable Christmas. I would like, too, to express those sentiments to the parents and friends of colleagues who have so kindly offered to dispense hospitality to our lads who may be in the vicinity of their homes.

At this time our thoughts turn eastwards, and those same sincere wishes for a happy time at Christmas are especially tendered to the chaps who have helped to secure the magnificent victory in Egypt and Libya.

Jack Berry is now out of hospital after his experiences at Dieppe, and has entered a training college to qualify for his commission. Good luck, Jack.

Bob Kidd, still in this country, expressed in a pleasant letter his kind regards to all former colleagues, and said that he, too, longs for the return of the happy times spent in the Service.

Jack Gates is still happy in the H.M.S. Port, Quebec, and shortly hopes to be promoted to Leading Coder. George Marshall reported having seen Bill Pearce at Thurso last month looking fit and well, and also that Ted Crowther was in the same place recently.

A particularly welcome communication from the father of Charlie Armstrong—one of our younger colleagues, who saw only a few months' service prior to being called to the Colours—told that his son is now L.A.C. in the Marine Craft section of the R.A.F., in Malta. I was glad to hear that he is A1 and that he has been doing good work out there rescuing our airmen. His father mentioned that Charlie would be glad to receive letters, and I do ask those of you who knew him at K.G.V.Dk., to send him a few lines. His address—a simple one—is, L.A.C. C. Armstrong, Marine Craft Section, R.A.F. Station, Malta.

News is to hand that Guy Gravett has been promoted to the rank of Captain in the R.E.s, and that he has been assigned to the Docks Section of that regiment—a position he obtained by virtue of his Waterguard experience. Cyril Warner has arrived in Egypt (6-8-42). Jim Dunn receives the "C.J.'s" regularly, and in his last airgraph, dated 20-10-42, he mentioned that one of his pals in the regiment visited Llew Barnes regularly in hospital in Jerusalem.

Ernie Catchpole saw Fred Smallwood on an O.B. steamer last month. Fred has gone to Canada to complete his training as a Fleet Air Arm pilot.

Fred Harvey is now in Sussex, and has been promoted to Sergeant. He popped into the K.G. office recently and saw all his old pals.

☛ Congratulations to Percy North, who was appointed Liverpool District Secretary of the P.S.A. at its last meeting. One is reminded of the cries heard in those far-off football days—"Up, London!"

Let's hear from you, then,
Till the lights o' London shine again.

R.J.L.

Waterguard Spotlight

"Lew Barnes said he enjoyed reading a copy of the 'Customs Journal,' which he received while in hospital at Tobruk."—Greenock News, p. 134.

Southampton Notes

Proudly we commence our Notes this month with the grand news of the award of the Distinguished Service Cross to one of "Our Boys," Temp. Lieut. Arthur Cheney, R.N.V.R. Sincere and hearty congratulations are sent from every one of us, Arthur.

Another item of news just received has also cheered us greatly, and that is the report of the well-being of Tom Carnell, who is overseas and in good spirits. This will please many of the lads who have made frequent enquiries of Tom since his foreign departure.

Ron Greenhalgh has been active since we last had a line from him, and with the desired result. Several air mail letters have been received from Ron, and we are glad to pass along the news of his continued well-being.

More good news from Cliff and Joe. Yes, sir! And they are in the pink and full of great hopes for the days ahead. The former indicated that he would be "on the move" shortly, and we are in little doubt of that cautious prediction after the spate of heart-cheering news to hand at the time of writing from the Press and radio. The very best of luck to you, Cliff, wherever you may be at this moment. Joe is still in the place and bearing up to the monotony well; take it easy, Joe, you are not the only one who gets little excitement!!!

Jimmy (D. B.) James writes in from sea in good style, and his well-being continues. He is having plenty of work to do in between infrequent leave spells, and I guess he has "seen plenty" since we received his current letter.

The boys of the R.A.F. have given us "the air" this month, probably due to the exigencies!!! prevailing, but we know that Jack Welsh is A.I as he was down home on leave recently, chatting to the lads at 29 Berth. Glad to hear that the course is going along well, Jack.

We hear that George Gray has moved along to his second Training Wing H.Q., but we have no details. Let's have that address, George; there are two enquiries here already.

Moving to the Army boys, we have continued good news of Steve, still in the Metropolis and liking it, in spite of most Sundays "on" (like old times, what, Steve?); indirect news of Jimmy Rough, now with the Intelligence Corps in Cumberland; and a surprise in the knowledge that Jack Langford, originally with the R.A.S.C., is back at Holyhead and "attached" to the Intelligence Corps there. Nice work, Jack, and thanks for a welcome letter. That completes the Forces contribution, not so hot this month, but no news is good news, and we know that action is predominant to-day. Wait until we get the full "dope" from those concerned!!!

Exiles, and the gloom of an October day in Manchester relieved by a long yarn with Bill (P.S.A.) Parsons. Did your ears burn? Two and a half years take some covering, but if that reunion is any criterion, then we are sure going to enjoy some 2/10 watches, to say the least, in the days ahead.

