

EST. 1904

# The Customs Journal

Official Journal of the

**CUSTOMS & EXCISE  
PREVENTIVE STAFF ASSOCIATION**

Vol. 41. No. 986.

DECEMBER, 1944

MONTHLY

*A Great name in Peace & War*  
**WINEGARTENS**

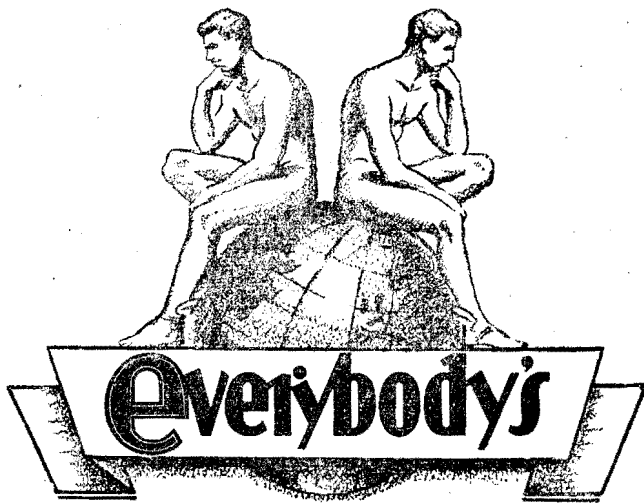
*Half a  
Century of  
Service*

IT may be a truism to repeat that "There is a War on." But war or no war, the House of Winegartens have remained consistently true through many decades to their time-honoured traditions of "Quality, Value, Service." Winegartens' stocks even to-day remain notably comprehensive: PRECISION WATCHES, ENGAGEMENT, WEDDING and SIGNET RINGS, JEWELLERY, SILVERWARE, CUTLERY CANTEENS, etc. The Winegarten range is still astonishingly attractive. The 20 per cent. cash discount to Customs Officials and members now serving in H.M. Forces still applies to most goods with notably few exceptions. Apply for privilege stating official dept. Order by post if you cannot call. Write us your requirements as detailed as possible and we will answer with particulars and quotations. Hours of business: Monday to Friday, 9.30 to 4 p.m. Saturday closed all day.



**157 ★ BISHOPSGATE ★ LONDON ★ E.C.2.**  
TELEPHONE · BISHOPSGATE 1786 (12 LINES)

# WORLD EVENTS BROUGHT TO LIFE



*Share it with your Friends*



Temporary Office :

6, BROOK LANE, BEXLEY, KENT.

Telephone : BEXLEY HEATH 3613.

Publicity Officer : C. F. SHAW, 5, Nyland Road, Huyton, Nr. Liverpool.

President :  
W. E. STANDRING.  
General Secretary :  
W. H. POWELL.  
Organising Secretary :  
A. E. FARMER.  
Assistant Secretary :  
H. L. BOALCH.

**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 should reach the Editor on or before the 25th of this month.*

*Articles submitted need not be typewritten, but the use of one side of the paper renders a great assistance.*

**ADVERTISEMENTS.**—*All enquiries relating to advertisement space should be addressed to the Advertisement Contractors, A. Darby's Advertising Service, 24 & 26, Blackfriars Lane, London, E.C.4. Telephone: City 6686 & 6687. Telegrams: Darbiads, Cent, London. All advertisements are accepted subject to the Editor's approval.*

**BACK NUMBERS.**—*May be obtained by applying to the Association Offices, 2d. per copy (post free).*

## CURRENT COMMENTS

### Annual Conference, 1944

THE date of the Conference, coinciding as it does with the date of publication, makes it very problematic whether these notes will emerge in time to reach members before the meeting. In any case, the composition of the Council must be published for record purposes, so here then is the "who's who" of this historic Conference: President, W. E. Standring; General Secretary, W. H. Powell; Organising Secretary, A. E. Farmer; Assistant Secretary, H. L. Boalch; Editor, D. T. Sutherland; Publicity Officer, C. F. Shaw.

### Councillors :

London : S. Dutton, C.P.O., A. S. Roper, P.O., R. R. Davis, A.P.O.;  
Liverpool : C. P. Titherley, C.P.O., L. Hyland, P.O., W. C. Hughes, A.P.O.; Scotland : R. M. Murray, C.P.O., K. Sutherland, P.O., J. Grant, A.P.O.; South Wales : H. E. P. Bevan, P.O., W. Ellis, A.P.O.; South-West : H. L. V. Phillips, P.O., G. T. Clarke, P.O. (A.P.O. rep.); South-East : E. L. Sharrock, C.P.O., B. C. Reilly, P.O., J. R. Cooper, A.P.O.; Tyne : F. N. Cumberlidge, P.O., E. Wilkinson, A.P.O.; Hull : E. A. Abel,



C.P.O., F. Nightingale, P.O., W. H. Taylor, A.P.O.; Co-opted Members: W. A. Purdon, P.O. (Northern Ireland), W. G. Burgess, C.P.O. (Executive Committee).

#### War Bonus

An agreement has been reached between the Treasury and the National Staff Side on the amount of War Bonus payable as from the 1st November, 1944.

Insofar as it affects our members the new War Bonus is £60 per annum. (approx. 23s. per week), representing an increase of four shillings a week.

New rates of overtime will operate as from the first "overtime week" beginning after the 26th November, 1944:—

Preventive Officer	3s. 6d.
Asst. Prev. Officer, ex. £175...	2s. 7d.
" " " n.e. £175...	2s. 1d.

#### Civil Aerodromes

At the October meeting of the Departmental Council the Staff Side referred to the commencement of work at a certain civil aerodrome as a possible first step in post-war civil aviation, and sought that early discussions on the conditions of employment at this, and any other such place, should take place. They accordingly sought the formation of a committee of the Departmental Council for this purpose.

