ADMIRALTY FLEET ORDER

RECEPTION AND DISPOSAL OF PRISONERS OF WAR REPATRIATED FROM GERMANY

ADMIRALTY, S.W.1,
5th October, 1944.

The following Order having been approved by My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty is hereby promulgated for information and guidance and necessary action.

By Command of Their Lordships,

[Signature]

To all Commanders-in-Chief, Flag Officers, Senior Naval Officers, Captains and Commanding Officers of H.M. Ships, Vessels and C.O. Craft (see A.F.O. 3758/44) Superintendents or Officers in Charge of H.M. Naval Establishments, and Admiralty Overseers concerned.

Note:—The scale of distribution is shown in the Admiralty Fleet Order Volume, 1941, Instructions, paragraph 10.

(68672)
Ex-prisoners of war repatriated from Germany on the cessation of hostilities will, it is anticipated, return in mixed drafts composed of all Services, both Dominion and Allied. With the object of expediting their discharge on arrival at the port, airfield or airport, all Naval or Royal Marine personnel will be immediately taken over by the local Naval authorities.

2. Personnel will be disposed of as follows:

(i) Naval and Royal Marine Officers will proceed to a selected Naval Establishment as near as possible to the port of disembarkation. (See Appendix C.)

(ii) Naval ratings and Royal Marine other ranks will proceed direct to their respective depots in every case where there are sufficient numbers to make a trainload.

(b) Where numbers of Naval ratings and Royal Marine other ranks arrive in insufficient numbers to make up a trainload, arrangements will be made, if possible, to transfer them to the appropriate station in order to entain by ordinary train services to their depots.

(c) Where, owing to the time of arrival or for some other reason, the procedure in (ii) (b) above is impossible, the repatriated prisoners of war will be taken to the nearest Naval Establishment to the port of disembarkation until arrangements can be made for them to travel to their respective home depots. (See Appendix C.)

(d) Arrangements will be made by the Naval Medical Transport Officer for the transport of sick repatriated prisoners of war to the nearest Naval hospital.

3. The instructions contained in this Fleet Order come into force forthwith with and C.A.F.O. 1800/44, which contains the current instructions concerning repatriated prisoners of war, escapers and evaders, is therefore cancelled. In the following cases, however, the names and disposal of Naval and Royal Marine personnel should be reported by telegram to the War Office, M.I.9, Room 327, Hotel Victoria, Northumberland Avenue, W.C.2.

(i) Personnel arriving in this country prior to the conclusion of hostilities who claim to be escaped prisoners of war or to have evaded capture in enemy or enemy occupied country (unless they are in possession of a certificate to the effect that they have been interviewed abroad by M.I.9, in which case no action is necessary).

(ii) Individuals or non-conducted parties arriving after the conclusion of hostilities.

4. Detailed instructions in relation to leave, advances of pay, etc., will be found in the Appendices to this Order.

APPENDIX A—OFFICERS

INSTRUCTIONS TO NAVAL ESTABLISHMENTS FOR RECEIPT OF PARTIES OF NAVAL AND ROYAL MARINE OFFICERS

1. All Naval and Royal Marine Officers repatriated from Germany will, on disembarkation in the United Kingdom, proceed to a selected Naval establishment as near as possible to the point of disembarkation.

Royal Marine Officers will go from the Naval establishment direct to their Royal Marine Divisions from which they will be sent on leave. The only parts of these instructions to Naval establishments applicable to Royal Marine Officers relate to enemy currency (paragraph 3), the supply of identity cards (paragraph 11) and battle dress (paragraph 14.)

2. Leave.—The scale of leave to be granted to repatriated prisoners of war is as follows:

Fourteen days Repatriation Leave, plus Foreign Service Leave on the scale of seven days for every six months' foreign service, the aggregate to be not less than 28 days. Time as prisoner of war counts as foreign service.

