

# CUSTOMS JOURNAL

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OFFICIAL JOURNAL CUSTOMS & EXCISE  
PREVENTIVE STAFF ASSOCIATION

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JULY, 1943

MONTHLY

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A. E. FARMER.

*General Secretary:*  
W. H. POWELL.  
*Assistant Secretary:*  
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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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## C. AND E. ORPHANS', WIDOWS' AND WAR MEMORIAL FUND

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The meeting was held in the Conference Room, City Gate House, London, E.C.2, on Monday, 21st June, at 4.30 p.m. The Chair was taken by Mr. D. J. G. Moffatt, Vice-President, in the unavoidable absence of the Chairman of the Board.

**ANNUAL REPORT.**—The Annual Report and Statement of Accounts was approved. Comments by the Chairman included reference to the great loss to the Fund by the death of a Trustee, Sir John Smale Sutton, K.B.E., C.B. He also referred to the pending retirement of the Hon. Secretary, Mr. S. J. Thorne, who will be relinquishing the office owing to retirement on superannuation. The latter thanked all members for their kindness extended to him throughout eight years of office.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS.**—President: Sir Richard Henry Archibald Carter, K.C.B., K.C.J.E. Vice-Presidents: Messrs. A. E. Howell, H. Kimber, O.B.E., J. Merron, and D. J. G. Moffatt. Committee: Mr. R. D. James, Surveyor; Messrs. G. S. Brown, W. H. Chubb, W. M. Harris, D. J. G. Moffatt and W. Pratt. Officers: Mr. W. H. Powell, Preventive Officer. Messrs. J. Newman and L. M. Bulford, Assistant Preventive Officers. Messrs. F. Houghton, S. Lacy, W. J. Ralph, Departmental Clerical Class. Other Branches: Mr. H. S. Pallant, A. and C. G. Office; Mr. W. T. Lewis, Valuation Branch; Mr. E. C. Hart, Solicitor's Office.

**AUDITORS.**—Messrs. G. T. Barton and W. Quimby, D.C.M.

**VOTES OF THANKS.**—Votes of thanks were accorded to the Hon. Auditors, the Hon. Treasurer, and the Hon. Secretaries.

The meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chairman, Mr. Moffatt.

## CHANGES IN THE STAFF

to 12th July, 1943.

### TRANSFERS.

CHIEF PREVENTIVE OFFICERS:—  
Burgess, W. G., Unattached to London.  
Coady, G. T., Unattached to Glasgow.  
PREVENTIVE OFFICER (ACTING):—  
Partridge, E. M., Stornaway, Inverness, to Liverpool.

### PROMOTIONS.

CHIEF PREVENTIVE OFFICER TO WATERGUARD SURVEYOR (ACTING AND UNATTACHED):—  
Sutton, J. T., London.  
PREVENTIVE OFFICERS TO CHIEF PREVENTIVE OFFICERS (ACTING AND UNATTACHED):—  
Clayson, W. B., Liverpool.  
Turvey, C. A., Southampton.

### OFFICERS LEAVING THE SERVICE.

#### RETIREMENTS:—

WATERGUARD SURVEYOR:—  
Wilson, D., M.B.E., Belfast.  
CHIEF PREVENTIVE OFFICER:—  
Thomson, A., Grangemouth, Edinburgh.

PREVENTIVE OFFICER:—  
Houston, J. A., Arbroath, Dundee.

ASSISTANT PREVENTIVE OFFICER:—  
Tittley, T. L., Sheerness, London.

#### DEATH:—

PREVENTIVE OFFICER:—  
Coady, E. N., Liverpool.

OBITUARY OF SUPERANNUATED OFFICERS.  
Donaldson, W., I.S.O.

Waterguard Superintendent, 1st Class.  
Sizer, G. W., Assistant Preventive Officer.

## The Civil Service (formerly Post Office) Sanatorium Society

The 17th Conference of the above Society was held in Leeds on May 30th last, when delegates from many parts of the country and representing most of the Civil Service Departments conferred on points affecting the smooth running and efficiency of this, the largest body in the country fighting tuberculosis. The Customs and Excise were represented by five delegates—the Chairman and Secretary of the C. and E. Local Constituency, two provincial delegates, and Mr. N. Hadwen (A.P.O. Manchester), who attended in the name of the Waterguard.

Many important items were discussed, and points from various speeches, particularly those of the Conference Chairman (Mr. J. R. Williams) and the Society's Secretary (Mr. A. S. Watson) indicated that the Society was fully aware of its responsibilities in this changing world. The treatment offered by the Society is of the very highest standard, and early attention, combined with unlimited Sanatorium care, has proved to be highly successful in fighting tuberculosis. Even at the present time, when accommodation and nursing and domestic help is so limited, the Society continues to offer this fine service.

The demands on the Society are expected to be heavy in the future, chiefly because of the increasing number of tubercular cases in the country, and also the modern method of detection by mass radiography is bringing more cases to light. Members returning from the Forces after the war may also add to these demands, particularly those who are enduring privations in prisoners of war camps.