The Official Side agreed that such a committee would serve a useful purpose, but the terms of reference should be confined to living and messing conditions for the staff, excluding office accommodation; these terms could be extended later if necessary. They added that during this transitional stage living accommodation proposed at remote aerodromes would have to be looked at realistically and the process of building up standards would necessarily have to be a gradual one.

At a later Staff Side meeting it was decided that the Staff Side Chairman (Mr. E. E. Buck), accompanied by Mr. W. H. Powell (P.S.A.), should visit this Southern England airport on the 23rd November.

We understand that members of the Official Side may also make an inspection there.

#### Land Preventive Men

By an agreement on the Departmental Council one example of unsavoury conditions of service has been removed. Land Preventive Men, like Coast Preventive Men, were conditioned to 48-hours over a seven-day week, averaged throughout the year; no extra payment being allowed for attendances on Sundays and Public Holidays.

This is the agreement—"that the

employment of Land Preventive Men be based on an attendance of 48 hours during the six weekdays on the average throughout the year. No overtime or extra pay will be allowed on ordinary weekdays. Authorised attendance on Sundays and Public Holidays will be regarded as entirely outside the ordinary weekdays attendance and will qualify for payment at time rate and a half for the actual attendance given."

When this matter was first mooted the Staff Side of the Departmental Council intimated that the case of C.P. Men was not being pressed at this stage, but since the time when that intimation was given the Board have decided to employ redundant C.P. Men on tide-watching duties with the Waterguard. Thus the situation has so changed as to raise a question whether similar conditions should not apply to C.P.M. working side by side with grades schemed to 48 hours over a six-day week and who get overtime for Sunday attendance.

#### Civil Service Sanatorium Society

To render all members eligible for the benefits of the Necessitous Cases Fund the Society is raising all subscriptions of existing members. Those paying less than 5s. or 9s. (for "man and wife") will be raised to this figure as from 1st January next. Members will not be asked to make a new authority for deductions from salary; it has been decided, as an exceptional measure, to assume consent of members and to make the new deductions as from the first pay day after 31st December, 1944. Anyone who objects, and who desires to withdraw his authority for deductions altogether, must notify the A. & C. G. and the Society's local representative at least thirty days before that pay day.

#### Applied Psychology

In the series of letters, published in "Red Tape," discussing the merits of psychological selection as a method of promotion procedure, one of the letters ended on this note:—

"... the last time I returned from abroad I do know the Customs official examined me, not my baggage. He looked me straight in the eyes when I said I had nothing to declare (the shrewdest glance I have ever encountered), and that was enough for him. And if he himself were chosen by psychological selection, so very much better.

"E.G."

He wasn't, of course, so selected, but thanks for the compliment "E.G." just the same.

## AN APPEAL.

Mr. T. C. Wardell, Late P.O.,  
Goragewood.

The many friends of Mr. Wardell will learn with regret of his premature retirement from the Service owing to ill-health.

Prior to his retirement he was absent on sick leave for twelve months, and during six months of that period he was, as you are aware, only in receipt of half-pay.

Mr. Wardell is still in hospital undergoing treatment, and as far as can be ascertained he will be compelled to remain there for some time. Those who know him intimately will fully appreciate that there is very little prospect of his ever being able to take up any regular employment in future.

Mr. Wardell joined the Service in October, 1925, and when he was retired in March, 1944, he had barely 19 years' service; consequently his pension will be extremely small.

The position with regard to Mrs. Wardell and the two children, ages 15 and 11, respectively, is such that she is able to manage for the time being. Mrs. Wardell has taken up teaching again, and no doubt she will be able to continue with her work during the period of the war, but there is, of course, the possibility that she may have to relinquish her post when the war ends. The two children have been admitted to benefit under the Customs and Excise Orphans', Widows' and Memorial Fund.

The object of this appeal is to provide a sum of money which will enable Mrs. Wardell to pay the necessary expenses in connection with Mr. Wardell's treatment in hospital, which must be a severe drain on the income she now receives.

Subscriptions will be gratefully received by Mr. W. A. Purdon, P.O., Customs and Excise, Dufferin Dock, Belfast.

## CHANGE OF TITLE ?

Copies of the "Customs Journal" addressed to Waterguard Officers, Clydebank, are often delivered to the "Water Engineers for Clydebank and District Water Trust." Verb. sap.

LONDON DISTRICT  
MEETING

A pre-conference meeting was held in Room 51, Custom House, E.C.3, on Thursday, 23rd November, 1944, when the vice-chairman, Mr. E. A. Hartshorn, occupied the chair in the absence whilst on annual leave of Mr. W. W. Bishop.

There was a good attendance of members, who were all keenly interested in the main item on the agenda, i.e., the 1943/4 report of the executive committee of the P.S.A., which is to be placed before the Council this month.

After an interesting discussion on several items contained in the report, six resolutions were sent forward for consideration by the Conference. In passing, may I state that the resolution that brought into being the Waterguard Federation—which already has done so much fine work—emanated from a London district meeting.

The annual election of officers resulted as follows:—

Chairman—Mr. E. A. Hartshorn, P.O.

Vice-Chairman—Mr. L. A. Dunhill, A.P.O.

District Secretary—Mr. R. J. Lowe, A.P.O.

District Organiser—Mr. G. B. Dover, A.P.O.

Local Whitley Representatives:—  
(P.O. Grade)—

Mr. J. E. Bookey.

Mr. R. E. Dudley.

Mr. E. A. Hartshorn.

Mr. A. S. Roper.

together with Messrs. A. E. Farmer and H. L. Boalch, who were recommended for election as Vice-Chairman and Staff Side Secretary respectively of the London Waterguard Local Whitley Committee.

(A.P.O. Grade)—

Mr. R. R. Davis.

Mr. L. A. Dunhill.

Mr. R. J. Lowe.

Mr. C. W. Mallett.

Certain matters for local treatment were discussed, and this concluded the business of the meeting, which ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

R.J.L.