In order to facilitate the calculation of the amount of foreign service leave due, each officer is to be asked to state the date on which he last left the United Kingdom, and this information is to be noted in the nominal roll (paragraph 15).

Officers not found fit will either be retained in hospital or sent on sick leave. Repatriation Leave and Foreign Service Leave will not commence until the officer has been found fit.

3. Enemy Currency and Token Money.—Repatriated prisoners of war will have been told to retain any enemy currency and token money received by them in captivity until their arrival in this country. Such currency should be forwarded to the Paymaster of Contingencies, Admiralty, Foxhill Hutments, Combe Down, Bath, for disposal, and should be accompanied by a nominal list showing the name, rank and the amount of each category of currency or token money. The latter should be shown separately. Two copies of the nominal list are to be forwarded to the Director of Navy Accounts, Branch 4, who will take the necessary action to credit the officers' accounts at the appropriate rate of exchange. A receipt should be given to each officer of the amount of currency and token money surrendered. Details of pay, etc., issued during captivity will be obtained by officers completing the form shown in Part D of this Appendix. This form will be forwarded to officers, together with form P.O.W./Clo (see paragraph 14) by the Accountant Officers, H.M. Ships "President I" and "Mersey." In the case of Royal Marines, these forms should be issued at their Headquarters before they go on leave.

4. Pay.—Officers' pay accounts will continue to beborne, for the periods of Repatriation Leave and Foreign Service Leave, for any subsequent period waiting effective appointment and also for any grants of Full Pay Sick Leave, on the books on which they were borne as prisoners of war, viz:


R.N. Officers At their respective R.M. Divisions.


The first mentioned category of officer will be regarded as appointed to "President I"—not to join—but no actual appointments will be issued by Daily List.

Initial advances of any sum desired by officers up to a maximum of £10 (£10 in the case of Royal Canadian Naval Officers, except T.124) may be given at the Naval establishment to which the officers proceed on disembarkation. Charges should be marked "Ex-P.O.W." The amount of the advance given is to be noted in the nominal roll (paragraph 15). The paying authority keeping their accounts will subsequently forward to officers, at their leave addresses, as large a sum as possible consistent with the state of their pay accounts. Any enquiries regarding pay should be addressed to the appropriate paying authority as stated above.

5. Medical Examination.—Officers will be medically examined before going on leave. As disinfestation will have taken place on the Continent, the sole purpose of the inspection is merely to ensure that the officer is fit to

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go on leave. Repatriated officers may request a thorough medical examination, but they should be informed that this may involve some delay.

6. Arrival Postcards.—Arrival cards should be issued to each of the repatriated prisoners of war for posting to their next of kin. The cards will be sent post free, and where the time of arrival does not permit of the cards being posted on the same day a free telegram up to nine words, including address, may be sent.

7. Leave Ration Cards.—Repatriated personnel will be provided with a complete Service ration card (R.B. 12) which normally covers a period of 14 days. One week's leave (total period to be covered not exceeding one month) thus entitling the recipient to purchase double the current civilian scale of rationed foodstuffs during this month of his leave. Normally, the single ration card will be issued in respect of any additional leave which might be granted in excess of 28 days.

One "panel 1" coupon (used for soap) will be cancelled by the Issuing Officer.

The front of the R.B.12 will be endorsed across the spaces marked "week ending" so as to read "All coupons hereon valid during week ending

and the card will bear an impression of the official stamp of the Naval establishment concerned.

Coupons for double sweet rations should not be issued. Where ration cards R.B.12 are issued, sweet coupons for the normal ration each (1D and 1E coupon) should be affixed.

Where R.B.12S cards are supplied, the sweet coupons should be cut from the front of the cards for each week.

Recipients will be informed that if they experience any difficulty in purchasing the double rations mentioned above, they should get in touch with the local Food Office, who is aware of the arrangements and will take necessary steps to ensure the supply of rationed foodstuffs by a convenient retailer.