Resolutions based on the Dawson Report of September, 1942, and the Beveridge Report were discussed at the Conference, and the possibility of extending benefits to children of members and membership of temporary Civil Servants were considered satisfactorily. The Committee of Management were offered many useful suggestions and, no doubt, some of them will help in solving future problems.

The Conference closed with a presentation to the Chairman. Anyone desirous of joining the C.S. (form. P.O.) S.S. or any member wishing to enrol his wife, should get in touch with his local representative (usually the P.S.A. District Organiser). The annual subscription is very reasonable—this Society brings Sanatorium treatment within the reach of all.

## Current Comments

### ANNUAL CONFERENCE, 1943.

WE had hopes to have been able to announce that in keeping with a now well-established precedent, the Inspector General would attend at the opening of the Annual Conference. Unfortunately however, at the time of writing these notes Mr. Woodford is ill. We most sincerely hope that before this information reaches the members Mr. Woodford will have recovered completely, and we will have the privilege and pleasure of his company as in the past.

In reviewing the lengthy Annual Report and the number of important items on the agenda of the Conference, the Executive Committee decided that no less than three days will suffice on this occasion. It has accordingly been arranged that the Council will meet on the 10th August, at 10 a.m., and that the meeting shall continue over the two following days.

So far very few specific resolutions have been received, but no doubt this will be remedied as soon as the District Meetings get busy.

Arrangements have been made for the Executive Committee to meet in the afternoon of the day preceding the opening of the Conference.

### THE COUNCIL.

*President*:—W. E. Standing.

*General Secretary*:—W. H. Powell.

*Organising Secretary*:—A. E. Farmer.

*Editor*:—D. T. Sutherland.

*C.P.O. Councillors*:—R. M. Murray (Scotland), F. H. Stevens (Tyne), C. P. Titherley (Liverpool), E. A. Abel (Hull), S. W. Dutton (London), E. L. Sharrock (S.E. Area).

*P.O. Councillors*:—K. Sutherland (Scotland), L. N. Cumberlandidge (Tyne), H. E. P. Bevan (S. Wales), B. C. Reilly (S.E. Area), F. Nightingale (Hull), A. S. Roper (London), (Liverpool and S.E. Area Councillors to be elected.)

*A.P.O. Councillors*:—J. C. Grant (Scotland), C. F. Shaw (Liverpool), J. N. S. Moore (Tyne), J. Grice (S. Wales), G. T. Clark (S.W. Area), N. A. Ramsey (S.E. Area), W. H. Taylor (Hull), E. G. Richards (London).

### WAR BONUS—OVERTIME RATES.

We are informed that Treasury instructions are awaited on the new fixed overtime rates consequent on the recent Bonus adjustments.

O.W.O.25/43 announced that the new overtime rates would operate as from the 20th June, but as a result of Staff Side negotiations the date has now been changed to the 13th June. An undertaking has been given by the Official Side that all overtime rate changes (including "fixed" or "flat" rates) will operate from the earlier date.

### COUPONS FOR UNIFORM.

This coupon business is becoming very serious for those grades who have to surrender personal coupons in respect of officially supplied uniforms. When the surrender system was first introduced (at a time when wardrobes looked respectably full) 12 out of 60 coupons per year was not too bad an arrangement. To-day, however, the wardrobes are getting like Mother Hubbard's cupboard and, with extra domestic articles added to the coupon list, replacements are difficult; indeed, for the family man, impossible. But what of the future? We are warned that another cut in the number of clothing coupons can be expected and if there is no adjustment of the surrender number the position will be that approximately *one-third* of the full ration will have to be surrendered. This question of the giving up of coupons for uniforms will have to be reopened with the Board of Trade—not merely for our grades, but for all.

The special claim for supplementary coupons for officers liable to be engaged on rummaging duties has been rejected and the Executive have instructed the General Secretary to make direct contact with the Board of Trade.

The Official Side have agreed to accept coupons from a later period when current coupons have been exhausted by the surrender date.

### ISSUES AND ALLOWANCES.

Following the 1942 Conference the Board were informed of the reports from Councillors of the discontent among members of ships' crews on the question of allowances and issues of dutiable stores, e.g., the inadequacy of the quantities allowed, the differentiation as between officers and other ranks, and the incidence of issues.

Some aspects of the situation had been met and on the 29th June the Association was informed that the allowance of tobacco left out for use on board (C.C.1.5. para. 47) would be increased to 1 ounce per day to all members, irrespective of rank.

Correspondence on these questions is still proceeding, in particular on the case of vessels boarded at Convoy ports and on the question of the duty limit of one shillingworth of "other dutiable goods of a consumable nature" (C.C.1.5. para. 46).

### SCOTTISH HOLIDAYS.

Discussions have been proceeding on the position in Scotland in relation to Public Holidays with regard (a) to the fixing of Good Friday as one of the "selected" holidays and (b) to the situation in respect of cancelled Public Holidays.

On the first point it was indicated that by Proclamation Good Friday had been cancelled as a Public Holiday in England and Wales, but that no change had been ordered for Scotland. As to the second point the Official Side stated that the days to be observed as holidays in Scotland are settled locally, and staff entitled to overtime at Public Holiday rates will be paid accordingly when required to attend on a day which has been selected locally in lieu of a statutory public holiday. Attendance on a Public Holiday which has not been selected is, for overtime purposes, treated as attendance as on ordinary week-days.