## Hartlepool District Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Hartlepool District of the P.S.A. was held in the Watch House, West Hartlepool, on Thursday, November 9th, and resulted in an excellent attendance of A.P.O.s, but a poor attendance of other grades. Mr. G. R. Miller, A.P.O., was in the chair. After the Minutes of the last meeting had been read and accepted the officers for the ensuing year were elected as follows:—Chairman, Mr. Coates, P.O.; Vice-Chairman, Mr. Lennon, P.O.; District Secretary and Journal Correspondent, Mr. Burke, P.O. (during his temporary absence on D.D. the District Organiser will act as Secretary); District Organiser, Mr. W. Reed, A.P.O.; Auditors, Messrs. Groat, P.O., Burnett, A.P.O.; Whitley Council Representative, Mr. Staniland, A.P.O.

After the reading and adoption of the District Organiser's financial report the meeting proceeded to discuss various matters with a view to inclusion in the Conference agenda.

Among other items the following were decided upon, viz., that petty supervision is out of date; that new entrants must have separate theoretical and practical training; that the Association should seek a solution to the "failed" A.P.O. question; that uniform should be made up locally to individual measurements; and that pocket-type plumbing presses should be used instead of sealing wax, or alternatively that matches should be officially issued. The meeting also considered that the subject matter now issued in pamphlet form by the Association should be included in the Journal in future.

A highly interesting meeting terminated at 9.30 p.m. with a vote of thanks to the Chairman; thanks are also tendered to those members who travelled long distances on a cold night to help make the meeting so successful.

W. REED.

## Cumberland Ports

The adjourned Quarterly Meeting was held at Maryport on October 30th, when representatives of all the ports attended to hear Mr. Martin's report of the Area Meeting at Liverpool. As a result, a vote of confidence in the General Secretary (Mr. Powell) and a vote of thanks

to Mr. Martin were both carried unanimously.

Two resolutions on uniform which the meeting forwarded to Liverpool are designed to open a "pincer" movement on "brown boots" and similar monstrosities in the King's Customs.

J. L. C.

## Sunderland Meeting

A meeting of the Preventive Staff was held in the office at 4.30 p.m. on November 6th, 1944, Mr. R. Roy, P.O., being in the chair.

Lengthy discussion took place on the reconstruction plans, as far as they were known to us. We hope to learn more at the forthcoming District Meeting on the 9th.

"It's that Plan Again" was also discussed and same met with our whole-hearted approval. We congratulate you, Mr. Shaw, and hope for more of the same stuff.

The following resolutions were submitted and carried unanimously:—

(1) Abolition of P.O.'s pocket Journals.

(2) Individual issue of plumbing presses (pocket type) to all officers carrying seals.

(3) Official issue of matches for sealing purposes.

(4) That this meeting is in agreement with the proposal to abolish seizure rewards.

(5) That the present issue of uniform be discontinued. That material be supplied to local contractors for making up to individual measurement and forwarded to C.P.O. for inspection and issue.

(6) That in view of the up-grading of A.P.O.s in June Circular, and the type of recent examination, the whole system of examination be abolished.

(7) That applications to the Board of a purely private or domestic nature should be submitted direct to the Board or through the Collector.

(8) That all ranks be compelled to retire on reaching retiring age, irrespective of man-power. All officers wishing to continue in the service after reaching retiring age, owing to the present shortage of man-power, should receive appropriate salary for his grade plus pension due.

A hearty vote of thanks to the chair terminated the meeting at 6.30 p.m.

O. H. L.

## Southampton Notes

Christmas, 1944, and to you all—Greetings from your pals here at home. May your good news continue until the war is won and you are back with us, taking your part in the unmistakable progress of the Department, which you have represented so well. We owe you much and at this, the close of a memorable year, we honour the names and memory of Ernie Soane and John Sykes; we pause in affection for Davy Youdell in far-off Thailand, and we renew our hope of news of Arnold Bateman, missing in the Far East.

We are proud to announce a further award to Lieut. Arthur Cheney, R.N.V.R., who now wears the D.S.C. and Bar, for distinguished service during D-Day and subsequent operations. Congratulations from all at Southampton, Arthur.

Since those operations, Arthur has been engaged in supporting the landings on the island of Walcheren at the mouth of the Scheldt Estuary. He is quite well and likely to participate in more landings in due course.

It has again been our pleasure to see Joe during one or two of his off-duty spells. He was only in barracks for two or three weeks before receiving a draft to the South, and once again he is afloat. There is a prospect of Joe going East for the second time; meanwhile, we hope to have his cheery company as and when his duties permit. Cliff Pearson is now at Devonport and has been introducing his portly self to our Plymouth colleagues. Cliff is straining on the "demob." leash, and our counsel of "Patience, old chap" brings forth words of wrath in humorous vein. Cliff, together with our other correspondents, sends you all his best wishes.

Jack Welsh completed a brief course in Scotland and returned South to do still more studying. Being a "pukka gen" laddie by now, we know that a V.E.S. course will be chicken-feed to Jack, who has been genning for two years in the R.A.F.

Bob Jenkinson dropped us a few lines during late October. He is very fit and is stationed in Essex.

On the home front we hasten to congratulate the successful 62 P.O. candidates, and in particular Messrs. Martin, Clarke, Shaw, Harding and Crane. They have waited a long time for promotion, and we know they will do credit to their future grade.

In the port itself, to date, we have been glad to welcome back such wartime "strangers" as Messrs. Goff, Croxford, Skinner, Peake and Doug. Kerr, after their four years of D.D. in the North. December may see the return of another four P.O.s, and we regret that sickness is delaying Messrs. Hooper and Keeble, following their recent operations, from which we all hope they will soon recover.

An interim Staffing Scheme embracing 23 P.O.s and 9 A.P.O.s will probably operate here until the work demands a further increase in the P.O. grade.

During November we were depleted by reason of 1 P.O. (Mr. Browning) and 2 A.P.O.s (Messrs. Rabley and McNeill) leaving the port for service at an airport, where they joined forces with an old friend in Mr. B. R. Clarke, P.O.