8. N.A.A.F. I. Permits.—N.A.A.F. I. permits (Form 578E) are to be issued to cover the period of each repatriated prisoner of war's leave. These permits will entitle the recipient to buy privilege price cigarettes and tobacco, and these should be purchased from the Naval Canteen prior to his going on leave.

9. Duty Free Tobacco.—An issue of duty free tobacco should be made to the repatriated prisoners of war prior to their discharge on leave in accordance with the scale laid down in King's Regulations and Admiralty Instructions, Article 919, paragraph 6.

10. Clothing Coupon Books.—Clothing Coupon Books will be issued to every officer on discharge to leave, and will include the normal 31 coupons available for use on civilian clothing.

11. Identity Cards.—A prisoner of war identity card signed by the British Contact Officer who will proceed to the Prisoner of War Camp will have been issued to each repatriated prisoner of war before leaving the camp for evacuation to the United Kingdom. This card will be retained by the repatriated prisoner of war as a personal identity card. On arrival at the Naval establishment after disembarkation, the prisoner of war identity cards will be collected, and Officers (including Dominions Officers) should be issued with the form of temporary pass shown below, which should be stamped with the official stamp of the Naval Establishment. Permanent identity cards (Form S.1511), with photos, should be obtained by officers on taking up new appointments.

Temporary Certificate of Identity.

This is to certify that the bearer is 

(full name and rank) 

who is at present on leave with permission of the Admiralty. He will be issued with a Naval Identity Card on taking up his next appointment.

A specimen signature is appended.

(Specimen signature of officer) ..........................................

(Signed) ..........................................

for Commanding Officer.

12. Railway Warrants (D.N.A. Form 800).—These should be issued before the officer goes on leave. Warrants issued to Dominions Officers should be boldly marked accordingly, e.g., "ex P.W., Canada."

13. Security.—All personnel repatriated should be instructed to avoid granting interviews to the press or the B.B.C. Interrogation of ex-prisoners of war will not take place prior to discharge on leave, except in special cases where an individual will be specially nominated.

14. Battle Dress.—Repatriated prisoners of war should be advised not to dispose of their battle dress, as credit will be allowed against the charges made for this in respect of any items returned in accordance with instructions which will shortly be issued.

The Accountant Officers, H.M. Ships "President I" and "Mersey", should forward with the Form P.O.W./C/o. to each repatriated officer borne, together with the further advance of pay mentioned in paragraph 4, but, if no such advance can be made, as soon as possible after receipt of the nominal roll (see paragraph 15). H.M. Officers will be issued with this form by their Divisions before proceeding on leave.

15. Nominal Rolls.—A nominal roll with the following headings is to be prepared by the Naval establishment to which the officers proceed on disembarkation:—

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Surname.</th>
<th>Initials.</th>
<th>Rank.</th>
<th>Date of Arrival in U.K.</th>
<th>Date of Leave in U.K.</th>
<th>Amount of Sick Leave</th>
<th>Amount of Pay recommended for discharge</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

The roll is to be divided into the following sections:—

(a) Naval Officers (other than T.124).
(b) Naval Officers on T.124 agreement or variants.
(c) Royal Marine Officers, Portsmouth Division.
(d) Royal Marine Officers, Chatham Division.
(e) Royal Marine Officers, Devonport Division.
(f) Royal Australian Naval Officers.
(g) Royal Canadian Naval Officers.
(h) Royal New Zealand Naval Officers.

Copies of the entire roll are to be forwarded to each of the following:—

C.W. Branch (Casualties), Admiralty.
C.W. Branch I, Admiralty (two copies).
Director of Navy Accounts, Branch 4, Northwick Park, Watford Road, Harrow, Middlesex.

In addition, copies of the various sections are to be distributed as follows:—

Section (a) H.M.S. "President I".
Section (b) H.M.S. "Mersey".
Section (c) Portsmouth R.M. Division and to General Officer Commanding, Royal Marines.
Section (d) Chatham R.M. Division and to General Officer Commanding, Royal Marines.
Section (e) Devonport R.M. Division and to General Officer Commanding, Royal Marines.
Section (f) H.M.A.S. "Cerberus II" (H.M.A. London Depot).

