

The  
**Customs Journal**  
 Official Journal of the  
**CUSTOMS & EXCISE  
 PREVENTIVE STAFF ASSOCIATION**

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MAY, 1944

MONTHLY

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## CURRENT COMMENTS

### The Inspector General.

**R**EADERS will learn with extreme regret that sudden illness has compelled Mr. Woodford to relinquish duties of Inspector General of Waterguard. He is retiring from the Service on June 30th.

Arrangements are being made for the presentation of a Testimonial representative of the C. & E. Department as a whole, and we feel sure that it will attract 100 per cent. support from the Waterguard.

This news comes to us as we go to press, but we understand that Mr. J. Kerr is to succeed Mr. Woodford.

### The August Examination.

By now current comment on the sudden call-up of Assistant Preventive Officers will have changed from excited chatter and conjecture to discussions in Study Groups and exchanging of questions. Serious study is the order of the day, notwithstanding the suggestion in the O.W.O. that this would not be necessary.

Happily the dangers of the rapidly decreasing 1940 list were sensed by the Secretaries and at the time of the an-

nouncement of the Exam. the "blitzkrieg" V.E.S. course of 15 papers was completed and ready for dispatch to the pupils. Tutors quickly responded to the call, and at the time of writing **sixty** out of the possible **sixty-eight** candidates are being catered for by the V.E.S.

Our thanks to the Tutors for their timely assistance and to Messrs. Boalch and Reilly for splendid work in preparing the course.

We have had numerous enquiries from A.P.O.s who entered from the third Open Competitive Examination, i.e., those next in turn. Most of the enquiries ask whether there is any likelihood of the Board proceeding further down the list in the event of a number of candidates deciding not to sit. We are authorised, officially, to state that this examination will be limited to those A.P.O.s shown in part 5 of O.W.O. 20/44 who notify their intention to attend.

Other enquirers are concerned, quite naturally, as to whether this next examination will be followed fairly soon by another examination. Quite frankly, we do not know, but sound advice is "keep your powder dry and your Codes

amended"—anything can happen, at any time.

Incidentally, this is also all we can say at the moment regarding a C.P.O. examination.

As soon as possible we hope to make an announcement that the V.E.S. can accommodate pupils beyond the range of the August examination. In the meantime, our first charge is to the "three-monthers," and no one will quarrel with that.

#### Executive Committee.

A meeting of the Executive Committee (P.S.A.) takes place at the C. & E. Federation Offices, Walter House, Strand, London, on the 1st June.

#### Man-Power.

Very important informal discussions have taken place this month with the Board on proposals designed ostensibly to meet immediate war-time staffing requirements, but which must inevitably have a big bearing on Post-War Planning. These straws will show the way the wind is blowing.

Full and final proposals are not yet available for publication, but we can indicate that the underlying principle involved is the up-grading of a number of A.P.O. posts to P.O. The Board have recognised that the development of Waterguard duties over the years is such that to-day many A.P.O.s are performing duties proper to the P.O. Grade and the proposals are designed to adjust this situation wherever and whenever possible.

Central discussions have, of course, been restricted to the principle involved; leaving the question of detailed application for local discussion. Before this happens, however, the General Secretary will issue a circular to all districts.

#### Glancing West.

We have to thank our contemporary in Eire for the following extracts from the Customs Code of the United States of America.

"Article 1244.

For Services performed after 5 p.m. on any days, including Sundays and Public Holidays, one half-day's pay will be allowed for each two hours or fraction thereof of at least one hour that the overtime extends beyond 5 p.m. provided that the overtime is not less than one hour. The maximum amount which may be paid an employee for service between 5 p.m. and 8 a.m. shall not exceed 2½ days' pay (TD38429).

In computing extra compensation where the services rendered are in broken periods and less than two hours intervene between such broken periods the time served should be combined with the waiting time and computed as continuous service.

Article 1245.

For authorised services performed on Sundays and Holidays between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Customs Officers shall be entitled to two days' pay in addition to their regular compensation.

We first thought to publish this "without comment," but the temptation to quote one of our own cases is irresistible.

How's this? An A.P.O. getting ready to go home from the 8 a.m./4 p.m. watch was ordered at 4.10 p.m. to give an attendance at Merchant's Request at 5 p.m. at a station 5 miles distant. Later he claimed the hour between 4 p.m. and 5 p.m. as continuous service, but the Board disallowed it.

The modesty of our own Post-War planning proposals is amazing.

#### P.S.A. Library.

It is, perhaps, fitting that the first response to the suggestion by "Nod" (in the last issue) should come from the Chief. In passing out ideas to swell the collection for the library, "Nod" recollected that someone once unearthed a copy of Ham's Year Book for 1888. Mr. Woodford goes "eleven" better than that. He has handed to the General Secretary a copy of Ham's dated 1877, with a note addressed to "The Curator of the P.S.A. Library and Museum" in which he states that he believes it to be the first issue of the famous George Ham's Year Book.

Just for "make-weight" Mr. Woodford threw in a very old "Excise" bottle—encased in finely woven wicker-work—intended to be carried in the button-hole of the lapel.