The news from Holyhead is good, although I hasten to correct the error of last month regarding Sid Hayward. There's many a slip between the booking office and the watch-house, and Sid is still at Milford Haven; but the other lads at Holyhead are A.I (Team Manager is now a Sergeant!! Wow); the same applies at Runcorn, Ellesmere Port, Liverpool and Manchester. December may see a few reunions, here's hoping.

The P.S.A. is benefiting by the detachment of some of our lads, who are maintaining a progressive interest in the Association and the local activities, with the result, in some ports, that membership is on the increase. I must draw Battshaw's attention to this, and also some of the exiles who seem content to rest upon their previous good record for subs. payments in Soton. Cough up, you who procrastinate; a letter, a stamp, a P.O., and it's all over!!!

Home news is that of increased activity on duty, moans about "Work and Wait" (with every justification, too), uniform issues (again justified, but with an immediate prospect of improvement), complaints of suppression of correspondence to the "C.J." (What about it, Mr. Editor?) [The letter from Percy North, published in this issue, is the first we have had for months!—Ed.]; and finally good news of the boys generally, some of whom have had the pleasure of the company of a Liverpool Forces A.P.O., George Pearson, now on a course at Soton, and who, in his turn, sends good wishes to his colleagues on Merseyside, with the news of his recent

reunion with Captain Urquhart, Royal Marines, and late Lupton Cup finalist. The latter may be seen in the North-West shortly.

These Notes will close with a full list of our grand boys in the Forces. It is by general request, and as this will be the last published issue before Christmas, we send to you all, at home and overseas, the very best of good cheer for the festive season and the coming year. Keep writing, and as you look down this list below please remember those who are in the thick of the operations overseas, which are giving us such good heart to-day. The names preceded by an asterisk are of those who are absent from the Home Country; a special thought for them, and may they all come safely back to us:—

*Beckett, E. W...	Rigger's Mate ..	R.N.
*Bryant, R. ...	—	London Irish Rifles.
*Cardall, A. C...	L.A.C. ...	R.A.F.
*Carnell, O. T...	Leading Fitter ..	R.N.
Cheney, A.	(D.S.C.)	Lieut. (Temp.) .. R.N.V.R.
Cortis, E. D. ..	Draughtsman ..	Admiralty (Army Reserve).
Eyre-Walker,	B. K.	Bombardier .. A.A.
Goodyear, S. F.	Corporal ..	Intelligence Corps
*Greenhalgh, R.	Sergt. Observer ..	R.A.F.
Gray, G. ...	L.A.C. ...	R.A.F.
Heal, D. P. ...	Sergt. Observer ..	R.A.F.
*James, D. B. ..	Leading	Telegraphist R.N.
Jarvis, J. D. ...	—	Hants. Regt.
Jenkinson, R. ...	Corporal ..	R.A.O.C.
Midlane, E. J. ...	Leading Fitter ..	Fleet Air Arm.
*Nicolson, W. J.	2nd Lieut. ...	3rd Gurka Rifles.
*Pearson, C. ...	A.B. ...	R.N.
Pettit, P. M. ...	Sergt. Instructor	R.A.F. Sea Rescue Service.
Roberts, S. G. ...	A.B. ...	R.N.
Rough, J. ...	Corporal ..	Intelligence Corps.
Ryan, P. H. J. ...	L.A.C. ...	R.A.F.
Smith, J. C. ...	Marine ..	Royal Marines.
Soane, E. H. R.	Lance-Sergt. ..	Grenadier Guards.
Stevens, H. F. ...	Corporal ..	R.A.S.C.
Strachan, A. S.	Sergt. Instructor	R.A.F.
*Sykes, J. L. ...	Sergt. ...	Middle East Forces.
*Twentyman,	L. M.	Sergt.-Pilot .. R.A.F.
Walker, G. ...	—	Royal Artillery.
Welsh, J. L. ...	L.A.C. ...	R.A.F.
*Youdell, F. D.	Signalman ..	Royal Signals (Missing, Far East).

Cheerio, Forces!

L.B.

Merseyside News

Well, here we are with another Merseyside News, and this is BILL HUGHES presenting it.

Lack of events to report and lack of contacts with serving members of the staff constitutes a serious handicap, however, and I would once again ask all colleagues both home and away to assist by forwarding details of interesting news items for inclusion from time to time.

The lack of events seems to have been noticed by others as well as your correspondent. It is reliably reported that upon his arrival in Liverpool the new Collector, Mr. T. B. Gibson (a former Assistant Collector whom we are very happy to welcome back), commented upon the complete absence of social events among the staff of the Department these days.

Efforts to re-start a modified form of social life are being made and an informal committee representative of all branches of the Department is at present tackling the problem. It is hoped that members of the Preventive Staff will give the committee their fullest support. Details of any functions arranged will be made known as soon as possible.

An item of interest to many is the return to the Department of Mr. A. D. (Fred) Howe, A.P.O., who sustained frost-bitten feet following his four days' ordeal in an open boat, reported in last issue. Glad to have you back, Fred, and here's hoping the ill effects will gradually wear off.