It is essential that these nominal rolls should be prepared and forwarded with the minimum of delay.
16. Liability to Further Active Service.—Officers should be informed that the fact that they have been repatriated as ex-prisoners of war does not in itself absolve them from further active service. Repatriated prisoners of war are on the same footing as other personnel serving in the Navy or other Services for discharge or release.

Officers of Dominion Navies
17. Royal Canadian Navy.—Officers of the R.C.N. will accompany R.N. Officers to the selected Naval Establishment, and when ready to travel will proceed to the Canadian Naval Headquarters, London. The only action required by the Naval Establishment in relation to these personnel is to issue:

1. Identity Card (side paragraph 11).
2. Railway Warrant to London.
3. Warning as regards security.
4. An initial advance of £10 0s. 0d.
5. Preparation of a Nominal Roll (see paragraph 15 above).

18. Royal Australian Navy.—At present all Australian personnel who are prisoners of war are serving with the Royal Navy; therefore, all the above instructions as for R.N. Officers apply to such personnel. They should apply to H.M.A. Naval Depot, London, for any further advances of pay and also report there on expiration of leave.

19. Royal New Zealand Navy.—Officers will accompany R.N. Officers to the selected Naval Establishment. The above instructions will apply equally to them as for R.N. Officers, and they should be told to report to the New Zealand Military Headquarters, Halifax House, 51-55, Strand, W.C.S., on conclusion of their leave. They should apply to the New Zealand Naval Affairs Officer at this address for any further advances of pay.

20. South African Naval Forces and Officers seconded to Royal Marines.—The above Officers will proceed direct from the port of disembarkation to the Union Defence Force Reception Depot, Cottesmore School, Upper Drive, Hove (Station, Hove).

APPENDIX B—RATINGS

INSTRUCTIONS TO DEPOTS AND R.M. BARRACKS FOR THE RECEPTION AND DISPOSAL OF PARTIES OF NAVAL RATINGS AND ROYAL MARINE OTHER RANKS

1. Leave.—The scale of leave to be granted to repatriated prisoners of war is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Leave (Days)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ordinary Seamen</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leading rates</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Able Seamen and L/Surgeon Corporals</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chief Petty Officers</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff Sergeants and L/Surgeon Corporals</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Captain Majors</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sergeant Majors</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petty Officers</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L/Surgeon Corporals</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Privates</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A receipt should be given to each man of the amount of currency and token money surrendered.

4. Arrival Postcards.—Arrival cards should be issued to each of the repatriated prisoners of war for posting to their next of kin. The cards will be sent post free, and where the time of arrival does not permit of the cards being posted on the same day a free telegram up to nine words, including address, may be sent.

7. Leave Ration Cards.—Repatriated personnel will be provided with a complete Service ration card (R.B.12) which normally covers a period of 14 days in respect of each week's leave (total period to be covered not exceeding one month) thus entitling the recipient to purchase double the current civilian scale of rationed foodstuffs during this month of his leave. Normally, the single ration card will be issued in respect of any additional leave which might be granted in excess of 28 days.

One "panel 1" coupon (used for soap) will be cancelled by the issuing officer.

The front of the R.B.12 will be endorsed across the spaces marked "week ending" so as to read "All coupons hereon valid during week ending .................." and the card will bear an impression of the Depot or Division stamp.

Receipts for double sweet rations should not be issued. Where ration cards R.B.12 are issued, sweet coupons for the normal ration each week (1D and 1E coupon) should be affixed. Where R.B.12S cards are supplied, the sweet coupon should be cut from one of the cards for each week.

Recipients will be informed that if they experience any difficulty in purchasing the double rations mentioned above, they should get in touch with the local Food Officer, who is aware of the arrangements, and will take the necessary steps to ensure the supply of the rationed foodstuffs by a convenient retailer.