Well, there's the example, chaps. What about it?

#### Launch Service.

On Thursday, the 4th May, the Hon. Board gave audience to a Deputation of representatives of the Launch Service Association.

The Deputation (which was introduced by Mr. W. H. Powell) outlined the C. & E. Launch Service Association's proposals for Post-War Planning of the Launch Service Branch of the Department.

## CUSTOMS FUND

The 128th Annual Meeting of the Customs Annuity and Benevolent Fund, Incorporated, was held at 5 p.m. on Thursday, April 27th, at City Gate House, Finsbury Square, London, E.C.2.

The chair was taken by the President, W. Henderson, Esq., O.B.E.

After comparing details of the Fund's income and expenditure with previous years, the President said:—

"The total assets are again the highest in the Fund's history—£1,145,098—a very considerable sum of money even in these days of lavish expenditure. That it represents in many cases the life savings of subscribers is a fact which is ever present in our minds. Despite the hazards of war, and they can be very real indeed to such a Fund as ours, it is gratifying to note that in nearly five years of war conditions the Fund has continued to show a steady and healthy increase in all its essential features.

I should like this evening for a few moments to consider very briefly the effects of the war on our Fund. In the first place, let us look at our life losses—particularly those directly attributable to enemy action. They have not been numerous, in number 16 only, representing payment of £5,865. We tender respectful sympathy to the relatives of our colleagues who have fallen in this great struggle and venture the hope, a very sincere hope, that this low average of loss may be maintained in the future.

Secondly, comes the cessation of recruitment to the Established Grades of the Department. This is obviously a very severe handicap on the acquisition of new business; but despite this, the number of new insurances in this fifth year is greater than in any previous war year; and, measured in terms of new premium income, is within measurable distance of the average of pre-war years. The total premium income of the Fund is £35,883; that is some £500 more than last year.

Thirdly, we have the investment of all surplus funds (that is, all funds over and above those required for new mortgages) in British Government Securities at a rate of interest not exceeding 3%. This naturally tends to reduce the gross rate of interest earned on the Fund as a whole. Our holdings in these Government Securities are now £281,000—about one-quarter of our total assets.

Nevertheless, our gross rate of interest earned on the Insurance Fund during the past year was £4 16s. per cent.—a very satisfactory rate indeed.

Fourthly, the security of assets in war-time is a real and constant problem for everybody interested in property and investments. There is, however, no cause for apprehension so far as the Fund assets are concerned. As the balance sheet shows, our main assets are secured by mortgaged properties, Government securities and freehold ground rents. Our mortgaged properties are widely spread over the whole country, and though a certain number—not a large percentage—have suffered air-raid damage, we are satisfied that this asset is well secured.

The current market value of the Stock Exchange Securities is appreciably higher than the figure at which they stand in the balance sheet.

The freehold ground rents have suffered considerable damage, but at £89,000, the balance sheet figure, the rents now being received showed on this investment a return of something over 4 per cent. The sites unproductive at present, representing disclaimed leases which are included in the figure of £89,000, represent potentially a considerable increase in rents which must accrue when new building (however it may be affected by official planning) can again be resumed after the war.

Those four headings, I think, cover the essential parts of the Fund's structure as it has been affected by the war. I hope you will agree that the results show that the policy we have pursued during the course of it has been amply justified.

As a slight indication of our confidence in the future, I am happy to be able to announce that we have decided to continue for the present the payment of interest on the Trust Funds at the rate of four per cent. We feel that this is a considerable achievement, and I trust you will agree, particularly when I tell you that after making full allowance for management and overhead expenses properly attributable to the administration of these Funds, it is a rate we can properly afford.

That concludes my survey for the year. I must, however, refer to the severe loss to the Fund in the death during the year of Mr. F. Loveless, for so many years one of our Auditors. From the date of his election in 1925, Mr. Loveless gave most valuable service.

We sincerely deplore his loss and extend our sympathy to his relatives. Nor must I end without the usual tribute to the Secretary and his staff for the fidelity and attention they have shown in the Services of the Fund during the year—a tribute not less merited and sincere for being thus briefly expressed. We live in momentous times. No one can say what the future—in particular the immediate future—may have in store for us. But it is a matter for thankfulness, as it is surely of good augury for that future, that in looking back and in taking present stock, we can do so with serenity and satisfaction."

The President then formally declared that no other nominations having been received, Messrs. J. H. Macrae-Gibson, H. S. Marshall and J. Merron were duly re-elected Directors for a further period of three years, and Mr. Charles Brown, Auditor, also for a further three years.

Mr. Higginson, in proposing a vote of thanks to the President and to all the Directors, said that he, and he was sure that every subscriber, fully appreciated the time and work put in by the Directors in achieving such satisfactory results, particularly in these difficult times, and he had much pleasure in moving this vote of thanks, not in any formal sense, but very sincerely indeed.

The Motion was seconded by Mr. Stanton and passed with acclamation.

The President suitably replied and the Meeting concluded.