Congratulations to Mr. T. J. Neill, P.O., on his promotion and appointment to the Special Inquiry Staff. We are sorry to be losing regular contact with a good fellow and a staunch colleague who was always to the fore in local sporting and Association activities. We wish him well in his new sphere, and feel sure he is just the man to make a success of the job.

Another departure is Mr. E. W. Watson, P.O., who has taken up one of the posts under the Travellers' Censorship Office recently advertised in Omnibus Weekly Orders. He, too, carries all our good wishes for success in his new appointment.

Mr. J. Lucey, A.P.O., of the Gladstone Rummage Crew, has again hit the headlines with another another good seizure. He located some 8,000 (No.) Cigarettes and 7 lbs. of Tobacco in the bunkers of a vessel in port recently. Mr. T. H. Clark, P.O., obtained the owner from among the Chinese firemen, and he was prosecuted at Liverpool Police Court. Mr. C. P. Titherley, C.P.O., who presented the case, obtained a conviction and the offender was fined £45 odd (S.V.D.).

Huskisson Rummage Crew continue to maintain the pace, and they have recorded several good efforts recently. Mr. N. Ennis, A.P.O., had one nice job of 2,000 (No.) Cigarettes and 100 (No.) Cigars. In this case also the owner was duly convicted and fined.

And that's the news to this hour.

LIVERPOOL DISTRICT MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Liverpool Branch of the Preventive Staff Association was held at the Landing Stage on Wednesday, 21st October, 1942, when Mr. L. W. Hyland occupied the chair. The Minutes of the previous meeting were read and adopted. In the absence of the District Organiser, who was on 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. Rummage Duty, the financial statement was postponed.

The first item was, therefore, the election of Officials for 1942/43, and the elections resulted as follows:—

Chairman: Mr. L. W. Hyland, P.O.
 Vice-Chairman: Mr. F. Hope, A.P.O.
 District Secretary: Mr. P. A. North, P.O.
 Assistant District Secretary: Mr. W. J. Lee, A.P.O.
 District Organiser: Mr. C. M. Porter, A.P.O.
 Whitley Representatives: Mr. P. A. North, P.O., Mr. C. F. Shaw, A.P.O., who also serve on the Local Joint Whitley, together with W. B. Clayton, P.O., W. J. Lee, A.P.O., W. C. Hughes, A.P.O., R. J. Davidson, A.P.O.

Auditors: Mr. J. F. A. Donnelly, A.P.O., Mr. R. G. Roberts, A.P.O.

Journal Correspondent: Mr. W. C. Hughes, A.P.O.

These elections resulted in the infusion of a good percentage of new blood to the Executive, and it is to be hoped that the changes will have far-reaching and beneficial results. Particularly pleasing was the election of Mr. P. A. North to the post of District Secretary. Mr. North, who is a London Officer on Detached Duty at Liverpool, has shown a very keen interest in the affairs of the local branch during the two years he has been among us. He said that he felt highly conscious of the great honour the Liverpool Branch had accorded him by electing him as their District Secretary, and he promised to spare no effort in the days ahead to merit their confidence.

Following the election, the Interim Conference Report was presented and amplified by the representatives, Messrs. W. B. Clayton, P.O., and C. F. Shaw, A.P.O. Questions by Members were answered, and a vote of thanks to the representatives was carried by acclamation.

A large number of local items were raised, the first being the change in the rotation of duties on the Alexandra and Langton Stations. Criticism was expressed of the fact that the change had been put into effect despite the fact that the staff on the station were not unanimously in favour and contrary to the expressed wish of the previous meeting that all North District Officers should be consulted on the matter.

It was obvious that many present were against the change, and upon a proposal by Mr. R. G. Roberts, which was carried, it was decided to hold a plebiscite of all staff concerned with a view to a possible return to the old rotation at the next change of Station Minute.

The question of delay in carrying out urgent repairs to Waterguard Offices was again discussed, further instances having occurred since the Staff representatives requested speedier action. It was unanimously agreed that the matter be raised on the local Whitley Council at the earliest opportunity.

That the absence of the District Organiser was due to the fact that he was employed on 1 p.m./9 p.m. Rummage Duty, although the hour of black-out was 6.30 p.m., was the subject of much comment. This brought up the whole question of hours of attendance for Rummage Crews. The view was widely expressed that rummaging after black-out hours (except in cases of extreme urgency) was not only impracticable, but definitely dangerous. A strongly worded resolution instructing the representatives to take up the matter with the Official Side with a view to the discontinuation of the late duty Rummage rota was carried unanimously.

Several other items were discussed, including the working of the order concerning the Disposal of Ships' Surplus Stores (L.W.O. 17/1942), the method of dealing with U.S. vessels and possible changes, complaints regarding spring balances, office cleaning at certain depots, and the fact that in one C.P.O.'s district, officers were being asked to sign for trivial items of everyday stores, such as sample jars. Instructions to representatives were given where these were considered necessary.

And so, after three hours, the meeting came to a close. The attendance was quite good, and it was interesting to see once again Members of the Chief Preventive Officer Grade present. A vote of thanks to the Chairman concluded the proceedings.

BILL HUGHES

CORRESPONDENCE

The Editor, "The Customs Journal."