The Southampton pre-Conference Meeting took place on December 4th, and your Councillor, Mr. G. T. Clarke, was well equipped with the district's opinions for voicing in his capacity as Councillor. In view of his pending promotion to the P.O. grade this will be his last Conference as your grade representative, a post he has held and performed efficiently since 1938, and we place on record our appreciation of his untiring and so sincere efforts on your and our behalf.

Cheerio, Forces! And a Happy New Year to you all!

L. B.

## Hull News

Hearty congratulations to Messrs. G. W. Head, W. R. Burnett, E. B. Hearne, W. H. Taylor and J. Enderby on their success in the recent examination for promotion to Preventive Officers, with the added hope that they do not have to wait so long for their appointments as had their predecessors!

The examination results represent another hundred per cent. pass for Hull entrants, and thereby another personal triumph for Mr. Thompson, P.O., who has tutored so many Hull A.P.O.s successfully through to Preventive Officership.

We hope that Mr. T. H. Jones, Wgd. Supt., and Mr. Lockwood, C.P.O., are now fully recovered from the illnesses which caused their temporary absence from official duties.

N. S. M.

## News or Views: Choose!

If "Wildcat" wrote  
A lot more verse,  
I'd gladly be  
A lot more terse.

"Wildcat's" little rhyme in the November *Journal* leads me to break a rule not to answer any attacks, even good-humoured ones, and especially anonymous ones, because it has implications beyond the personal. It is, of course, the best bit of rhyme we have had in the *Journal* since Kennedy's day or J. G.'s first-class "Chuck It, Brown." He certainly condenses. But I am ready to say that the idea he has so boiled down wasn't worth boiling. That does not mean that I think he should boil his head. He clearly has a very good head and I could have understood the possessor of such a head asking for more good or witty poetry, fine writing, book reviews, reproductions of great paintings: an improvement of the whole magazine aspect of the P.S.A. organ. What do poets and thinkers want with mere news? They *are* news. They *make* news.

However, we will deal with what "Wildcat" asked for. I will, in so dealing, pay no regard to his use of a nom de plume (or would not "nom de guerre" be better?), for I believe I can see through those false whiskers. In any case, I have used a large number of noms de plume myself herein: in fact, I usually write a light Christmassy trifle under a pen-name for the December number but that is now postponed until January, as there is a solemn job to do.

The job is to ask: Why a Publicity Officer? The office has existed now for more than twelve months and, as most of you read this, it is being discussed, with many much more important matters, by your Councillors. Yet even if the Councillors decide that the office or something like it should continue, and even that the present incumbent should hold the post, it is also open to the members to discuss generally the utility of such an officer. His functions were set out in the first article, in the role of Publicity Officer, which he wrote. Viewing the Association with a post-war eye our representative saw that the three headquarters officers were not enough. Each was concerned to some degree with keeping the members aware of what was going on: of making sure that the members were behind their officers in what they sought: in preparing the

ground for the requirements of tomorrow; in wedding enthusiasm to knowledge to get the ultimate result from our organisation. They were also concerned in the general study of the Civil Service and the Trade Union field, especially Civil Service Unionism, which must accompany such educational work. And, finally, they had continually to be vigilant to defend our section of the Civil Service from attacks from within or without the service which would hinder our attainment of what we sought, however well-informed a membership we had.

In the very stating of these jobs (which I humbly submit do not, by any means, fully cover all a Publicity Officer's functions) we see that the three officers could not do this job without hindering the proper doing of other jobs. All that is meant by the rather clumsy word "publicity"—or its ugly sister "propaganda"—is not a new job. It is a job which must be done in any association like ours. It is part of the continual two-way process of every association; the obtaining of benefits from the official or employing body and the marshalling of the members and the bodies related, including the public, behind the association as it seeks those benefits. An orientation towards the official side only is quite futile, as is a mere lining-up of the members without a tactic of approach to the official side. If, as I have said in other articles, only the members can lose us the just rewards which now seem in sight, the marshalling of the members may, however, be the more important job.

If then there should be such a job and existing officers could not do it justice someone else had to do it. That someone else from then on must not be regarded

### Waterguard Spotlight

"We are proud to announce a further award to Lieut. Arthur Cheney, R.N.V.R., who now wears the D.S.C. and Bar, for distinguished service during D-Day and subsequent operations."

Southampton Notes, page 125.

as a person expressing his own views. He is the servant of the Association. The person who was given the job, as it happens, was so conscious of this that he wished all material he wrote for the *Journal* to be vetted by the Executive. But the General Secretary was against that.

If, therefore, it is true that the writings of this officer whom we see to have been essential and whose main task is such writing, take up too much space in the *Journal*, as he himself has very often thought, they are not at least *his* views. On at least one point which he has publicised his views, in fact, were quite otherwise.

Yet the complaint remains, whoever's views they are.

If these views were "condensed," that is took up less space, there would be more space for something else. "Wildcat" defines the "something else" as "more Customs news." There are a number of points answering that charge:—

1. They are condensed. Everything that goes into the *Journal* can be, and is, trimmed by the Editor (sometimes the printer has a go, too, but that's another story, though perhaps the opportunity may be taken of saying that much that is read was not actually as silly when it was written!). More than once the Publicity Officer's articles have been cut out altogether and frequently sub-edited.

2. The proportion of material by the Publicity Officer to other material in the *Journal*, especially in the last few months, shows a high degree of "news" material, especially the essentially "news" item *Current Comments*. In November, where the Publicity Officer supplies his longest item since last June, there are six columns of *Current Comments*, eight columns of port news, almost four of correspondence, including "Wildcat's" poem, and slightly more than four contributed by C.F.S. That is above the average for the year!