## P.S.A. LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

In response to the appeal in our April issue for the formation of the above, the following items have been thankfully received and duly acknowledged:—

"Instructions for Tidewaiters," 1848.

"Instructions for Tide Surveyors," 1846.

Presented by Mr. A. C. Booth, C.P.O. (retired), Bournemouth.

A photograph showing a Preventive man in uniform, 1917. Presented by Mr. B. J. Burge, P.O., Bristol.

A Seizure Report of 1835. Presented by Mr. R. W. Elton, A.P.O., London.

Ed.

## GREENOCK DISTRICT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The Annual General Meeting of the Greenock District—comprising the ports of Greenock, Ardrossan, Ayr, Campbeltown, Dumfries, Faslane, Irvine, Oban, Rothesay, Stranraer and Troon—was held at Cardwell Bay on April 25th. Our meetings have a habit of being wrecked by the last-minute coincidence of an influx of shipping; on this occasion there was nothing to prevent a 99½% local attendance. In the circumstances, therefore, the attendance was definitely poor: of the Greenock staff, one-third of the A.P.O.s, two-thirds of the P.O.s and three-quarters of the C.P.O.s refrained from attending this the most important meeting of the year.

What the meeting lacked in numbers was perhaps compensated by the keenness and enthusiasm of those who did attend. A large amount of good work was got through; no one held the floor for an undue time, and the less articulate, who often cannot get a word in edgeways, were able to put in their spoke to advantage.

### Achievements.

Progress reports on matters arising from the last meeting showed that much had either been accomplished or was under way. We are promised mid-week publication of the Sunday List, better lighting and heating at Princes Pier baggage hall, and improved office accommodation as regards furniture and stationery equipment. More tables and document lockers will be a help, but the increase is strictly limited by available floor space—which needs to be doubled or even trebled to achieve reasonable conditions of comfort and efficiency.

Owing to the reduction in the number of A.P.O.s caused by the promotion of Messrs. Atkinson and Douglas (to whom hearty congratulations) it seems fairly certain that the suggested transfer of Sunday Telephone Duties from A.P.O.s to P.O.s will now be granted.

The objection to the order that on Form S25A individual items not produced are each to be initialled by the master or authorised person had been given sympathetic consideration by the Official Side, but the order had not been rescinded. The objection of the Staff Side was not merely to the waste of time

involved, but because it was believed that the order was designed to ensure that the certifying P.O. actually made the necessary enquiries before writing the items off as non-produced. If this were true it was regarded as a slur on the integrity of the grade, and it was contended that, if it had been necessary to take what would then amount to disciplinary action, it was not right that members of ships' crews should be made witnesses and active parties to it.

The provision of an extra P.O. on the Dock Station had been refused on the grounds of the fluctuating nature of the work there, but help as and when necessary was promised.

The order requiring primes to be classified according to group letter, which, as recently reported, was objected to, has been washed out by the A. & C.G.

#### Correspondence (mendicant).

Ironically enough, the only correspondence from the outports was from Stranraer—which boasts 100% non-membership! I am reminded of the soap-box orator who said fervently: "Thank God I am an atheist!" Those who deny their Association are the first to turn to it in their hour of need. Nevertheless, the meeting heard the Stranraer letter and would have been willing to help had it been in its power to do so. Unfortunately, the information sought was not available. We shall always be pleased to assist any of the staff with their problems, be they members or otherwise: the non-member receives so much charity from the P.S.A. that we shall not begrudge that which we as a district can do to help him. We may, however, occasionally remind him that, should he at any time tire of his mendicancy, there will always be an honoured place for him within the fold where he may receive the benefits of association by right instead of by grace.

#### A Very Fine Effort.

The District Organiser presented his report and it was acclaimed as highly creditable. After paying all expenses, £95 odd is forwarded to H.Q. Thirty-seven of the thirty-eight Greenock staff are paying members, and only 13s. in subscriptions remain uncollected.

Of the outports two, Oban and Stranraer, have no members, whilst all the one-man ports are 100% paid up. It is these one-man ports that have most excuse for feeling "out of it": their only

contact with their Association is the Journal; they have no opportunities for discussion with their colleagues, and travelling difficulties usually make attendance at P.S.A. meetings next to impossible. It is therefore all the more to their credit that all our one-man ports show 100% membership.

Figures for the remainder of the ports are fair and several members have paid up quite hefty sums in back subscriptions. The proportion of non-members is higher amongst the A.P.O.s than the P.O.s. Can't have this, you know! What about it, chaps?

These figures show a great improvement over preceding years and reflect great credit on the District Organiser, who has not only retained all previous support, but has converted several die-hard non-members and has extorted or cajoled subscriptions out of all the "honorary" members.

#### Election of Officers.

The following Office Bearers were elected:—

Chairman: F. E. Emery, Esq.

Vice-Chairman: W. G. Sutton, Esq.

District Secretary: \*D. H. Fitch, Esq.

District Organiser, \*C. Macdougall, Esq.

A.P.O. Whitley Representatives:

\*E. S. Eddowes, Esq.

\*—, —, Stobbs, Esq. (Ayr).

Journal Correspondent: \*B. A. Benning, Esq.