Sir,

Congrats. to those energetic enthusiasts "Battshaw" on the launching of their 100 per cent. membership drive, and I sincerely hope they make good in the difficult task allocated to them.

The grievances of individual members may seem trivial, but matched with those of fellow members they may make a pattern that the discerning Association official can read with profit.

I have no means of knowing the exact number of Waterguard Officers on detached duty, I believe the percentage is high, but I do claim to know and to have suffered with them the mental intricacy and financial strain of nearly three years' detachment.

Unity in numbers and purpose would eliminate many of the grievances existing throughout the Department. It is useless to blame Association officials when members do not insist on a policy; likewise it's a bad policy for Association officials to blame members for not leading them.

After three years' experience of detached duty, it was suggested to the recent Conference that a Committee be set up to consider detached duty problems and to make recommendations to the Executive Committee. I was most disappointed to find that no Committee was appointed to inquire into the circumstances by which the conditions of the present vicious system were imposed.

I have no authority to put before you instances of extreme hardship being suffered by individual members and their families, but I do deplore the statement that the "Official Side were sympathetic and recognised that hardship did exist in certain cases," when it would appear from the almost rubber stamp replies to applications on the subject, that the "Board have no authority, etc.," to alleviate such distress.

Now, Sir, it is reasonable to suppose that somebody is in possession of authority and is not utilising it in a proper manner. Can it be the Waterguard Staff? Truly, we have not existed as a body since the war commenced, but I have recently, here in Liverpool, experienced the enthusiasm and accord which can be inspired by unity of purpose.

Certainly "Nothing we suffer to retain liberty equals the sufferings of being without it," Battshaw!

—Yours faithfully,

PERCY NORTH.

THE CUSTOMS CAROL

It was Christmas Eve in the watch-house, and Scrooge, the Customs officer (rank varying) was crouched over a warm but queer-smelling fire made mainly from old fish-boxes. He was off duty, but coal and light were "extras" with his landlady (she had been spoilt by too many highly paid D.D. officers), and, considering he had never married to save money, there was no reason why he should hand over his hard-earned cash to a landlady. By the same token, he was reading the newspaper with which she had wrapped his spam sandwiches, and finding therein a statement by Lord Simon that the Government held firmly to the Trade Union principle of negotiation for wages and conditions of people employed, he cast it aside with his favourite expletive: "Humbug!" Damned nonsense were Trade Unions. Of course they did improve conditions and pay, but that was no reason why one should pay subs. just because of that. The leaders were all in for their own ends, feathering their own blinkin' nests; what do they take us for? They can't kid old Scrooge, any way. Humbug, all humbug. And he spat on to a projecting piece of kipper-box. Only that day, Tom Pinch, the office collector, had been after him for P.S.A. subs., but he, Scrooge, had soon told him where he got off. "Me pay six and six? Not likely. Why didn't the P.S.A. see that I was promoted? I wouldn't pay subs. on principle." The same principle which made him miss the Comforts Fund and sneer at all subscription lists. He picked up the "CUSTOMS JOURNAL." Now, here was some more nonsense. Talking about air-ports and stripes for A.P.O.s and O. orders for —. The front door banging echoed through the building, and was followed by a strange, slithering noise on the stairs. Who could it be? His relief had gone out right away to board a ship and would be some time taking duty from idiots with stockings and such nonsense for Christmas presents. "I'd make them damn well wait; put the stuff under seal." There was the noise again, and coming nearer—it couldn't be a "visit" on Christmas Eve. It wasn't done. Outside the wind howled and shrieked with the agony of a soul in pain or one compelled to spend a shilling without immediate gain. Slowly the door opened. The "JOURNAL" fell from Scrooge's palsied hand, and he felt his blood chill to the bone. A huge belly appeared round the door. It was followed by a head surmounted by a shock of red hair. Instantly Scrooge recognised the Monster, though he had only known it as two separate entities, both of which had often enough asked him for subs. It was the Battshaw. Had he had any doubt previously, "the slight brogue" when the Monster began to talk, which was immediately, convinced him.

"Wh—what do you want?"

"We want your subs." The Monster used the imperial, or editorial, we.

"You can want," said Scrooge, fast regaining his composure. "You can't argue me into anything."

Sadly the Monster replied, "That we know, Scrooge, you worthless twirp. But you are a bad example. You are not only a non-payer but the cause of non-paying in others—others less mean and small-minded, fellows who would pay but listen to your drivel and are convinced. We can do nothing with them until we fix you. If we fail in that it means our 300 lads in the Services (here Scrooge's sneer broadened—they weren't fighting for him—he could jolly well look after himself) "will have to pay subs.—for you. They're quite willing, but we don't want it—"

"Humbug."

"Everything except a free dinner is humbug to you, Scrooge, and no power on earth could alter you. But to-morrow, as Christmas dawns and ghostly bells chime (ghostly, lest real ones scare old maids into fear of invasion and the consequent atrocities), powers not of earth which we, the mighty Battshaw, have summoned up—"

"You can't frighten me with Bill Powell—"

"Worse, worse than Bill Powell is coming to you. Be warned. We have spoken. Ta, Ta!!" And the Monster disappeared, just like that. Scrooge's only comment was—you've guessed it—"Humbug."