### SICK LEAVE WITHOUT CERTIFICATE.

Departmental instructions to the Staff are awaited in connection with the Nationally agreed arrangement to extend the period of uncertificated sick leave from two days to four consecutive days. Under this new arrangement, which is purely a war-time measure, the maximum of seven days in any period of twelve months remains unaltered.

### REMOTE STATIONS.

We are pleased to report that it has been agreed with the Official Side to include the Hebrides as a "remote area" for the purpose of the payment of the special allowance of £50 per annum.

It has also been agreed that, notwithstanding the previously announced operative date of 1st March, 1943, these allowances to members employed in the Orkneys, Shetlands and Hebrides will be payable as from 1st August, 1942.

As these allowances are for "hard-lying" they will be liable to income tax.

### REMOVALS—MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES.

E.O.C.654 gives details, amongst other things, of the conditions under which the Miscellaneous Expenses allowance (Est. Inst. Vol. 3, para. 154) may be paid in respect of removals on Detached Duty.

Briefly, the position is that for the second move the full allowance is payable and for any subsequent move 50% of the allowance can be claimed. *But no miscellaneous expenses are recognised in respect of the first move.*

For "single-roomers" the full allowance is £2 and this is payable for the second and any subsequent moves.

### CUSTOMS AND EXCISE GROUPS.

At the July meeting of the C. and E. Group (N.S.S.) it was decided to forward resolutions expressing the Group's dissatisfaction with the recent bonus settlement, supporting the claim for bonus to be paid to C.S. pensioners.

It was reported that the question of the pensionability of the bonus element of pay was being pursued with the Treasury.

It is understood that representatives of the N.S.S. have been invited to participate in informal talks with the Treasury on the Post-War Organisation of the Civil Service.

Cost-of-Living Index Figure.

	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May
1941/2	99	100	101	100	100	100	99	100
1942/3	100	100	100	99	99	99	98	99

## Customs and Excise Departmental Whitley Council

Items of interest from the Report of the two hundred and sixty-third meeting of the Council, held in the Conference Room, City Gate House, E.C.2, on Wednesday, 30th June, 1943, the Chair being taken by Sir Archibald Carter, K.C.B., K.C.I.E., Chairman of the Board of Customs and Excise.

### STAFF SIDE PROPOSAL FOR REVISION OF THE ALLOWANCES PAYABLE TO MEMBERS OF CLERICAL GRADES HOLDING DEPUTIES TO ACT AS DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENTS OF MERCANTILE MARINE.

The Official Side said that since the tabling of the claim they had naturally had to make detailed local inquiries regarding the present scope and incidence of Mercantile Marine work under the various heads. As soon as the resulting data had been analysed, and the merits of any case for improvement of the allowances had been assessed, it might be the best plan to open informal discussions on the claim. The Staff Side agreed and the item was re-adjourned.

### STAFF SIDE PROPOSAL THAT BILLETING ARRANGEMENTS SHOULD NOT BE APPLIED TO THE OUT-DOOR GRADES OF THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT AT LIVERPOOL.

The Official Side confirmed that no officers sent on detached duty to Liverpool had been placed in an official billet, since all had sought and been allowed to occupy alternative accommodation: no officer of this Department, subject to irregular hours, had, therefore, had any experience of official billets. The Billeting Officer had not stated that no more Official billets were available, since the contrary was the case.

The Staff Side said that their information was not in accordance with the Official Side's statement. Although no officer of the Department had been placed in an "Official" billet, that had been due to the fact that, when approached for a billet, the Billeting Officer suggested that usually the staff preferred to find their own lodgings for billeting purposes.

The Official Side added that apart from the cases already cited of staffs in other Departments, working irregular hours and subject to billeting, further instances were given of the rejection of appeals on behalf of members of Home Office Regional, Admiralty War Office Audit, and Ministry of Information Staffs who had been obliged to change from subsistence to billeting conditions, on transfer to billeting areas. The Official Side were unable to hold out any hope of the officials of this Department being exceptionally allowed to contract out of the billeting arrangements at Liverpool.

The Staff Side maintained that the position of Customs and Excise outdoor officials differed from other Civil Servants who had been evacuated from their Departmental Headquarters, and requested a further adjournment.

The Council re-adjourned the item accordingly.

### STAFF SIDE PROPOSAL THAT AN AUTONOMOUS INCOME TAX BRANCH BE SET UP IN THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT.

The Official Side said that preliminary steps had been taken in regard to this proposal with the Departments concerned. The case advanced had been supported by a number of instances of incorrect assessments, and they would be glad to have details of any such cases which had been brought to the notice of the Staff Side. The Staff Side promised to submit some such cases.

The item was re-adjourned.

### WATERGUARD.

Three agreements from the Waterguard Sectional Committee:

- that the seven-hour day system operating in certain Small Ports be suspended for the duration of the war;
- that the normal strength of Rummage Crews shall be one Preventive Officer and three Assistant Preventive Officers and that any necessary and unavoidable depletions shall be adjusted when staff is available; and
- on the directions regarding the war-time staffing arrangements in the Waterguard Service issued in Circular Letters 51958/39, dated 19th March, 1940, and 52132/42, dated 26th March, 1943.

were ratified.