3. Absence of this fifteen per cent. (roughly) of stuff by the Publicity Officer would not mean the presence of more news. There is no news omitted, as far as I know. The writer of *Current Comments* openly states that he has difficulty at times in filling his quota of space. Much of the port news could actually be condensed, perhaps; it is seldom crowded out in any case. It is a false picture, this, of a volume of news ready for presentation to the members and kept from them because someone is doing a bit of soap-boxing in all the available space. You get all the news

there is. The Publicity Officer wrote recently complaining that so little news was being given but the subject on which you could be given news, the Reorganisation of the Service, is just not productive of news just now. When there is news of this or anything else the Publicity Officer will expect to be crowded out of the pages. The fact is, as the Editor could tell you, that without material such as the Publicity Officer supplies there would not be, many a month, a full *Journal*. Sometimes, indeed, the Publicity Officer has suggested to the Editor that he only includes his article if there was nothing else to fill up space; and the article duly appeared because there was nothing else. There's nothing very flattering to a writer in that!

4. Why make a false distinction between views and news? I invite "Wildcat" or some other writer to save my typewriter one of these months and write a little treatise showing how to separate the two. I believe that the Publicity Officer's articles have frequently contained news, and the news in *Current Comments*, etc., are often also views. The most impersonal and impartial writers fail to give pure news. There is no such thing. Behind every item of news in our *Journal* is the great view that people working together should organise together for mutual benefit; otherwise it is a mere snippet of print, like those things which used to be in *Tubits* about how many biscuits laid end to end would do something or other, or is just gossip. Behind every view expressed in the *Journal* is the good news that there is a body working for the benefit of all of us and that it can find men prepared to give thought and time and energy to doing that work.

The subject need be flogged no more. The way to have less of certain stuff in the *Journal* is to have more of some other stuff. It is up to men like "Wildcat" to supply that. The *Journal* must still carry out its job of giving viewpoints to members so that they can interpret the news they are given, but there could be more than one or two men doing that. As Eph Jay and Lord Acton said: "All power corrupts." Perhaps it is wrong for one man to be able to pontificate month by month; it may harm the Association and make him feel he is a dictator. If that is so in this case, there was never a dictator so ready to give up his role. Come with your news and your views and pinch the space off him!

C. F. S.

## Belfast Calling

A meeting of the branch was held at the Free Goods Office, Belfast, on Wednesday, October 18th, 1944. This meeting was a notable one as we had present Mr. Parish, Waterguard Surveyor, Mr. Wilkins, P.O., and Mr. Grant (all the way from Scotland!), Executive Councillor for Scotland and Northern Ireland. Mr. Grant made an excellent speech, and during the course of his stay visited every Waterguard Station in Northern Ireland.

We can now report 100 per cent. membership in this area, this being partly due to Mr. Grant's good offices.

Those members of the staff who knew John Tohill when he was in the job will be pleased to hear that he has completed his first year Medical at Queen's University, Belfast.

We welcome J. M. Currie, A.P.O., from Glasgow. "Jock" was well known here as he spent some time as an A.P.O. in Londonderry.

Glasgow staff can congratulate themselves on acquiring W. A. L. (Les) Taylor, a fine athlete and sportsman. We miss him here, but hope to have him back soon.

E. H. L.

## Sunderland Calling

Hello, Forces!

News from the boys in the Services is not good. I regret to report that Charlie Scarfe is in hospital still. Having been in the jungle with the "Chindits" for some time, on his return to civilisation he was admitted to hospital with a bad go of dysentery. He was looking forward to his discharge and a spot of well-earned leave, only to go down with malaria. At time of going to press he is awaiting a medical board, after which he is hoping to be allowed a spot of leave. Keep smiling, Charles: I hope your next word will be, "I'm enjoying some leave."

The Big Boy also ran into a spell of sickness, being put in hospital with jaundice and stomach trouble. At present he is on 14 days' sick leave. Eddie looked shaky still when he dropped in for a yarn.

The exiles are rolling up one after another.

Jack Crosby dropped in at the office, looking very fit and well. H.G. duties being suspended, he fancies he will be able to settle down to some thrilling stories out of Vol. I.

George Simmons dropped in at the week-end from Manchester. He reports all well and enjoying life there.

Bill Sutton was home on a spot of leave, but I did not have the pleasure of renewing old friendships. Better luck next time.

I will take this opportunity of wishing the "Season's Greetings" to you all, Forces and Exiles, and may 1945 bring you VICTORY and a speedy return to the fold.

Cheerio, Forces! Good luck always!  
Over to you—over.

O. H. L.

## EXPRESSED IN FANCY

I love to see a C.P.O.

In all his bright official show  
Of uniform correctly made,  
And properly decked out with braid,  
My inmost heart is cheered I trow,  
To view on some Olympian brow  
The laurel wreath that crowns with  
grace

The victor in Promotion's race.  
Let not our antique customs fail,  
Nor Philistines unchecked assail  
These emblems meet reserved for rank!  
I must confess, let me be frank,  
My taste transcends all modes civilian:  
The garb imperial of Maximilian,  
Or even a commissionaire,  
Transports me from the world of care  
With visions of sartorial splendour,  
Top hats and tails can ne'er engender.  
Yet some there be who still declaim  
That uniforms are clothes of shame;  
And those who wear them but obtrude  
The symbols of their servitude.

I hold it no degrading thing  
To wear the uniform of my king,  
And follow in the great tradition  
Of those who bear his royal commission.  
Our contract clothes are poor, I know,  
But they are ours by right; and so  
Let's try to better their condition  
Instead of seeking abolition.  
If this be done no C.P.O.,  
His right to uniform will forgo,  
To wear a suit devoid of braid  
For fifty bob by Burton made!

J. C. G.

**CHANGES IN THE STAFF**

to 29th November, 1944.

**TRANSFERS.****Chief Preventive Officer (Acting):**

Fenlon, M., unattached, to Middlesbrough, Sunderland.

**Assistant Preventive Officers:**

Currie, J. McK., Southampton to Belfast.

Searle, C., Avonmouth, Bristol to Glasgow.