He thought differently next morning, as he lay awake, though it was still dark. The howling wind had wakened him, and the thought that he was not on duty and getting "Sunday pay" kept him awake. A pleasant thought relieved his gloom: the thought of all the children who this Christmas would have empty stockings. But the pleasant thought was interrupted by a solemn voice intoning: "I am the ghost of Customs Past," and there before him, to Scrooge's annoyance, astonishment and chagrin, passed, in that dark bedroom, a panorama of '05 probationship. . . . Yes! there he was, the drudge he knew so well in a hard-bitten school, if there was such a thing. Who's that in the boat, sticking like grim death to the oars, with the elements tearing and tugging his arms apart, and again hanging on to the ladder as the dark shape swung at anchor? Now to the quay and alongside a "tramp," where oil lamps showed a gleam from the well-deck, in answer to a stream of abuse and a bawling of surnames from the smoke-filled saloon. Now to the dingy office, always two paces in the rear, with the prospect of cleaning up the stuffy rooms and polishing the brass before cooking a pair of bloaters for a die-hard lower section "guv'nor," and finally putting out a grimy paw for his miserable weekly pittance. Then down the stairs and along the back streets to Hardship Lane, behind him Nonentity; before him, what?

The scene, so real yet so ghostly, had filled old Scrooge with consternation. Mighty powers were at work. But, bah, the Association had had nothing to do with altering all that. It would have come with time in any case. Besides—he was interrupted by the roar of a lion and the words, "This is coming to you by courtesy of the P.S.A. Sub-Committee for Frightening Non-Payers, presenting an all-talking, world-shaking, breath-taking film, THE GHOST OF CUSTOMS PRESENT. The white light shone through the room and the real-seeming shadows paraded on the black-out curtains. Need we detail, readers, what old Scrooge saw thereon? It shook even his flinty heart to see the contrast, but to see, too, how far we had to do, as the panorama danced before his eyes, of "mushroom" departments interfering, of ships' crews squabbling about issues, of C.P.O.s worrying more about a man being a few minutes late than his general efficiency, of P.O.s leaving for their reliefs jobs they should have done themselves, of cheese-paring in subsistence regulations, of shabby uniforms, of passengers' insolence and sailors' cheek, of men with 14 years' service and no chance of promotion, of grabbing for o.t. pay and seizure money, of grubby office accommodation, of reams of regulations, of broken faith on Whitley matters—Scrooge saw clearly his own puny figure in all this and much else, and even, slowly yet certainly, began to glimpse his own part in it all. If only to a slight degree the staff's solidarity had brought us from the old boatman days, might it not be, if each one played his part. His train of thought was interrupted, yet underlined, by the vision which now appeared: THE GHOST OF CUSTOMS YET TO COME. What is that? A Customs and Excise Staff College, where training, development and equality of opportunity is offered without discrimination; where the characters wear uniforms of distinction, as befits their executive rank and status, and who proceed to offices and stations worthy of the name. The scene changes again—to gigantic aerodromes and harbours where planes, passengers and ships of all nations throng, where the men with the Crown and Laurels are predominant, supervising all cargo, grasping the responsibility with ease and confidence, and progressing individually and collectively to the right sphere of a real Preventive Service.

It was a new Scrooge which leapt from the bed as the third ghost disappeared from the screen, followed by a Food Flash about carrots. Quickly he donned his converted uniform, and, without stopping to wash and shave or eat his scrambled eggs, he hastened to the watch-house to see the address-book. Then he caught a tram, giving the conductor a shilling for himself, to Tom Pinch's home, and there, over a glass of home-made wine, told the astonished sub-collector of his conversion.

"And let me know my arrears right away, and I'll wipe them off. My only grouse against the Association is that the subs. aren't big enough. We ought to increase them and have some sort of a Benevolent Fund."

The only sound now was the scratching of Tom's pen as he made out receipts while old Scrooge gazed benevolently into the fire, seeing who knows what other ghosts of past and present and future, his soul as peaceful as it had never been since he had been paid four pounds back money, happily puffing his "sweet cap" and pleasantly working out, as it were, a deck cargo, forty times six and six. And so may you all do, good non-payers; but whether you do or not, God bless you all, as Tom Pinch said, and a happy Christmas to all, including *YOU*.
BATTSHAW.

Greenock News

P.S.A. MEETING

An Association meeting was held in the watch-house at Prince's Pier on November 5th, and about twenty members were present. This figure was such a vast improvement on those of previous attendances this year that, in spite of the fact that this represents less than half the total number of staff, those who had acted as unofficial "whips" felt more than ordinarily gratified with the result. Among those present was one member not on detached duty!

The opening formalities over, the first item was the election of a new A.P.O. Whitley representative, that grade having been unrepresented for some months. We ourselves must take the blame for this rather unfortunate procedure becoming necessary, and for losing the services of probably one of the most knowledgeable men who ever graced a Local Whitley Table. The A.P.O.'s had, until recently, been represented by Mr. Howard, on detached duty from Harwich, whose knowledge of the finer points of Whitleyism, and his method of approach to the Official Side few could claim to equal. After much hard and able work, Mr. Howard was met with such apathy from his colleagues, during times of great moment in their own history, that it was impossible to persuade more than three or four people to attend a meeting, and he justifiably resigned in disgust. Several members having declined to stand for election, Mr. Eddowes bravely accepted nomination, and was accordingly returned unopposed: may Good Fortune attend him—he will probably need it!