A disagreement on the Staff Side proposal "that the system of awarding automatic rewards to Preventive Officers be abolished" was re-argued and the Staff Side, in supporting the proposal, maintained that the automatic rewarding of Preventive Officers implied that an incentive was required for the individual to perform his duty in a zealous and efficient manner. They pointed out that automatic rewards operated unequally as between one officer and another at the larger ports, and as between ports.

The Official Side considered that this was not an opportune time to consider the abolition of a system which was sound in principle, and that in view of the nature and special conditions of the work the long-standing practice of rewarding successful crews was fully justified and ought to be maintained. The Preventive Officer played an essential part in the work of his crew and in building up the case and he should not be deprived of his share in the reward, although he was under no obligation to accept it if he had any objection to doing so. They could not admit that the reward was in any way to be regarded as a slur on the Preventive Service, and accordingly they felt that the disagreement would have to be confirmed.

The Staff Side requested, and the Official Side agreed to give further consideration to the issue and the Council adjourned the item.

Two other disagreements on Staff Side proposals (a) that Senior Engineers be placed in Class C for subsistence purposes, and (b) that all Launch Service grades below that of Senior Engineer be placed in Class D (1) for subsistence purposes, were re-argued. The Official Side promised further consideration and the items were adjourned.

A further disagreement, on a proposal from the Staff Side "that the £10 limit for automatic rewards be increased," was confirmed.

## "Sunderland Calling"

Hello, Forces!

Charlie Scarfe reports once more, and All's Well with him. The weather is hot and trying, but otherwise he is enjoying life out yonder. He sends his regards to the blokes at home. O.K. Charles, you are the most regular of correspondents. All is well this end, and peaceful are our days and nights. I hope your journals are arriving regularly. All the blokes send best wishes. Good Luck, Good Scouting Always.

News is also to hand from our old pal Ron Greenhalgh. Our heartiest congratulations on being commissioned to P/Officer. You have earned it, lad. Tell me, what did you feel like stuck on the platform with the big noises? Come again, Ron, you are always welcome. "Happy Landings" and may you always have plenty of ceiling.

No news to hand from the rest of our Forces, so we will have to put 'em before the O.C.

Our Exiles are also silent. Jack Crosby is, I believe, on leave, so maybe I shall contact him.

Dumpling is also silent. I hope the week-end experiences when on leave have had no ill effects. Hurry up that letter.

Bill Sutton dropped in whilst on leave; he looks very fit, and reports life as being far from rosy, the bug-bear being digs—well I could say a lot, but—

A further reduction in staff is on the carpet and unless there is a volunteer, Tommy Coffey will be the unfortunate one to move. Fancy being junior with 30 years' service!

Sunderland, too, offer heartiest congratulations to our colleague, Sgt./O. Dudley Heal on his honour. Though unknown to us personally, we are proud to learn that he is one of us. We are always pleased to welcome any of the boys who may be this way, if they care to call, and personally I can offer my hospitality to them, the only stipulation being that they give notice of any intended visits. I am sure that the rest of the staff here will also extend their hospitality. My address is:—35, Ewesley Road, Sunderland.

The old shack still stands, and our flag is mast high. Cheerio and good luck!

Over to you, Forces—Over.

O. H. L.

## You've Had It

On the eve of the 1943 P.S.A. Conference we take our leave of you readers, members and non-members, patient and impatient followers of the P.S.A. policy, and it is not without regret that we do so. All things must end and the Membership Drive, pursued since September last year, has come to its appointed close. In so doing it leaves us with a strong impression that the P.S.A. would be the stronger for a permanent publicity sub-committee, or a publicity secretary, who could bring home to all concerned the current policy and activity of the P.S.A.

Without presumption we know that the past nine months' Drive has aroused interest, criticism, and, best of all, discussion, apart from the results achieved, and that is exactly what we set out to arouse. The correspondence received and the arguments shared over that period prove that while there is much knowledge of, and interest in, the doings of the Association, there remains much ignorance in the ranks of the members. The fault lies with the Association, the District Organisers (some of them), and the members. Too often do we hear the cry, "we never see the Executive Committee reports," which should be stilled by prompt circulation of all P.S.A. matter. Again, some Councillors go to the members they represent. Others wait for the members to come to them, which is all wrong. The Councillors are purely representative of their area, and their job mainly is to act as a perfect liaison between H.Q. and member. We acknowledge the ready help and continued co-operation of the majority of our Councillors and Organisers; they have contributed to the Drive results as surely as if they had been doing the job on their own, and we look to them to continue the good work now that our task is completed; their personal example always reflects upon the Association, therefore the interest they display governs the potential of their area or district.

As was to be expected, our survey entitled "So Far." in the June issue, attracted the warriors from their tents, and as our figures were, in the main, based upon the March Quarter returns, plus estimating for the districts from which we received no response in answer to a request for information, we have to make one or two amendments to that survey (and agreeable amendments they are).

Best port. Now shared equally between Hartlepool and Gravesend. Improving steadily. London and Liverpool, the latter port having doubled its income over the period under survey, but both ports have plenty of lee-way to make up.