8. N.A.A.F.I. Permits.—N.A.A.F.I. Permits (Form 573E) are to be issued to cover the period of each repatriated prisoner of war's leave. These permits will entitle the recipient to buy privilege price cigarettes and
tobacco, and these should be purchased from the Naval Canteen prior to his
going on leave.

9. Duty Free Tobacco.—An issue of duty free tobacco should be made to
the repatriated prisoners of war prior to their discharge on leave in accordance
with the scale laid down in King’s Regulations and Admiralty
Instructions, Article 919, paragraph 6.

10. Identity Cards.—A prisoner of war identity card signed by the
prisoners of war Contact Officer will be issued to each prisoner of war before
leaving the camp for evacuation to the United Kingdom. This card will be
retained by the prisoner of war as a personal identity card and should be
collected before the issue of a permanent or temporary identity card.

11. Railway Warrants.—Each trainload or party (see paragraph 2 (ii)
(a) above) is to be issued with a separate railway warrant (D.N.A. Form 800)
to cover the journey to the R.N. Depot or R.M. Division. The necessary
Railway Warrants are to be issued before discharge on leave.

12. Security.—All repatriated prisoners of war should be instructed to
avoid granting interviews to the press or the B.B.C. Interrogation of re­
patriated prisoners of war will not take place prior to discharge on leave,
except in special cases where an individual will be specially nominated.

13. Medal Ribbons.—If not already issued, these may be supplied at the
depots if specifically requested by the rating or other rank.

14. Nominal Rolls.—Nominal rolls will be sent from each depot to C.W.
(Cas.), D.P.S. and N. Branch (Stats.), (and G.O.C.R.M. in the case of Royal
Marines) in the following form:—

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Initials</th>
<th>Date of Arrival</th>
<th>Depot from which discharged on leave</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

15. Liability to Further Active Service.—Ratings and other ranks should
be informed that the fact that they have been repatriated as ex-prisoners of
war does not in itself absolve them from liability to further active service.
Repatriated prisoners of war are on the same footing as other personnel
serving in the Navy or other Services for discharge or release.

DOMINION PERSONNEL

16. Royal Canadian Navy.—Ratings will proceed to R.N. Barracks,
Portsmouth, but as soon as they are ready to travel they will proceed to
H.M.C.S. “Niobe,” Scotland. The only action required by the Depot in
relation to these personnel is to issue:—

(1) Identity Card.
(2) Railway Warrant to Greenock.
(3) Warning as regards security.
(4) Ratings’ pay accounts will continue to be borne on the books on
which they were borne as prisoners of war. An initial advance
of £5 0s. 0d., which should be notified to the Accountant Officer,
H.M.C.S. “Niobe,” will immediately re-imburse the Account­
ant Officer, R.N. Barracks, Portsmouth. This advance is not to
be charged on the ledger of H.M.S. “Victory.” Charges should be
marked “Ex-P.O.W.”.
(5) Preparation of a Nominal Roll, which should be forwarded to
C.N.M.O., 10, Haymarket, S.W.1.

17. Royal Australian Navy.—At present all Australian personnel who are
prisoners of war are serving with the Royal Navy; therefore, all the above
instructions apply to such personnel as for R.N. ratings. The advances of
pay are to be charged at List 17 of the ledger, and notified immediately to
the Accountant Officer, H.M. Australian Naval Depot, Australia House,

18. Royal New Zealand Navy.—New Zealand Naval Ratings not on loan
to the Royal Navy will proceed to R.N. Barracks, Devonport, and the same
instructions as for R.N. ratings will apply. The advances of pay are to be
charged at List 17 of the ledger, and communicated immediately to the New

They should be told to report to the New Zealand Naval Affairs Office,

19. South African Naval Forces.—Ratings will be routed direct from the
port of disembarkation to the Union Defence Force Reception Depot,
Cottesmore School, Upper Drive, Hove (Station, Hove).

