

WOMEN FOR CUSTOMS SERVICE PREVENTIVE WORK

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT LIVERPOOL, MAY 24

A long tradition in the Customs service that kept women outside its membership is about to be broken. Ex-service women clerical officers are now undergoing a course of instruction at the Customs and Excise Department's training college in London, which next week will send its first batch of women to share in the work of the Waterguard - the preventive branch of the Customs service.

They will go to London, Liverpool, the packet ports and airports. It is expected that Liverpool will have four who will work at the landing stage and at Speke Airport. The practice in the past has been for police matrons and cloakroom attendants, under the authority of Customs officers, to search women passengers and women members of ships' crews.

These new officers, when not required for this particular task, will do clerical work at the Waterguard offices. Their uniform will be on the lines of the W.R.N.S. officers, with gold lace cuff decoration.

The Times dated 25 May 1948