Our estimate of new (including many renewals) members was too modest, and late post figures give us an increase of 140, leaving the percentage of non-members at a low level (less than 20%). The P.S.A. Express, which we hope is going "all the way," has bags of room in the C.P.O. compartment, and a few seats left in the P.O. and A.P.O. compartments, but not many, which is creditable for an Association whose membership is voluntary. To those who are still hanging around the platform, our parting reminder is "Don't miss the train. *Your destination is the same as ours.* This journey is really necessary."

Our estimate of the annual income of the Association was well above the correct figure, but the annual income has increased to a figure which makes the finance of the P.S.A. sound and satisfactory. *It must be maintained* to back up the projects of the Association and the efforts of our Executive. The P.S.A. will remain strong and active if you will.

- (a) Pay your subs.
- (b) Attend your meetings, and
- (c) See that your Councillor comes to the Conference with plenty of ideas, and in no doubt as to your opinions about the Agenda, plus any additional resolutions from your District.

Looking back to last September we see the results of some vigorous P.S.A. policy, and in so doing we visualise tedious discussion by the members of the Executive, negotiation by the Secretaries, and formal and informal approach of the Official Side by our General Secretary, Mr. W. H. Powell, who is to be sincerely congratulated upon the progress made, with special emphasis on the C.P.O. salary increase, the Small Port increases, the improvement in leave concessions, travelling concessions for D.D. officers, and numerous personal cases of hardship, all additional to the ever-present routine duties peculiar to any Association Secretary. He deserves the 100% membership which is now in sight.

The men with the biggest moan are the detached duty devotees, putting up with inconceivable inconvenience purely through their juniority. We attempt no solution here, but point to the fact that much P.S.A. revenue comes from detached officers, whose problems were only appreciated by a minority of Councillors at the last Conference. The past is history, but in coming to the 1943 Conference we urge Councillors not to forget the present in their attempted glimpse of the future. Remember that the grades with the highest membership of this Association are taking most of the strain of detached duty, and are likely to take the weight of the post-war development in similar style, which latter remark applies too to our men in the Forces, whose interests should be those of every man at the August Conference. Many of our Forces colleagues are fully paid members, but paying or not they are keen to see the results of P.S.A. policy, keen to get back to us and our activities, therefore you, Mr. Councillor, have a great trust to fulfil. See to it, and remember that the V.E.S. will be in great demand in the not very distant future. With that we end our series of articles, pausing only to quote one correspondent who recently regained full Association membership after a long lapse, with the smarting rejoinder: "Don't think your Battshaw articles are responsible for the enclosed cheque, they're not! My wife reads the "Journal," and she has a conscience big enough for both of us." We can take it!

So long for now, and thanks to all who have backed us up. Keep your lines intact, we prophesy good days ahead. Meanwhile we go, we come back!

BATTSHAW.

## The Lads o' London

We were pleased to welcome home this month "Pip" Penfold, who has been in the U.S. as an instructor in the R.A.F. for some time past. He arrived in Liverpool, and some of the lads were able to have a chat with him and remarked upon his apparent good health. It is understood that Mrs. Penfold will be following him later. Now on a month's leave, he may be seen at the Harpy and Custom House. By the same boat arrived two other colleagues, Alec Donnan, of Liverpool and another chappie who hails from Preston. Peter Ryan sailed for overseas recently, and we were glad to introduce him on board. News is to hand that John Scott is about to go overseas to complete his training in the R.A.F., and also destined for other climes is Dick Jones, of the Intelligence Corps. We wish a safe "bon voyage" to these friends.

Yet another of our colleagues has been commissioned in the person of Pilot Officer Bill Menzies, R.A.F.V.R. He has gone to Canada from the States to continue his training. His wife hopes that Bill will be home by November. To date there are 16 members of the London staff who hold commissions in the 3 fighting Services. What a portent for the future! It surely shows that the Waterguard lads are adaptable and can carry out new and increasing responsibilities anywhere.

I would still like to hear from some of you fellows who have been silent for such a long time.

We have to record the passing of two retired officers recently and at the same time offer our condolences to their relatives. Mr. G. W. Gotts, late P.O., died at Worcester. He was frequently to be seen at our sporting activities and annual dinners, and always gave "a turn" with his "trombone"; a great bowling enthusiast and a Vice-President of the Sports Club, his genial presence will be missed. The other is Mr. George Sizer, late A.P.O., who spent many years of his service at Surrey Docks.

I was sorry to read that London is the worst-paying port in the country in the matter of P.S.A. subs. Surely it cannot be due to the lack of recognition of P.S.A. activities on our behalf during recent years. Something must be done about it. We have a hard job as it is to defend London and the staff generally in our D.O. ports. Let us have something to brag about before the Association year ends, i.e., London is the best-paying port. Many of our colleagues in the Forces frequently write and ask me to arrange for them to pay their subs. They are conscious of a duty, why not the rest of us?

It is up to you lads,

Let's hear from you then

Till the lights o' London shine again.

R. J. L.

## Merseyside News

Merseyside news is very scarce this month, and there is nothing to report of social or P.S.A. activities.