Auditors:

D. McCurdy, Esq.

W. G. Sutton, Esq.

\* Re-elected.

#### Mobile Rummage.

Attention was drawn to the obvious leakage at various points on the coast where ships' crews and others can land without, or practically without, Customs control. It is known that smuggling is taking place on a scale far larger than that of a seaman taking home a couple of "plugs" for his "old man." Sufficient seizures have been made within the last twelve months to incommode whoever is responsible, but they have not resulted in anything like prevention.

From time to time the staff have asked not only for more rummage crews, but that the existing crew should have more opportunities for actual rummage and spend less time on extraneous duties. The latter desire was partially fulfilled,

with gratifying results, but no single rummage crew can cope with smuggling on its present scale.

Recently some of our officers, in the course of thirty-two hours continuous rummage, made, among others, several unowned seizures of a kind which indicated that the owner or owners intended the goods for commercial purposes and not for personal use or for any conceivable number of friends. Yet no sooner had the rummagers left the vessel than certain unidentified persons were seen by a member of the ship's crew to conduct a public auction of the remainder of the consignment; evidently we had but skimmed the surface. Had it been possible to exercise sufficient control of the coast the bulk of these goods would undoubtedly have been recovered and the owners prosecuted, for nearly all the goods were of a description which could only be for disposal ashore.

Now there are nearly one hundred miles of coastline within the port of Greenock and, at a rough calculation, that within the District must be in the neighbourhood of a thousand miles. The one and only rummage crew is confined to the limits of the port and spends much of its time on baggage and boarding duties. Visits to possible landing places are rare and confined to the better-known ones. The rest is just wide open.

Of some large-scale smuggling we know; as regards those parts of the coast as yet uncontrolled we can but surmise what may be afoot from a knowledge of the opportunities available to any who may wish to take advantage of them. Suffice it to say that the few raids which the rummage crew have been able to make on such places have never yet failed to produce a seizure. Apart from the adverse effect on the national revenue, this state of affairs has an appreciable effect on the sales of retail traders: neither can this effect be confined to the immediate vicinity, for contraband has been apprehended which was destined for places much further away.

It is the considered opinion of the staff that only by the installation of a mobile rummage crew with a completely free hand can this well-established racket be combated with any reasonable measure of success.

B. A. BENNING.

## SOUTHAMPTON DISTRICT MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Southampton District was held on Tuesday, 18th April, 1944, with Mr. V. J. Benham in the Chair, and well over 50% of the local membership in attendance.

Nominations of officials to act during 1944-45 were tendered and, without any contesting, the following Officers were elected unanimously:

Chairman: Mr. V. J. Benham, A.P.O.  
Vice-Chairman: Mr. A. G. Gatford, P.O.

District Organiser: Mr. A. E. Fry, A.P.O.

District Secretary: Mr. B. A. Bacon, P.O.

P.O. Grade Whitley Representatives: Messrs. Gatford and Platten.

A.P.O. Grade Whitley Representatives: Messrs. McNeill and Lindell.

District Auditors: Mr. H. S. Young, P.O., and Mr. G. F. Lindell, A.P.O.

Journal Correspondent: Mr. L. Battersby, A.P.O.

The retiring District Organiser, Mr. A. H. Sweet, was warmly thanked for his services to the district since 1940, and similar appreciation was recorded of the representation received during 1943-44 from our A.P.O. Grade Councillor, Mr. G. T. Clarke, of Plymouth.

The main item of the Agenda was then discussed at length, concerning mainly the A.P.O. Grade and the man-power question. In view of the shortage of A.P.O.s, the duties previously performed by ten officers were re-arranged for performance by a possible seven or eight officers, and the opinions expressed by the Grade representatives at an earlier and informal discussion with the Official Side was approved, reluctant as the Staff were to see the introduction of any twelve-hour duties. The manner of out-port relief linked up with this question, and the Grade representatives were instructed to negotiate for a system of self-relief where possible, and, failing that, an equal distribution of relieving in the three larger ports of the district, to obviate the whole burden falling on this port alone. (See "Southampton Notes," current issue.)

The exigencies of the Service brought the Meeting to a hurried close, with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

I. B.

## LIVERPOOL DISTRICT

The conveners of the Special Area Meeting on Planning of the Post-War Service which should have been held at the Common Hall, Hackins Hey, Liverpool, at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, May 10th, 1944, have asked me to apologise on their behalf to any Members who may have been inconvenienced by the late cancellation of the meeting.

It was learned during the afternoon of Wednesday, May 10th, that unexpected and unforeseen service exigencies would require the attendance on duty that evening of every available Officer, and it was therefore necessary at the last minute to postpone the meeting.

Every effort was made to inform Members of the position, but unfortunately it was not possible to contact everybody and one or two were disappointed.

It is intended to rearrange the meeting for an early date, when all the items already submitted for consideration will be reviewed. Due notice of the new arrangements will be circulated as soon as they are complete.

BILL HUGHES.

## Merseyside News

Forces items have been very few recently, although two bits of news from India may be interesting.