**PROMOTIONS.****Preventive Officer to Chief Preventive Officer (Acting and unattached):**

Fryer, W. T., Liverpool.

**Assistant Preventive Officers to Preventive Officers (Acting) (on detached duty):**

Bailey, G. W. W., London.

Hussey, E. G., Liverpool.

Lacey, H. F., Dover.

Pollard, A. G., London.

Stewart, J., Clydebank, Glasgow.

Williams, J. P., Weymouth, Southampton.

**OFFICER LEAVING THE SERVICE.****Preventive Officer:**

Thomson, E., Clydebank, Glasgow.

**OBITUARY OF SUPERANNUATED OFFICERS.**

James, F. P., Preventive Officer.

Mathews, T. W., Waterguard Superintendent, 2nd Class.

**OBITUARY****MR. PHILIP SPEAR, P.O.**

At 2.15 p.m. on the 29th November, 1944, a cortege, consisting of a hearse and two coaches, left the home of Mrs. Pritchard, "The Queen's Head," Biggin Street, Dover, en route for St. James' Cemetery, where it was received by Rev. C. K. Chadwick, Vicar of River Parish, Dover.

The mourners in attendance were: Mrs. Pritchard (mother of the late Mr. Spear, who died in tragic circumstances about two years ago), her daughter, Joan, Mr. R. (Dick) Spear, son, whose only brother is now a prisoner of war in the Far East, Messrs. A. N. Lake, C.P.O., representing the Waterguard Superintendent (Mr. Whettingstall, who was unavoidably absent on official duties in the Division), A. C. Cole, C.P.O., W. S. Goldsmith, P.O.

After a short but impressive service, the remains were interred.

Before leaving the graveside we looked down and read the simple inscription: "Philip Spear, Who fell asleep, 25th November, 1944, aged 49 years."

Among the beautiful floral tributes were wreaths from the Waterguard Staff at Bristol and Dover.

**BRISTOL NEWS**

It was with regret that the staff at Bristol learned of the passing of Mr. P. Spear, P.O. He had gone on sick leave on Monday, 20th November, and his death occurred on the 24th, after a few days in hospital, from asthma and heart trouble. He had previously been off on sick leave with his old complaint, rheumatism, and the staff, although aware that he was still suffering from this, confidently expected his return to duty. It was, therefore, quite a shock to us to hear of his sudden death.

He leaves two sons, the elder a prisoner of war in Japanese hands, and the younger a lad of nearly sixteen still going to school. To these, the Bristol Staff extend their deepest sympathy in their sad loss.

B. J. B.

**CIVIL SERVICE LIFEBOAT FUND**

The following subscriptions received to November 21st, 1944, are gratefully acknowledged. The support consistently given by so many of the Waterguard staff is much appreciated.

Briton Ferry, 2s.; Glasgow, £4 1s. 6d.; Leith, £3 10s. 6d.; Llanelly, 4s.; Neyland, 2s.; Plymouth, 19s.; Salford, 19s.; and Swansea, 18s.

A. V. WEST,

Principal, Surveyors' Branch.

November 23rd, 1944.

**P.S.A. LIBRARY AND MUSEUM**

The Editor acknowledges with thanks the following additions to the above:—

Ham's Year book, 1880. Presented by Mr. S. W. Gidden, P.O./C., Connah's Quay, Chester.

A lengthy article on 18th century smuggling at Briton Ferry, from the "Herald of Wales." Presented by Mr. B. J. Burge, P.O., Bristol.

Wanted, copies of Ham's Year Book. The Library possesses but four volumes, 1870, 1880, 1899 and 1929.

## Correspondence

The Editor, "The Customs Journal."

Sir,

Those who heard the account given by the Prime Minister on August 2nd of the numbers killed and wounded, and the number of houses destroyed and damaged by the Nazi murder missile, cannot in conscience reflect with calm on the suffering and anxiety which people who live in the London and South Coast area have had to endure since the enemy first sent his flying bombs across the Channel. Evacuation of women and children on a national scale has been considered imperative. But what of those who must remain behind to live and work under the continual apprehension of annihilation?

I have no intention of uttering platitudinous inanities in praise of the steadfastness of the inhabitants of the heroic heel of England. I am concerned with more immediate and practical considerations. There are many members of the Waterguard who, like myself, have fortunately been stationed at places where heavy raids were so few as to be negligible throughout the entire war period, and whose liability to detachment has been nil or the minimum. There are others who, thanks to the Treasury Rule of detachment in order of juniority, have never had to leave their home port for a single day. **WE'VE HAD THE BREAKS ALL ALONG THE LINE!** Like myself, they now have a chance to prove that the Waterguard is willing to share the risks as well as the rewards accruing from our job.

I am willing, Mr. Editor, to exchange with any member of my grade stationed in London or other danger area, who is deprived by Service rule or other cause of the opportunity to transfer to a safer area, or to obtain recuperative leave for himself or his family. Will others join me in making this offer? I am sure they will, and have only been waiting for a lead. Such a proposal raises certain problems regarding expense, right of return to home port, compensation in event of injury, duration of period of exchange, etc., on which many people would require reassurance before associating themselves with my suggestion. I am convinced, however, that if the requisite number of applications to prove my faith in the humanity of my colleagues was forthcoming, neither the

Board nor the Treasury would revert to the parsimonious principles which governed the operation of Detached Duty in its initial war-time application.

The following proposals are submitted for the immediate consideration of the membership:

1. Members of the Waterguard staff stationed in safe areas should be encouraged to volunteer for exchange of ports with colleagues stationed in bomb areas, either for a specified period or until the area is declared safe.
2. Where an exchange as above proposed is not possible, recuperative leave should be granted to staff stationed in bomb areas. Such leave to be on the scale of one week in every period of seven weeks.
3. Relief to be provided for by adjustment of port staffing schemes of the areas affected by bombs, or by adjustment of staff schemes in other ports to provide relief on a Detached Duty basis for staff in the danger areas granted leave.
4. The period of detachment for officers supplying relief for recuperative leave, to be limited to six weeks in one spell.
5. In the application of 3 and 4 above, the seniority rule to be waived, the rota system to operate at each port where Officers are required to supply relief for recuperative leave.