Forces items report a visit from Bert Langley, who has just received his commission as Sub-Lieut. R.N.V.R., and been posted to Combined Operations following the completion of a course at H.M.S. King Alfred. Further airgraph letters from Jack Burrough and Harry Worthington tell of their continued well-being.

Sergt.-Pilot Bert Ralph, who completed his training in Canada, returned recently to this country and paid us a visit. He has achieved his ambition, which was to be posted to Coastal Command, and now pilots torpedo-carrying Wellingtons. Another visitor, who had also qualified for his wings in Canada, was Alex Donnan, who is attached to the Fleet Air Arm. He arrived aboard one of H.M. Transports recently, looking fit and well. Fellow-passengers aboard the same vessel were Flying-Officer P. G. Penfold (London) and Sergt.-Pilot George Gray (Southampton).

One of H.M. Minesweepers, recently in from a spell of overseas duty, had in the Wardroom Sub-Lieut. E. N. Dickenson, R.N.V.R. (Grimsby). He also was fit and well and seemed glad to swap experiences with the lads whom he entertained in typical Naval fashion.

From arrivals to departures—we saw Peter Ryan (Southampton) off recently. He sends regards to all friends.

Turning from Forces news to Service items, there have been some interesting seizures recorded during the past few weeks.

Mr. A. D. Howe, A.P.A., working under the supervision of Mr. R. Hughes, P.O., hit the jackpot. He found some eight gallons of spirits and a quantity of tobacco goods in a cofferdam under the engine-room plates of a Dutch tanker. The Chief Engineer who owned the goods was fined £100 at Liverpool City Police Court.

Messrs. H. M. Bullock, P.O., and J. W. Edmondson, A.P.O., recently spent about three months of available duty keeping an eye on things at the Naval Base. So successful were they that over fifty seizures were made, comprising roughly 35,000 cigarettes, 250 cigars, 82 lbs. tobacco, 2 gallons spirits, 1½ gallons wine, 5 dozen pairs silk hose, 1 dozen art. silk articles, 4 lbs. art. silk tissue, 2 dozen mechanical lighters and 200 razor blades. Quite a haul!

They had two of outstanding merit. In the first a Canteen Manager was prosecuted and fined £120 (D.V.D.).

The other followed the search of a carrier's van and later the driver's house. This led to a prosecution at Liverpool City Police Court, the driver being fined a total of £375 on four charges.

The considerable quantities of goods concerned in these two cases are not included in the total given above.

Hearty congratulations on his long-delayed and well-deserved promotion are extended to Mr. W. B. Clayson, C.P.O. It is hoped that we shall see him in the district frequently during his spell of unattached duty.

Mr. Clayson has been a tower of strength to the local branch of the P.S.A., having been at various times Chairman, District Secretary, Local Whitley Representative, and P.O. Councillor. We shall miss his regular help here, as also in the social sphere, where he has been a staunch supporter of all local, social and sporting activities.

He was given a fitting send-off one evening recently (details are an "unofficial" secret), and he carries with him the best wishes of everybody on Merseyside for success in his new sphere.

BILL HUGHES.

## Waterguard Spotlight

"To date there are sixteen members of the London staff who hold commissions in the three Fighting Services. What a portent for the future!"—(Lads o' London, p.57.)

## Liverpool District Meeting

A well-attended meeting was held at the Landing Stage on Friday, July 9th, 1943. Mr. L. W. Hyland, P.O., occupied the chair.

Two points arising from the minutes were dealt with first. Concerning the re-allocation of North District stations, particularly Alexandra and Langton, sharp criticism was expressed of the failure of the Official Side to fully implement their scheme to which the staff had agreed as a war-time measure despite peace-time opposition. A resolution was passed calling for the immediate introduction of the promised three-legged watch at Langton or, failing this, a return to the former Station limits.

Mr. C. F. Shaw, reporting on the other item, stated that he had raised the question of "Journal" publicity at the Executive Committee Meeting. Speakers complained of delay in publishing news items which were sometimes held back until they were stale, whilst others, including the Journal Correspondent, deprecated the fact that the report of the last District Meeting had not been published. Difficulties of Paper Control were mentioned, and following a suggestion of smaller type, Mr. R. G. Roberts proposed the following resolution, which was unanimously carried: "That this Branch recommends that in future the number of Journals printed be cut by one-third so that the paper saved could be devoted to increasing the size by fifty per cent." Sharing of Journals on Stations would, it was felt, still enable all members to read each issue.

Under correspondence, items submitted from the Cumberland Ports concerning Uniform and Reconstruction were discussed at length. It was decided that every support would be given to the proposals concerning Uniform when they were raised at the Annual Conference. The second item was felt to be too important for short discussion, and was submitted to a committee of seven, comprising one C.P.O., three P.O.s and three A.P.O.s for full consideration, along with other proposals. This committee was duly elected, and is to report back, prior to the Annual Conference, to a District Meeting specially convened for the purpose of hearing their views on this item, and the whole question of Liverpool Division Staffing (including airports).

Under this latter heading many speakers expressed concern about the position at Bromborough Dock, Ellesmere Port, certain Naval stations and airports. Figures were given in some instances which seemed to indicate the need for adjustments and increases. The report of the Sub-Committee on this item is eagerly awaited.