The next item on the agenda—Staffing Scheme for the Port—revealed that the same apathy among the staff had forced the remaining Whitley Representative to accept the Official Side scheme almost en bloc, without being able to consult the staff at a meeting. Under the circumstances he, Mr. Salmon, P.O., was thanked by the meeting for taking the responsibility on his own shoulders of accepting, and a motion was passed expressing the hope that the new scheme would supplant that just instigated by the C.P.O.s at the earliest possible moment. Statistics prove that we do not really have a new scheme every six weeks; it only seems like it!

The new scheme, shortly to be put through Whitley, differs little from that until recently in operation, save that the A.P.O.s on Quarantine are to be dispensed with except, at the Staff Side's suggestion on the 4-11—a watch often occupied with shipping urgent stores, the bills for which have arrived after the departure of the normal boarding crews. The loss of the night watch to the A.P.O.s is a sad blow to those of us who looked forward to the rare chance of a long week-end—privileges which are earned and enjoyed in nearly every port in the kingdom. However, such reasons can hardly be put forward officially, so the point was not unduly pressed. The staff thus saved are to be formed into a second rummage crew. There

will still remain a considerable number on "general" duties, much of whose time will no doubt be spent enjoying the excruciating "pleasures" of "outward baggage." The luckless ones' opinions of their task being unprintable except on asbestos, I will refrain from further comment!

Discussion of the report of the Annual Conference was adjourned till a special meeting can be called, at which it is hoped Messrs. Murray and Grant, the Glasgow Councillors, will be present. Such a meeting should be both lively and interesting, and it is to be hoped that it will be even better attended than this one was.

It appeared that there was some dissatisfaction amongst the P.O.s with the actions of their Whitley Representative, Mr. Salmon, P.O., who, amongst other "crimes," had been forced into an embarrassing position by being selected by the Official Side to lead a selected rummage crew for an indefinite period, contrary to the scheme for the port, which provided for rummage duties to rotate evenly amongst the staff on six weekly periods. Mr. Salmon pointed out that he had drawn the attention of the Official Side to the inferences which were likely to be drawn if he were selected for such a task, and that he was told that he had no option in the matter. He therefore contended that he was powerless to pursue the matter any further. A motion of "No Confidence," proposed by Mr. Stones, P.O., was defeated, although only five P.O.s voted against it out of a total of eighteen in the port; the A.P.O.s abstaining. Although there is no reason to suppose that the result might have been different had more been present, this example may bring home to those who, for reasons best known to themselves, do not usually find it convenient to attend Association meetings, that vital decisions can be won or lost by such a small proportion of the total staff.

There being yet a little time in hand, the subject of Uniform, originally adjourned with the rest of the Annual Conference Report, was informally discussed. In view of the fact that some officers had not been issued with any uniform for nearly two years, and that some were now even forced to wear their private clothes on duty, the feeling of the meeting appeared to be that some strong and drastic action should be taken. Among other suggestions put forward was on that coupons to be surrendered for uniform should be withheld until the uniform was forthcoming. Eventually it was agreed that, as a first step, a letter be sent to the Superintendent of Stores bringing to his notice the fact that issues of uniform are being delayed so very much longer than the agreed period, and, owing to the perpetually bad weather and the exposed nature of our work, that Greenock be one of the first ports to be considered when next there is any uniform available. (It has occurred to me with what heartiness news of this request will be received in other ports; however—"What would you do, chums?")

FORCES NEWS

Since only two A.P.O.s have been "called up" from Greenock there is but little news to record from the Forces, but if either Bill Pearce or Jimmy Reay care to drop me a line I shall be pleased to include any news they may have in my "Society Gossip Column."

We have had news of John White, an A.P.O. from Hull, who is now a naval W/T Operator on a large troop ship, and would like a copy of the Journal sent to him when possible. Travelling with him as a passenger was another Hullite, Mr. F. H. Bromley, now L.A.C. and U.T. Pilot. He has promised to write to me with news of any of our lads when he gets to where he is going, and he also hopes it will be possible to receive copies of the Journal. We have also run across Mr. Allen, A.P.O., of Middlesbrough, now a Leading Seaman, who was in action with the Navy at Crete, and is now home on leave.

Lew Barnes, of London, is on sick leave from the Navy, and thinks he may shortly return to the Waterguard. He said he enjoyed reading a copy of the Journal which he received while in hospital at Tobruk. Other contributors will, no doubt, like myself, get quite a kick out of knowing that our literary efforts have such a wide circulation. Perhaps the editor could be persuaded to engage a team of foreign correspondents to cover the various fronts on which our lads are serving, while it would add an international flavour to the Journal to see in it advertisements for the following month's ENSA programmes in, say, Cairo, Archangel, and eventually—Berlin!