In the application of clause five, individual cases of hardship or appeal against secondment for such relief could be considered on an *ad hoc* basis, without prejudicing the equitable application of the Rota system.

In putting forward these proposals, I am convinced, Mr. Editor, that the requisite number of volunteers will be forthcoming, and that the compulsive provisions of the ultimate clause will not require to be enforced at all. In support of this conviction, I may mention that there are sixteen bachelors in my own port among the P.O. and A.P.O. grades. And scarcely one bachelor in the Waterguard could, in conscience, refuse to volunteer to allow children and mothers, never mind his fellow-Officers, the opportunity of finding a haven from fear and worry.

Many of us have grumbled in the past that we were deprived of the chance to make a real contribution to the war effort. Well, here is our opportunity! Not one of our colleagues in the danger zones has

implied either by word or behaviour that those of us in safe ports are doing less in the way of duty than they are. They have stuck it in the front line without a grouse or whimper. They deserve a break.

Colleagues and fellow-members of the Waterguard! Will you volunteer to give them the respite they deserve?

OR, WILL YOU PASS BY ON THE OTHER SIDE?

I am, Mr. Editor,

Yours, etc.,

“ASHAMED.”

*We appreciate the sentiment expressed by our correspondent. At the moment we have not heard of any would-be “evacuees,” but any reader interested in these possible transfers should address their correspondence to the Editor.*

The “Editor,” The Customs Journal.”

Dear Sir,

So Mr. Shaw disclaims parental responsibility for those horribly-named Pamphlets. The vision conjured up by his disclaimer, namely that of his acting as accoucheur to these infants, misbegotten (dare I hazard?) by “Slippery Sam” out of “Walter Houseman,” is one which I find irresistibly funny. Pshaw! Mr. Shaw.

But there are other aspects of his report which I do not find so funny. True, I am relieved that Mr. Shaw's programme for the future does not yet include a series of articles designed to instruct the grandmothers of members on the correct method of extracting by suction the fluid matter normally contained in eggshells, nor a treatise on Watch-house etiquette. But I suppose a publicity officer must keep something up his sleeve.

Attempting a condensation of the Publicity Report (bearing in mind “Wild-cat's” neatly-phrased exhortation) I find:

1. that our Publicity Officer agrees that the words “publicity” and “propaganda” are unpleasing as connoting “irrational reiteration, bullying the

mind, bigdrum tactics and such vulgar crudities”;

2. that he finds personal advantages compensatory for these disadvantages;

3. that he proposes to continue and intensify above-mentioned publicity and propaganda.

As a commentary, may I suggest that Mr. Shaw's personal advantage, like my personal irritation with windy verbiage, should weigh less than a feather against true and accurate representation of P.S.A. opinion.

Do we have such representation in the egoistical, erratic works of our new Publicity department? I would like to know, and the Executive Committee **should** like to know the opinions of other members on that question.

Invariably when reading the products of Mr. Shaw's facile pen I seem to hear a well-known voice echoing the famous phrase: “What kind of a people do they think we are?” Reading on, I assess the answer as a depressing one.

May I appeal again for the suppression of this office which, in my opinion, can only be a harmful factor in Association affairs. And I am willing to grant that a critical assessment of Mr. Shaw's syntax may have been contributory to the Board's decision to require higher academic qualifications of future entrants.

Finally, Mr. Editor, may I appeal to you to assert your proper authority in the direction of the “Customs Journal,” which was a bright little publication at one time. And if anyone suggests to you that this or other matter submitted as the expression of honest opinion on matters of common Association interest should be suppressed, I ask you to refer them to the opinions recently expressed on censorship by a man who should know—the Chief Press Censor of the M.O.I. Some of our suppressionists should find his remarks illuminating and educational.

Yours, etc.,

“Eph Jay.”

The Editor “The Customs Journal.”

Sir,

In the October issue of “The Customs Journal” I asked a simple question: one

which, I consider, called for a straightforward reply from the General, or one of the lesser P.S.A. Secretaries. Your November issue brought forth no such reply, and, although not surprised, I am perturbed by this display of coyness on the part of our leaders. I have already received verbal answers to my question from a number of colleagues, and these answers are amazingly similar, and, if to be believed, profoundly disquieting.

In my question I asked why seniority was the rule for promotion of successful candidates from A.P.O. to P.O., while successful P.O.s are promoted to the C.P.O. grade in order of "merit." Surely there is some reason, of which the Secretaries and Executive Committee are not ashamed, that this obvious inconsistency is allowed to continue and, what is worse, condoned.

You, Mr. Editor, in a footnote to my letter in the October issue, tried to draw a red herring across the trail by involving the whole Council. Many years' experience of the P.S.A. Council and how it is almost invariably swayed by the influence of the Executive Committee have taught me to attach to your contention the importance it deserves. In any case, my question called for an answer and you did not produce one.

May I therefore appeal once more to those who should be in a position to know for the reason why the anomaly which I have disclosed is allowed to continue without challenge?

Yours faithfully,

"GEN."

The Editor, "Customs Journal."

Dear Sir,

Apropos your "Versatile" paragraph in the November issue; this is bound to invite competition from the provinces. How is this from Liverpool:

Certificates.

1938. Instr. C.A.G.S. 1st Class (Home Office).

1939. Instr. C.A.G.S. 1st Class (endorsed) (Home Office).

1939. Instr. A.R.P.S. 1st Class (endorsed) (Home Office).

1938/40. First Aid Certificates and Medallion (St. J.A. Assn.).

1942. War "Cert. A" (Parts 1 and 2) (Army Cadet Force).

1944. L.F.G.I. Fireguard Instructor (Ministry of Home Security).

1939. Associate, Institute Civil Defence (London), A.I.C.D.

Also in possession of

First Aid Certs. and Medallion (British Red Cross Society).