A matter raised by Detached Duty Officers concerned damage to and depreciation of furniture caused by absence from home ports to which they and their families are sometimes prevented from returning under the Defence Regulations.

It was unanimously agreed that the Association should press for adequate compensation in such cases.

Some local items were next dealt with. The first concerned the fact that many orders issued by C.P.O.s gave rise to conflicting practices in different districts within the port. Instances were quoted and, following discussion, a resolution was proposed and carried unanimously "That this meeting of the Liverpool Branch of the P.S.A. recommends that in order to secure uniformity, all future orders by C.P.O.s dealing with regulations and procedure should be issued through the Superintendent's office." The District Secretary was instructed to draw the attention of the Official Side to present discrepancies and seek clarification.

Questions were asked concerning the preview by Staff Representatives of the recent Station Minute. A return to peace-time procedure was suggested but, following discussion and a vote, this proposal was narrowly defeated.

The possibility of organising a local tontine scheme was mooted, but this item was deferred for consideration at a later meeting, when it was expected that more concrete proposals would be forthcoming.

This concluded the business, and the meeting ended with the usual vote of thanks to the Chair.

BILL HUGHES.

## Southampton Notes

Last month's grand news of the safe keeping of Davy Youdell has been followed by the receipt of his address. Here it is:—

"Prisoner of War Post; Service des Prisonniers de Guerre."  
No. 2346237, Signalman F. D. Youdell,  
British Prisoner of War,  
Malai Camps.

Writing instructions are brief; the address must be printed, the letter must be written on one side of paper only and must not exceed one page, and the name and address of sender must appear on the back of the envelope.

We are keenly awaiting the promised arrival of Far East P.O.W. mail for a line from Davy, and the release of further names from Malaya, hoping that Arnold Bateman may be safe and well.

Congratulations to Pilot Officer Ron Greenhalgh upon his recent promotion are sent from all his old pals. We hope he is finding his new environs in Northern Ireland to his liking, after the pleasant spell he had in the Cumberland area. . . .

Jack Welsh, looking very fit after a spell of leave in Soton, gave us a call early this month before going overseas to complete his training as a Navigator. He may link up with Peter Ryan, who is engaged on the same trail overseas; before leaving these shores Peter called at the Manchester watch-house to say cheerio to the boys, and to him and to Jack we send our wishes for a safe return after a successful course. More airgraphs have been received from Cliff and Joe; both are well and enjoying plenty of swimming in warm waters, plus a regular supply of the ever welcome mail. Joe, by the way, is very pleased (*and so are we*) over the fact that he has now received the "C.J." in fifteen different countries since he entered the R.N. As he says, "Good going, eh?", which reflects greatly to the credit of Ben's systematic despatch of the "C.J." to the Forces.

From Petty Officer Ted Midlane we have news of his well-being, which is welcome, especially when coupled with the early-July Press report of the distinction of his vessel, H.M.S. "Archer," one of the "pocket aircraft carriers" which forced a U-Boat to surrender. . . . Another of our Fleet Air Arm boys, Tom Carnell, writes in from East Africa, where he gets plenty of work and not a little excitement, with lions in the vicinity. Tom sends his good wishes to you all, and they are reciprocated sincerely. John Sykes sent us an airgraph recently from an O.C.T.U. in the M.E., so we await his next letter with interest, in the hope that his progress continues. Doug, Joy was in fine fettle when we saw him last month; as a Sergeant with the I.C. he finds plenty to do on Thameside.

Those of you who know Alan Marson, now a Sub. Lieut., R.N., will be glad to know of his well-being in the Middle East, after the unfortunate experience he had of being torpedoed some weeks ago.

Of the exiles we have little news this month, excepting the welcome improvement in the receipt of P.S.A. subs., but Dicky Crane's Grangemouth report in the last issue revived a few memories!!! not the least being the headline in the "Boston Times" (?) when Dicky entered the Waterguard from the staff of that newspaper, which gave him a local send-off with a column entitled "From collecting news to collecting dues."

Home news embraces the distinction of the award of the British Empire Medal to Chief Wren Eileen Toogood, who is the daughter of Mr. W. Cottel, P.O., and we hasten to ask him to convey to her the congratulations of the staff. . . . The only other point of interest is that of the return from D.D. of Mr. H. S. Young, P.O. (from Newport, Mon.), and Sid Hayward (from Millford Haven). Our other D.D. (who said it means Down in the Dumps?) men are now indulging in a little wishful thinking!!!

Cheerio! Forces!

L. B.

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## Hull News

### Apology

In my previous notes on golf I referred to the Churchill-Lemon Cup. I have since been informed that the correct nomenclature is the Jubilee Cup. I hope this error has caused inconvenience to no one.

### Sport—Golf

On June 25th a competition was held for the Jubilee Cup. Amongst competitors from all grades were Mr. Howard (Collector) and Mr. Foster (Asst. Collector). In conjunction with this competition the Waterguard Officers played off the J. C. Burkey Cup. This was to be won by the owner of the best Waterguard card returned in the Jubilee Cup.