B. A. BENNING

A P.S.A. PLAN FOR RECONSTRUCTION

The criticism levelled nowadays at the Civil Service which has, indeed, proved often an ineffective weapon in wartime, and the administrative changes necessary in the post-war world may well lead to a complete reconstruction of this department. The P.S.A. has done well to face this possibility and the individuals on the Executive are now considering plans. At the same time local committees are to be set up to consider this subject of reconstruction. They will want, from the officers of the Association, some terms of reference and they will receive them. But it may be more effective if these terms are related to a complete outline of a reconstructed Customs Service, and this, based on my notes for the Executive, is an effort in that direction. Please realise before studying it, however, that:—

(1) It is a purely personal viewpoint and I doubt if there is any other member of the Association who would accept my plan in its entirety. But married to some other plans we might evolve something. The point to regard is, that staff sides will be consulted in any reconstruction moves, and if this staff has something ready to show it may help us to achieve a better service for the country and—for ourselves.

(2) In making a plan like this one must pay no regard to other Civil Service bodies which may be concerned. It is for us to make a blue-print of the ideal Customs Service and the difficulties we will face persuading other Civil Servants on this point must be disregarded.

(3) It is not appropriate to such a plan as this to consider, except by implication, the day-to-day reforms in conditions and pay we are already seeking. Most of them will arrive automatically with the success, e.g., we cannot believe an improved service would continue the Seizure Reform system and, if you take on the work of (new) higher-paid grades you would naturally get higher pay. So with leave, office accommodation, etc. There are, too, reforms, such as uniform, contained in the plan which we are now seeking unilaterally.

(4) So Utopian a plan would never be accepted by so short-sighted a body as the present Official side, especially the Treasury section, but, even in part, this plan would be a vast improvement on the existing system and its acceptance should lead toward its total acceptance. And, of course, it is subject to any amendment other members of the Association may think of or which later experience may suggest.

(5) Even the beginnings of the New Deal adumbrated herein will not be reached without an effective Staff Side. First step towards this is the 100 per cent. membership for which we are now striving. In the post-war world it may be that membership of Staff Associations will be compulsory and the leading Association officials be released from formal official duties, because the Official Side itself will realise that only a strong and representative Staff Side can work for the changes which the Official Side alone will be incapable of attaining. Be that as it may, all members should realise that solidarity is essential and should themselves go out to make non-members come in with them. The picture such a plan as this presents of an Association looking far into the years ahead for a better service for us all should itself be a potent argument. Pay your subs. and get the other fellow to pay his.

And, now, the plan for a new Customs Service. That, to begin with, is its name, and it will exist to perform ALL Customs, Immigration, Security-plus-Censorship (if this be considered still necessary) work at ports and aerodromes and land boundaries or other places where passengers from outside this country and cargoes arrive. It will assess and collect duties. (Never believe that some sort of tariff will not exist.) Co-operate with the Health Authorities, the Police and the Board of Trade. Protect the coast. Control all exports. This Customs Service will be governed by an Inspector - General appointed by the Commissioners, controlling a series of "regions" under Assistant Inspectors.

These regions will be divided into smaller units controlled by Surveyors. The basic grade will be the Examining Officer in charge of sub-divisions of these units. These officers will take charge completely in small ports and, in large ports, shall have an area in which to perform Boarding duties and Landing and Shipping duties. (The word "ports" throughout implies any place where such work is done; it may, more often, in future, be an aerodrome.) This will, of course, involve searching ships, and while this will normally be performed by the younger Examining Officers (who, maybe, would thereby, if successful, improve their prospects of getting a fixed station), it by no means precludes the senior officers from participating and adding their experience to the energy of youth. Further, a grade of temporaries, known as Assistant Examining Officers who will guard the coast and perform, in sheds, at pier-heads, etc., duties of a "watcher" type, will be expected to take part in rummage and guard gangway exits. These Assistants will be composed of the ex-service type now recruited to the Watcher grade, but short-term conscription will probably enable us to recruit a younger class. The "failed" A.P.O. will be in this class also, but, with the others, he will have a chance to get into the E.O. class. This will be the principle "incentive" to good rummage. The failed A.P.O. will retain his permanency but the others will not be permanent and permanency will be the reward for good work. Another "incentive." (Mind you, I don't admit that incentives are necessary!)

As the new entrant to the Examining Officer grade will, after two years' probation, entering at 18 or 19, be doing work of the type of the modern P.O. plus the Aliens Officer, the examination will not be easy. (We might even have to agree to a test of those already in the services, but this unpleasant necessity would only come once, and I believe almost every P.O. and A.P.O. could pass it. It would be a practical test; but for new entrants practical tests are not so feasible.) An examining body, not necessarily all Civil Servants (one could be a practising psychologist) should interview the candidate before the written test to judge his general suitability, especially as to character. We do not want merely the good student any more than the mere roughneck. The written test might be an English essay, an essay on a set subject in any language, geography, history or economics, physics or mathematics. The successful candidate, after a medical test, should receive his uniform (naval style, except for the cap badge, with two curls) immediately and attend a class on the job he has to do at one of a certain number of centres, under a senior E.O. with tutoring ability. After that he should serve his probationship as near home as possible, perhaps "digging" in a service hostel. The exam. for Surveyors should be after two years' service.