Sid Dixon, who has been out there for some time, is still going strong. He has earned his Commission and is now Lieut. S. Dixon. Harry Worthington is also still there; at present he's taking an O.C.T.U. course; no doubt he, too, will be sporting pips in the near future.

Jack Borrough and his Motor Boat are now based in Italy; he seems to keep moving around the Mediterranean area.

Signalman Bob Stacey is in this country; he, apparently, is also fit and well and waiting for the invasion to start.

Had the pleasure of meeting two R.N.V.R. lads with Cardiff connections recently.

Lieut. Gordon Pattison is navigating officer aboard one of H.M. escort vessels and Petty Officer George Whittingham passed here on his way back from a long spell overseas. Both looked to be in the pink, and send their good wishes to all friends in South Wales and elsewhere.

That's the news to date.

BILL HUGHES.

## Southampton Notes

Little Forces news this time, but Overseas mail from Flight-Sergt. Les Twentymann tells of his experiences in Canada, the U.S.A., and the Bahamas. He is in good form, although finding nothing in Nassau to write of, and he expects to continue globe-trotting in the near future. Sergt. Charlie Cardall, in reminiscent mood, writes from a Rest Camp amongst the hills above Ceylon, and dwells in anticipation of a maybe 1944 home return; likewise Joe, afloat in the back of beyond, commenting with enthusiasm upon the pleasure of hearing a wireless set for the first time in three years. His opposite number, Cliff Pearson, has now left local waters and should be renewing old acquaintances in Scotland by the time you read this. Back in Scotland, too, is Gilbert Walker, on D.D. at Glasgow after four years of active service with the Royal Artillery in the South of England. We are all hoping that his return to "Civvy Street" will also see his speedy return to good health.

Jack Welsh returned North after a good leave down South, and we're hoping for news from him before the next issue, while John Sykes writes in from that mysterious address, c/o Army Post Office, England, where he is in good trim for "D" Day; likewise Arthur Cheney, seen in Holyhead during April. All the boys send their good wishes to their pals, home and away.

No exiles news during April, but from Newport we have greetings from Teddy Oliver after four months away, and he is finding S. Wales to be congenial in most respects, while from Glasgow recent mail gives good news of our several friends in that port. Arthur Sweet was promoted, on D.D., to Fleetwood at the end of April, and he carries with him the good wishes of all in Southampton for the days ahead. Just prior to Arthur's promotion we held our 1944 Annual P.S.A. General Meeting (see report in current issue), and he received a unanimous vote of thanks for his services as District Organiser since 1940. He is succeeded as D.O. by Bert Fry, whilst for the first time in years a P.O., Mr. B. A. Bacon, is operating as District Secretary. The meeting was a good one, in the circumstances, and the 1944-45 elections proceeded very smoothly, including as they did the election of two P.O. Grade Whitley Representatives,

which office has been vacant since Mr. B. R. Clarke, P.O., left Southampton for Inverness.

Subsequent to the above Meeting, our representatives secured agreement on the Outport Relief question, and in future the A.P.O. Grade will only be required for relief duties at Cowes and Bridport, emergencies excluded.

The shortage of A.P.O.s in Southampton port was to have been met by operating a two-legged overlapping 12-hour duty on the River Station and Western Docks combined, and with the arrival of the Summer Leave Scheme the Old Docks was to have been operated by two A.P.O.s on 12-hour duty, thus covering the absence of the Officer on leave, but such arrangements are now a thing of the past.

The next meeting will probably be our pre-Conference Meeting, as we understand that the 1944 Conference will be held early in the Summer, and we hope to give our Councillors, Messrs. H. L. V. Phillips and G. T. Clark, all possible instructions in good time.

The announcement of an August examination for promotion to the P.O. grade caused animated discussion around the old tables here, and the staff's wishes for a successful result are tendered to every man concerned, and in particular to Bill Martin, on D.D. at Maryport, and the four ex-Sotonians, Messrs. Harding, Clarke, Crane and Shaw.

Due to circumstances beyond our control, these may be our last "Notes" for a month or two. However, we'll do our best, so keep writing; usual address.

Cheerio, Forces!

L. B.

## The Lads o' London

The announcement in O.W.O., 19/44, of an examination for promotion to the rank of Preventive Officer came as a surprise to many and caused some "fluttering in the dovescotes." Some ports have prepared for same by having had classes in "full swing" for some time past, and it is regretted that London is lacking in this respect. Two of our number have been invited to attend the next examination, and we wish Messrs. Bailey and Pollard every success in August next.

Congratulations to John Cormack and Harry Lane on their promotion, and we trust that their stay in Liverpool will

be enjoyable. The best of luck, too, to George Bain and Len Bulford, who have gone on detached duty.

Welcome home to Messrs. Brooks, Charles, Donovan, Flaxman, Jones and Speed after their absence in other ports.

News from the Forces is very scanty this month. There is news of the well-being of our contingent in India, and every one of them there is intensely interested in the development of the P.S.A. post-war reconstruction plans for our Department. In fact, all the Forces members are crying out for news of such plans. 'Twould be grand if they could have a sort of V.E.S. course whilst they are in the Services solely to keep their memories green regarding the every-day work of the Waterguard. What about it, Beer Lane?