It was most unfortunate that pressure of work was responsible for the unavoidable absence of some Waterguard Officers. Nevertheless the day was a success and a good time was "had" by all.

In particular, it was a good day for Mr. Crooks, P.O., who achieved the double and, with a very fine performance, won both the Jubilee Cup (previously held by a member of the landing staff) and the Burkey Cup.

Mr. Jones (Wgd. Supt.) and Mrs. Jones, who presented the cups, were interested spectators.

It was a pleasure to notice Mr. Howard, C.P.O., amongst those present and congratulate him on his quick recovery to health.

### Personal

It is with regret that I report an accident to Mr. Nightingale, P.O., whilst on duty. He was descending a ladder from ship to shore, when he slipped and fell on to a pontoon between the quay and the ship's side. He was taken to Hull Royal Infirmary, and later moved to his home. He suffered severe shock, and slight concussion and much bruising, but his condition at time of writing is improved, and we all wish him a very speedy recovery.  
N. S. M.

## Correspondence

The Editor, "The Customs Journal."  
Sir,

Having read with interest the account by "Battshaw" of the membership drive, in which I joined myself with success, though in a small way, I feel I would like to express my opinions on the subject.

The chief obstacle to 100 per cent. membership is apathy, but there are, of course, many different reasons given for not paying subscriptions. The non-payer must realise that no grievance he may have can be ventilated unless he becomes a fully paid up member. Many regularly paying members have a grievance or have some cause for dissatisfaction, possibly they do not agree with the way the Association is run, as with its policy. However that may be, they realise that in principle a staff association is absolutely indispensable. Therefore the only thing to do is to be a paying member and stir up sufficient interest to see that others do the same until 100 per cent. membership is achieved. Then any grievance or suggested reorganisation of the P.S.A. within itself can be discussed and voted upon by every member through the proper machinery. It would then be found that members themselves determine how the Association is run and the policy to be followed.

In my opinion, N.S.S. policy should be to obtain permission from the Treasury for the collection of Association subscriptions by deduction from salary, and I think they would be successful if the present instructions on service associations become removed as a result of the application by the Union of P.O. Workers for affiliation to the T.U.C. I believe this would bring in 50 per cent. of present non-payers, since payment and collection of subscriptions under the present system is difficult, and it is a very simple matter to fall badly into

arrears. However, every one of us should remember that a D.O.'s job is a thankless and difficult one, and it is really up to each officer to make it his duty to contact his D.O. for payment of subscriptions, not leave it to the D.O. to seek him. Whatever reasons anyone may have for not being a member, surely these are completely outweighed by the realisation that, but for Association activity, we should all be on a lower scale of pay. I myself now receive £25 per annum more than I would, were it not for the last P.S.A. salary claim, and I am satisfied that I can afford to pay in subscriptions 26s. yearly out of that £25 (which next year will be £35), although I may have complaints against the Association or may feel there is room for improvement in its policy.

Let each one of us, then, set out to sweep away all apathy and achieve (1) 100 per cent. membership; (2) reorganisation of the P.S.A. if desired by a majority; (3) a clear-cut and progressive post-war policy.

Yours faithfully,

"KODAK."

The Editor, "The Customs Journal."

Sir,

The timely reminder in the current "Journal" to members to prepare statements of their views so that Councillors may be early informed prompts me to enlarge on this point.

Some years ago, when in Dover, I took a hand in preparing a circular urging each member to give precise instructions to his Councillor and to insist, upon the Councillor's return from the Conference, that an account of his voting be given. Too many Councillors, at that time, felt justified in changing their minds and so reversing the intentions of their constituents upon "further facts coming to light." Too often this meant merely that they were unduly swayed by the persuasive powers of more experienced Councillors. This may still be the case.

While it is true that caution is often justified and a new light is thrown on a subject in Conference, the local point of view, carefully expressed after full discussion, should not lightly be cast aside by the Councillor lest he find himself representing only the views of the port in which he happens to be stationed.

I should prefer to see "instructions" from their constituents" in Current Comments for June re-written "instructions from their constituents."

A. G. GEARY.

The Editor, "Customs Journal."

Sir,

I trust you will allow an old 'un to say a few words on the subject of affiliation with the Trades Union Congress.

I take it that such affiliation would involve the obligation to strike if called upon by the T.U.C.

Now a strike against a private employer, or federation of employers, may be justifiable. Such people are responsible to no one but themselves, and if they obstinately refuse to grant fair conditions of employment there may be no other means left to bring them to reason.

But to strike against a democratically elected Government is quite a different matter. We may be dissatisfied with its treatment of our grievances, but (apart from Whitleyism) we have our remedy on the floor of the House and, ultimately, in the use of the ballot box. A democracy cannot reasonably strike against a Government it has itself put into power. Such a procedure is about as unreasonable as agreeing to submit a case to arbitration and then refusing to abide by the arbitrators' decision.

I, for one, do *not* note with appreciation "the firm stand taken by the Union of Post Office Workers."

Yours faithfully,

A. C. BOOTH

(Retired Waterguard Official).

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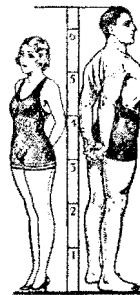
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