The service would have its own Investigation Department and a Launch Service, usually composed of ex-Mercantile Marine men. Clerical work would be done by a separate body.

Merely for the event of smuggling such a service as I indicate would not be considered necessary. But I am convinced that Immigration work and the control of Imports and Exports will be most important after the war, and only such a body, avoiding the constant overlapping we now have, and resembling to a degree the American model, proved effective, can properly carry out the job. It would not prove too expensive for, after the initial moves, the merging of bodies now performing parallel duties would bring unexpected economies. The question really is: Will it be done? And another question answers that: Do YOU want it to be done?

In some subsequent article I hope to fill in a number of loopholes left in the above outline, and also to give actual examples of how an Examining Officer would operate.

C.F.S.

O Wad Some Power

"One of the strangest incidents I have known took place aboard an old tramp steamer, which came into the docks with general cargo from the U.S.A. A tramp steamer is not a romantic vessel, and does not suggest anything in particular, except commerce at its most prosaic level. But the old steamer had concealed a secret for many years.

"It is the duty of the Customs officials to make a search of all such vessels, to ensure that nothing is being smuggled in or out of the country. The Customs officer has a crew of rummagers under his direction, and it is the duty of these rummagers to visit all parts of the ship and rummage around in all sorts of places where they think goods may be concealed. On this particular occasion a young rummager was searching the engine-room and stokehold, when he caught a glimpse of something white at the back of one of the boilers. As there was only a narrow space between the boiler and the bulkhead which separated the engine-room from the boilers, he could not squeeze through to investigate. So he raked the white object towards him with his rummaging stick. It is not difficult to imagine his feelings when he realised that the object in question was a human skull.

"Hurriedly dropping his stick, he shouted for the police. We came to his help and make a further search of the place. We could not, of course, get into the narrow aperture, but we scraped out all that was there, and found a complete human skeleton. There was no sign of any clothes or shoes, only a leather belt with a buckle. The skull was intact, and it was only with difficulty that we got it through the small opening."—"Quayside Crooks," by J. W. Major.

Evidently Mr. J. W. Major—a retired P.L.A. Police official—has introduced a little literary licence, for, as all London officers know, and most of those in Liverpool by now, that "the young rummager" was none other than T. H. Clark, the man with the iron nerve, and it is the thoughts of him hurriedly dropping his stick and shouting for the police will no doubt cause much amusement to Tom Clark and our readers. Incidentally, the skeleton was found between the water tanks in the 'tween decks.—Ed.

BRISTOL PROSECUTIONS

At the Bristol Police Court on the 8th September last, Richard Jenkins, a local baker, and his assistant, Harold Skinner, were charged under Section 186, C.C. Act, 1876, and the Export of Goods (Control) No. 39 Order, 1941, Section 3 (1) with exporting prohibited goods, namely:—

209 loaves of bread,
924 lbs. plain flour and
152 lbs. patent flour.

Jenkins was fined £50, with 20 guineas costs, and Skinner two guineas.

At the same time and Court, Patrick O'Connell, a lorry driver, was similarly charged with exporting 144 lbs. flour, and fined £10.

Mr. Llewellyn, of the Crown Solicitors' Office, prosecuted in both cases.

The first case was the result of the interception of the goods, some of which had been removed from the two vans and shipped on a local trader. The goods in the second case were discovered in the vessel's foreneak.

Both seizures were effected by Mr. De Cothi, Preventive Officer, assisted by Mr. J. W. Porter, Assistant Preventive Officer. B.J.B.

MISCELLANEOUS.

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BRISTOL HOSPITALS CONTRIBUTORY SCHEMES ASSOCIATION

FREE HOSPITAL TREATMENT

With reference to a paragraph under this or similar heading which has appeared in recent issues, it is evident, from some of the enquiries made, that the position could usefully be clarified.

The Civil Servants' and Government Employees' Hospital Scheme is the official "clearing house" for contributions deducted by all Government finance departments. It is not a separate hospital scheme competing with local hospital schemes or funds. The contributions deducted from pay by the Paying Officer or finance department are remitted en bloc to the "clearing house" which, under agreement with, and with the approval of H.M. Treasury, undertakes the distribution of the contributions in accordance with the wishes of the contributor.

Civil Service or Government employee may, by taking advantage of this Scheme, have contributions to his local contributory scheme, hospital or fund or voluntary hospital deducted from his salary or wages, and thereby make provision for hospital treatment for himself and any relatives living with him and wholly dependent upon him.

An officer who wishes to take advantage of the scheme should ascertain locally which contributory scheme or hospital fund will meet his requirements, and notify that organisation that he wishes to contribute by deduction from pay. The Secretary of the scheme or fund will then apply to "clearing house" for the necessary authority for deduction form.

Every officer is advised to make himself conversant with the regulations, such as income limits (if any), etc., governing the particular scheme or fund he elects to support.

If the arrangement outlined above is not in operation at your office write to the Hon. Secretary, 142, Edmund Street, Birmingham, 3.

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