Several have enquired what are the Board's plans re the early return to duty of colleagues in the Forces after the war has ended. Apparently nothing is known at this juncture, but no doubt such an early return would not be long delayed.

I would welcome a revival of the large correspondence that formerly was my pleasure to deal with, and at the same time to be a useful dispenser of news to you all. It is up to you if you want to maintain your own column in the Journal.

Let's hear from you, then.

Till the lights o' London shine again.  
R. J. L.

## Correspondence

The Editor, the Customs Journal.

Dear Sir,

My thanks to H.E.P.B. for his article on "Vocational Education," printed in last February's issue of the "C.J." which has just reached me.

I entered the London Waterguard five years ago, but as four of these years have been spent in the Navy, I can profess very little knowledge of the workings of my department. I am sure there are many A.P.O.s besides myself who would welcome the initial training, intermediate and advanced tuition H.E.P.B. proposes, as well as the special courses in such subjects as Court proceedings, etc.

But why wait for our return from the Services? Could the Correspondence Schools' technique not be emulated and courses sent us by post so that we might profitably spend our leisure moments in their study?

I can assure you of one very willing subscriber to such a project, which would not only benefit me and the many others like me, but would also benefit the Waterguard Service, which would not have a lot of "greenhorns" returning to it after an absence of four or five years.

I am, yours faithfully,

JOHN GRIFFIN.

Dear Sir,

I, too, was interested in the correspondence concerning the origin of the Customs (Naval?) ring and curl written by Mr. Benning and answered by Mr. Leftwich, the Librarian of the Custom House, who quotes dates from official records. But, to my mind, these dates do not necessarily signify that Captains or Masters of Customs Revenue cutters did not display the ring and curl prior to the Royal Navy having official sanction, for is it not a fact that prior to the Navy having a standard uniform, members of the nautical profession were allowed to decorate themselves as fancy dictated?

Yours faithfully,

NOD.

*Ripley, in Believe it or Not ("Sunday Express," 21st May), says "in 1854 the captain of H.M.S. Harlequin had the crew of his gig dressed as harlequins! It was not until three years later that a regular uniform for the Navy was decided upon by the Admiralty."*—ED.

## CHANGES IN THE STAFF

To 15th May, 1944.

### PROMOTIONS

**Assistant Preventive Officers to Preventive Officers (Acting) (on Detached Duty):**

Brown, W. L., Swansea.

Moore, J. N. S., North Shields, Newcastle.

Painter, R. C., Plymouth.

Ramsey, N. A., Gravesend. London.

Simkins, A. R., Dover.

Simpson, F., Avonmouth, Bristol.

Sweet, A. H., Southampton.

### OFFICERS LEAVING THE SERVICE

#### Retirements:

##### Preventive Officer:

Presents, C. E., Shoreham.

##### Preventive Officer (Acting):

Wardell, T. C., Goroughwood Land Boundary, Belfast.

#### Death:

##### Preventive Officer:

Bullock, H. M., Dover.

### OBITUARY OF SUPERANNATED OFFICER

Thomson, J., Preventive Officer.

## OBITUARY

### Flight Sergt. HERBERT JOHN RALPH, R.A.F.V.R.

The news that "Bert" Ralph had been killed came as a great shock to his colleagues in Liverpool.

Eager to serve, he volunteered for flying duties while still waiting for call up to the Royal Navy, his first choice. He qualified for his "wings" in Canada, returning to serve with R.A.F. Coastal and Transport Commands.

Prior to joining the R.A.F., Bert had established himself as a firm favourite with the Liverpool staff. The keen interest which he always showed in his work, combined with his general good nature and ready smile made those of us who worked with him feel very keenly the loss of such a fine type of colleague and friend.

The funeral took place on Saturday, April 22nd, the interment being at the Garden of Rest, Thornton, following a service at St. Luke's Crosby. The coffin, draped with the Union Jack, was borne by an R.A.F. party, all air crew members.

There were many colleagues in the A.P.O. and P.O. grades present, all of whom were in uniform, an impressive sight, harmonising effectively with the lighter blue of the R.A.F.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to Mrs. Ralph and family on this sad occasion—their second bereavement in recent months. Bert was the only son, and his father, who was also well known to the local staff, passed away last year. To them we can simply say: your loss is also ours; we shall often think of him and remember kindly.

### HENRY MAURICE BULLOCK,

#### Preventive Officer.

The death on Sunday, April 23rd, 1944, of "Harry" Bullock, at the early age of 44 years is a severe blow to the Waterguard Service, for we can ill afford at this juncture to lose men of his calibre.

His exceptional record of achievements as a Revenue Officer made him an almost legendary figure known far and wide.

His famous cases at Dover and elsewhere are far too numerous to chronicle here, but it is a fact he was commended for his work by the Hon. Board on upwards of a dozen occasions—surely a record.

He came to Liverpool on detached duty in January, 1941, and although it was known that he was not physically strong, few could have anticipated that his illness, which began towards the end of last year, would end thus.

