

Customs and Excise

Regulations governing the employment of ratings
aboard H.M. Revenue Cruiser "Vigilant"

1. General. The cruiser is 164 feet length, 27 feet beam, 13 feet draft, approximately 500 tons gross, and is fitted with an 860 h.p. triple expansion engine. The vessel will be based normally at Southampton and will be employed in patrolling, boarding, and rummaging duties in coastal waters, and in occasional cruises as required, within the Home Trade limits.
2. Persons eligible. Applications for employment are normally entertained only from persons who have been awarded a life pension for service in H.M. Forces, but for the present, in the absence of such applicants, applications will exceptionally be considered from other suitable candidates.
3. Initial engagement. Initially employment is on a temporary basis for a period of one year. Whilst it is usual in normal cases of termination of employment to give seven days notice, employment is in all cases at the pleasure of the Crown (see also paragraph 18 as to termination of employment).
4. Applications. Applications from ex-Regulars should be made to the National Association for Employment of Regular Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen, 62, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1., on the appropriate form which can be obtained from the Association. Other applicants should apply to the Secretary, Customs and Excise, King's Beam House, Mark Lane, London, E.C.3.
5. Nationality. Candidates must satisfy the Civil Service rules as to British nationality.
6. Physical requirements. Candidates are required to undergo a medical examination to satisfy the Department as to their physical fitness for their duties. Normal eyesight and hearing are necessary, and candidates must be capable of performing active duties by day or night and in all weathers. Deck and engine-room staff must pass the prescribed Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation sight test (including, for deck staff, the lantern test) on entry, and at three-yearly intervals thereafter.
7. Navigational test for deck staff. After a member of the deck staff has been on duty for three months, a test will be made of his ability in the handling of a launch, and of his knowledge of the rules of the road at sea, and of local harbour bye-laws. If he fails to pass this test, his services may be dispensed with immediately, and he will not be given preferential consideration for any other post in the Department.
8. Appointment to established posts. Members of the crew of the "Vigilant" are normally eligible for consideration for establishment after completing one year's unestablished service. When established, they will be placed on probation for a period of 12 months. If at the end of this period a candidate has failed to satisfy the Department that he is in all respects suitable for permanent employment, he will be discharged.
9. Pay. Current rates of pay for ratings are as follows:-

	£	s.	d.	
Boatswain	12	0	10	per week
Donkeyman	12	0	10	"
Fireman	11	6	4	"
Able Seaman	11	3	10	"
Steward	12	14	11	"
Cook	11	14	8	"
Messroom Steward	10	8	10	"

10. Overtime. Overtime will be paid at the undermentioned rates for hours necessarily worked in excess of 56 per week, or pro rata, on account of short complement of deck, engine-room or catering ratings when the cruiser is away from home port. All other excess hours worked will be compensated by time off on return to base. No night allowance or Sunday pay will be payable.

Boatswain	}	4s. 7d. per hour
Donkeyman		
Steward		
Cook		
Fireman	}	4s. 4d. per hour
Able Seaman		

Messroom Steward 4s. 0d. per hour

11. Seagoing victualling allowance. A seagoing victualling allowance of 2s. 0d. a day will be paid to all ratings for each day of a cruise including the day of sailing and the day of arrival at base.

12. Hours.

(a) While patrolling or cruising the crew will be liable for duty at any time of the day or night.

(b) When the cruiser is at her moorings the normal working spell is not expected to exceed more than eight hours in every twenty-four, and at the discretion of the Commander, the deck and engine-room staff will be granted reasonable shore leave outside normal working hours.

13. Food Crew will find their own provisions.

14. Uniform Uniform will be an official issue and will be worn by all members of the crew when on board.

15. Annual Leave. Subject to the requirements of the Public Service, leave with full pay is allowed at the rate of 16 days a year, exclusive of Sundays, Public and Privilege Holidays.

16. Sick Leave. On first appointment ratings will be eligible for sick leave on the terms applicable to temporary and unestablished staff. These terms provide that during the first year of service sick leave with full pay (subject to deductions of National Insurance benefit, if drawn) may be granted up to a maximum of 6 working days for every 4 weeks of effective service. If the candidate is appointed to an established post (see paragraph 8) he will be eligible, as from the date of issue of his Certificate of Qualification, for the sick leave terms applicable to established staff, which are set out in the standing instructions issued to every member of the Department.

Any modification of these sick leave terms which may be necessary to meet the special circumstances of service abroad the "Vigilant" will be considered as required.

17. Pension. Subject to the issue of a Certificate of Qualification, service prior to its issue but subsequent to 14th July, 1949, will count in full for pension, etc., purposes in accordance with the provisions of the Superannuation Acts. No contributions are required to secure benefits under these Acts, but persons entering the Civil Service after 1st March, 1948, will, as a general rule, have their Civil Service pensions abated at age 65 (men) to take account of the retiring pension for which they will qualify under the National Insurance Act, 1946. The amount of the abatement will increase with the length of the

person's pensionable civil service, but will not, under the present regulations, exceed 26s. weekly. Married members of the crew will be subject to and single members may elect to pay contributions under the Widows' and Children's Pension scheme.

18. Termination of Employment. In the case of misconduct a man will be liable to instant dismissal. Retention in the Service beyond the age of 60 will be subject to a satisfactory annual report on the health and efficiency of the official. Employment beyond the age of 65 will not normally be allowed.

19. General Staff Rules. Temporary staff are subject to the General Staff Rules contained in Establishment Instructions, Volumes 4, 6, 7 and 8 to which their attention is drawn. Copies of these instructions are supplied to each individual.

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