Chiropody Certificate (Army), obtained during last war.

K. CAMERON, C.P.O.

The Editor, "Customs Journal."

Sir.

Now, Wildcat, don't be such a pussy.

Give credit where it's due.

If C.F.S. condensed his views,

We'd have little news or views to choose.

MEE AWOO.

**BUCK BROS. & HARDING**

Ltd.

644, Forest Road, London, E.17

Printers of

Periodicals - Magazines

House Journals - etc.

**HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION.**

**H**ONEYMOONS and HOLIDAYS.—  
West Surrey Rambling Centre.  
Brochure.—Morris Lodge Hotel, Gong  
Hill, nr. Farnham, Surrey. Frensham 362.

LARGE STOCKS OF BOOKS  
on  
LAW, COMMERCE, POLITICS  
and  
TECHNICAL SUBJECTS.

**FOYLES**  
\* \* FOR BOOKS \* \*

Nearly 3 Million Volumes in Stock.  
New and Secondhand Books on every  
subject.

BOOKS BOUGHT  
and  
SENT ON APPROVAL.

119-125, CHARING CROSS ROAD,  
LONDON, W.C.2.

'Phone: GERRARD 5660 (16 lines).

OPEN 9—6 (inc. Sat.)

## Use MORTONS' Special Service

Studied selection of Clothing, Shoes, etc., from our own and makers' stocks to meet your needs. Home Approval by post. Extended terms at cash prices. Any return of coupons can be by vouchers usable anywhere.

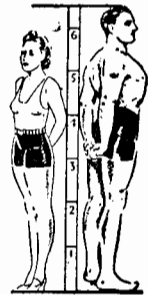
Other Depts.: Rings, Frams, Cycles, Mattresses, Radio, etc. Send Id. stamp (Govt. order) for List (detailing your needs), or send., say, 3d., to cover future lists also.

If near, call (9—5; Sat. 9—1).

P.S.—Utility Furniture for London area (zoned)

**MORTONS**

18, Highbury Place (C.J.), London, N.5



## BE TALLER!

Increased my own height to 6ft. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ ins.

CEYLON CLIENT, aged 20 gains EIGHT inches.

OTHER PUPILS REPORT

Age	Gains	In.
20	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ ins.	16 days!
19 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 "	6 weeks!
21	5 "	5 months!
27 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	4 weeks
34	3 "	6 months!
40	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	6 weeks!
16 $\frac{1}{2}$	passed 6 ft. mark!	
18 $\frac{1}{2}$	passed 6ft. 2ins. Mark	

No Appliances.

No Tablets. No Dieting.

ROSS SYSTEM GETS RESULTS

Fee £2 2s. Complete. Details 6d. stamp.

D. MALCOLM ROSS

Height Specialist, BM/HYTE, London, W.C.1.

## USEFUL BOOKS ON HOBBIES, CRAFTWORK AND CAREERS

**PHOTOGRAPHY FOR PLEASURE AND PROFIT**, by Reginald Harrison. The hobby fully explained and illustrated. Ways and means of turning amateur photography to profit. Amateur faults and difficulties explained. Many delightful half-tone illustrations of the art.

**THE CAREER OF A WIRELESS OPERATOR**. An interesting and successful career for any ambitious young person, full of useful hints and valuable explanations of elementary wireless and Morse code. Many diagrams. How to go about entering the profession and what to learn.

**LIBRARIANSHIP AS A CAREER**. The young man or woman interested in books and literature may well find this guide an invaluable help in finding an interesting career full of service to the community and opportunity for self-development. How to become a Library Assistant. How to develop one's own abilities and become a Librarian.

**THE BOYS' BOOK OF METAL-CRAFT**, by Wm. Bagley. How to make all kinds of useful and ornamental objects in metalware. Full instructions and diagrams. What tools are needed and the care and use of them. A 96 pp. book full of "meat" and of endless interest to Father as well as Son.

**STAMPS FOR ALL**, by L. N. and M. Williams. First steps in Stamp Collecting as a hobby. Many illustrations and detailed explanations of rare stamps, designs, manufacture, stamp clubs, stamp dealing, etc.

**MODEL THEATRE AND PUPPET MAKING**, by Caspar and Ethelwyn Holst. Fully illustrated. How to make and operate your own home theatre, with working puppets, lighting, etc.

**MODELS AND MODEL MAKING**. Endless hours of amusement, all of the highest educational value. A hobby and handicraft for any youngster of either sex.

**A MODEL VILLAGE AND HOW TO MAKE IT**. Full instructions and diagrams showing how to make a complete model village, using home materials.

**THE BOYS' BOOK OF SCIENTIFIC AND ELECTRICAL EXPERIMENTS**. A magnificently entertaining book for any boy—or girl. First steps in elementary science and electricity. Very entertaining simple experiments easily carried out at home.

**ALL ABOUT SKETCHING**, by Reginald Harrison. A reliable guide to sketching, full of diagrams and illustrations, a study of which enables anyone to learn easily and quickly the basic principles of drawing.

PAPER COVERS - 2/- each net  
(Printed in Colour)

CLOTH BOARDS - 3/6 each net

Obtainable from all booksellers or from the publishers:—

VAWSER & WILES, LTD.,  
64, FOREST RD., WALTHAMSTOW,  
LONDON, E.17.

# THE CUSTOMS FUND

FOUNDED 1816.

---

The Mutual Life Assurance Society

of the

Customs and Excise Department

---

LIFE ASSURANCE

from £50 to £3,000

---

HOUSE PURCHASE  
ADVANCES

---

TOTAL ASSETS EXCEED £1,000,000

---

For full particulars apply to:—

F. T. G. HARRIS, *Secretary*,  
Customs Fund, H.M. Customs and Excise,  
City Gate House, Finsbury Square,  
London, E.C.2.