A major operation was performed in February, and although he rallied somewhat for a time, he never recovered sufficiently to leave Fazakerley Hospital, where he died.

The body was removed for burial at Roydon, near Ware, Herts, where he was interred very quietly on Friday, April 28th, 1944. Mr. W. S. Kemp, P.O., travelled to represent the staff; wreaths were sent on behalf of both Liverpool and Dover.

Mr. Kemp had been a constant daily visitor to the hospital, and our thanks are certainly due to him for all he did on our behalf.

Our sympathy is extended to Mrs. Bullock and family in their great loss.

W. C. H.

Although I had met him at Dover, my first real contact with him was at Hastings. I had received information that a local "cheapjack" was selling watches smuggled by himself on the cross Channel day trip boat. It was before the days of mobile crews, so I asked the Superintendent, Dover, to send an astute officer to Hastings for about a week or ten days "holiday" to see what he could find out. Being in the neighbourhood, I ran over to Hastings and met the said officer, who turned out to be Bullock, then an A.P.O., a quiet unassuming chap with all his Customs wits about him. He told me what he had done up to date, and when I left I felt sure that if the job could be done he would do it. So far as smuggling went, it was a frost, but he caught his man in an Excise offence. I wondered what the local officer would say about this, but he was the great Reggie Hunter, who, so far from objecting to an A.P.O. coming into his field, was full of praise for Bullock and his efforts. Since those days scarcely a week passed without my seeing H. M. B. on a 458, and his latest achievements at a certain aerodrome were on a par with those of his palmy days at Dover. Two first-rate jobs from the very first plane on the day he took over the baggage examination; and so it went on, not only Customs but Security cases as well. Any dodger who tried conclusions with him was extremely lucky if he got away with a whole skin. The one who

called him "a real Customs Officer" knew what he was talking about. There are many others to carry on the good work, but he will be sadly missed by all who believe that the primary duty of the Preventive Service is to prevent smuggling.

Our sincere sympathy goes out to his family in their tragic bereavement. The Service is poorer by a faithful and diligent officer and we by a good colleague.

—R.I.P.

C. M. W.

## TERMINO STAGNATIONIS

(or a new bolt from the blue).

There's a breathless hush in the class to-night,

Ten who quake e'er their tasks begin;  
It's a "stumping" match to find out  
who's right

In a game where all have the chance  
to win.

And it's not for the sake of a braided  
coat,

Or the selfish hope of a P.O.'s fame;  
But that Destiny's hand on their  
shoulders smote  
"A 'call-up's' due that includes your  
name."

The sands run out, you must bow your  
head

In reflection deep: let no word be  
spoke.

Definitions alone be your daily bread,  
And in "Spirits" and "Wine" let  
your brain pan soak.

A river of ink may brim its banks,  
Tears, toil, and sweat bedew your  
frame;

But you'd better be ready to join the  
ranks

Of those who are training to play the  
game.

This is the word that year by year.

While in stagnation the staff was set.  
Every one of us longed to hear

While we swotted codes no one dared  
forget.

Codes, that in blackest distress of mind  
We had almost resolved to consign to  
flame,

Are precious now; and though we go  
blind

With study, we'll play, and we'll win  
this game!

J. C. G.

## HOW TO RUN YOUR MEETINGS, ETC.

By SLIPPERY SAM

(Continued from page 48.)

For example, a motion is made, "That this meeting objects to the frequent visits of the Surveyor." Someone, known as the Creeper, suggests an amendment that the word "objects" be deleted and the word "welcomes" substituted. This is ruled out by the chairman, as it is a direct negative. An amendment is made and passed substituting for "frequent visits" "excessive number of telephone messages to officers on night work," and an addendum putting "and day" after the word "night" accepted by the movers (but see below). The whole substantive motion is then put and passed.

But though the objection is now down in the minutes, it doesn't say how what is objected to can be dealt with. Is it to be a letter to the Surveyor or to his superior by the Secretary, a deputation (rather an out-of-date practice, like the "round robin") to him or his superior, a matter for the local Whitley Council, a matter for advice from Headquarters, or is it left to the Secretary to do what he thinks best?

Too many motions are left stillborn in the minutes book for lack of proper instruction or because they just can't lead to action or are *pious motions* ("That this meeting is of the opinion that tariff reform is long overdue") or are completely impracticable ("That this meeting advocates a four-hour day").

A Chairman must be quite impartial, and should, within his rules, not interfere with the decisions of members, but he should *guide* them, and his guidance should prevent the pointless motion.

He should also see that motions needing action should be brought up at each meeting until the action is completed. This is the biggest mistake minutes secretaries make: letting uncompleted business lie over without record.

One other little point is this: strictly, when a motion is made, it is the property of the meeting and cannot be withdrawn by the movers nor can they, without the meeting's consent, accept a change to it. In fact, the wise chairman will not apply this rule always.

When discussion is prolonged and the motion has not been put to the vote, a

motion may be made of "other business" or "that the motion lie on the table until—" (say, the next meeting), and this motion must be put without discussion, and if passed, the next item on the agenda must be dealt with. Long discussion without a motion can similarly be closed. The chairman himself can decide to proceed to other business if there is no motion, but he will be wise to avoid charges of prejudice or of using the big stick.

The effect of a motion of "the previous question" or "reference back" (usually used in connection with a motion to pass a report: the reference back can be of all or part of the report) is the same.

A chairman has two votes, the second one being the casting vote if voting on a motion be even. He will be wise never to use the first one, and to pray that he'll never have to use the second. It is customary to use the casting vote in favour of the existing position, if the motion demands a change.

A motion of no confidence in the Chair must be put without discussion. If passed, the chair is vacated.

A Chairman may vacate his chair if the Vice-Chairman or another deputy takes his place. He will do this to prevent ending the meeting if he has to go away, temporarily, from the meeting or if he wishes to take part in discussion or if a new chairman is about to be elected.

A motion to rescind a previous minute, if the chairman permits it, must be passed unanimously.

A motion may have a preamble setting out its purpose, thus: "As the size of the present retiring room at Dash Depot is too small for the existing staff, and as officers are therefore overworked at meal-times, this meeting moves that, etc."

A chairman should familiarise himself with the business of the meeting before the meeting, and, without speech-making (always to be avoided) or display of bias, should introduce each subject as he comes to it. He should never allow his decisions upon order to be questioned. He should watch carefully those persons who rise to "a point of order, Mr. Chairman," or "a point of information,

Mr. Chairman," but he should allow such interruptions if they are genuinely what they claim to be and give his ruling on the point of order and the information on the point of information. He may have to ask someone else at the meeting for the latter. Otherwise he keeps all discussion to the subject on which there is a motion or an amendment (never more than one amendment at a time), have little discussion without a motion, and pass on to the next business when the motion has been dealt with.

Tact, tolerance, judgment, patience, strength, knowledge, sagacity, all these are what a good chairman should possess. But if you get one less than a superman who will quietly adhere to the obvious rule just given, your meetings will be good ones.

More about the duties of a chairman will be given later.

\* \* \*

Suppose the Agenda for the meeting is as follows:—

Motions of Urgency.

Minutes of the last meeting.

Business arising.

Correspondence.

Reports of (a) the Councillor, (b) the Sub-Committee on Soap Supply, (c) the local Whitley Councillor (or any other reports).

Financial Statement.

MOTION. "That light woollen underwear be supplied in the winter months."

MOTION: "That the custom of drinking tea at eleven in the morning be suspended."

Any Other Business.

The Chairman has signed the minutes, the correspondence has been read, some action relating to *each* letter having been decided on by the meeting (that it be answered in such and such terms, that it lie on the table, that the grant asked for be given, that it be dealt with by a motion under other business, etc.), and the reports given. Each report must be accepted or otherwise by the meeting, and motions arising from them left for other business (usually). The financial statement may be omitted. Motions are dealt with as indicated above.

The last item then (and it's twenty to ten already) is A.O.B., or Any Other Business. There may be some room for discussion as to the order of items in the dummy agenda I have given, but there is no question as to what the last item is. (Votes of thanks should be dis-

pensed with). Where there is room for doubt is as to the amount of free-wheeling which should be allowed under this heading.

No good chairman will stick too rigidly to his rules, and he will often allow discussion, for air-clearing purposes, especially if it involves criticism of the officers, or questions to the officers which can be answered without a formal motion. But A.O.B. can be so prolonged and so lacking in worth-while results that he must in the end, where the matter is important enough (and yet not so important that the members should not have had prior notice of it) insist as usual on a motion, he must limit the discussion and, if the matter is unimportant, close it as soon as decently possible. The people who use A.O.B. as a rag-bag for any item which wouldn't fit in earlier in the meeting or which they then overlooked, may dislike the firmness, but the alternative is an "Irish parliament," everyone talking at once, and to no purpose.

After A.O.B., the Chairman should declare the meeting closed.

No one should have left the meeting earlier without his permission. Likewise, all late-comers to the meeting must apologise to him.

The chairman is the incarnation of the meeting; he is, in theory, the summing up of each individual present, his concentration, and the obedience and respect given to him is given to the body he is chairman of—that is, to yourselves. Always respect him and nobly accept his rulings. Chairmen will deserve this respect if they are strong without being overbearing and knowledgeable without condescension, if they are considerate to the person unfamiliar with procedure but wise to the tricks of the old hand.

All remarks at a meeting, of course, must be addressed to him. You can, of course, speak to another person through him: "Mr. Chairman, may I ask the Treasurer what he did with that odd half-crown?" The Treasurer will answer when the chairman tells him to.

A good chairman is seven-tenths of a meeting. The others present, except the Secretary, are two-tenths. But there will be no whole without the Secretary. He is invaluable, but he is not the whole meeting. Which brings us to the duties of a Secretary.

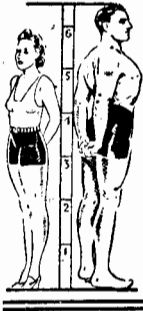
(To be continued.)

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