APPENDIX C

The following is the Naval Establishment referred to in paragraph 2:—

Possible Port of Disembarkation | Naval Establishment
---|---
Newcastle | H.M.S. “Calliope.”
Hull | H.M.S. “Beaver.”
Tilbury, London | R.N. Barracks, Chatham.
Dover | H.M.S. “Lynx.”
Newhaven | H.M.S. “Forward.”
Southampton | H.M.S. “Shrapnel.”
Dartmouth | H.M.S. “Dartmouth.”
Plymouth | R.N. Barracks, Devonport.
Falmouth | H.M.S. “Forte.”

In the case of personnel arriving by air, the nearest suitable Naval Estab­
lishment to the Airport or Airfield is to be used. It is anticipated that the
Airfields and Airports will be in the Midlands and South of England.

PART C

Repatriated Naval Prisoners of War.—Adjustment of Accounts

Statement of Pay and for Working Pay Received During Captivity

The particulars on this form are required to assist in the adjustment of
your account as a prisoner of war. Until these particulars are furnished
it will not be possible to arrange for the payment of your final credit balance.
It is therefore in your interest that this form be completed as accurately and
as completely as possible.

If it is impossible to put all the details of the information on one form
a separate sheet of paper should be used and attached.

Any documents in your possession which relate to the information hereon
should be attached.

SECTION I. Personal Particulars

(To be completed by all personnel)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Rank or Rating</th>
<th>Port Division and Off. No.</th>
<th>Date of Capture</th>
<th>Date of release or escape</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Camps in which detained:—

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>From</th>
<th>To</th>
<th>From</th>
<th>To</th>
<th>From</th>
<th>To</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Section II. Naval Pay Advanced by Italian or German Governments

(To be completed by (a) Protected Personnel from Germany.
(b) All Personnel who were detained in Italy prior to transfer to Germany.)

1. Were you paid by the German/Italian Authorities? 
   (state which)
2. State period(s)
   From ................................... To .
   From ................................... To .
   From ................................... To .
3. State rate(s) of pay received. ...................... per month/per week.
4. If you were NOT paid for any period of captivity, state period(s) and reason, if known to you.

Section III. Working Pay

(To be completed by all personnel)

N.B.—If you were NOT employed, say so. It is not sufficient to leave this section blank.

5. Were you employed (e.g. in agricultural, factory or mining work) at any time during captivity?
   From ................................... To .
   From ................................... To .
   From ................................... To .

Section IV. Credit Balance

(To be completed by all personnel)

9. Have you any statement from German/Italian authorities or the British Camp Leader showing your credit balance at date of release? If so, please attach and state as far as possible how much was from:
   (a) Credits of Naval Pay under Section II
   (b) Credits of Working Pay under Section III
   (c) Money deposited by you as unexpended pay or as a result of private transactions (give details)
   (d) Unexplained to you: (Give what information you can, e.g. date, etc.)

10. If you have NO statement from German/Italian authorities or the British Camp Leader showing your credit balance, state the amount, IF ANY, owed to you by Germans/Italians for:
    (a) Pay credited to your account but NOT received in cash
    (b) Money deposited by you as savings from Naval pay issued
    (c) Money deposited by you as savings from Working Pay
    (d) Money deposited by you as savings from other sources (give details of sources)

Section V. Token (Camp) Money and Foreign Currency

(To be completed by all personnel)

11. If you are in possession of any token (camp) money and/or foreign currency, state amount(s), complete Section VI herewith and attach hereto any such token (camp) money and/or foreign currency.

Section VI. Statement of Camp Token Money and/or Foreign Currency Surrendered under Section V

I declare that the token (camp) money and/or foreign currency hereby surrendered was received by me as follows:

1. Before capture.
   Source. Amount(s).
   (a) As pay issued to me before capture. (n)
   (b) From other source(s) and in my possession at date of capture. (Give details of source(s).)

2. During captivity.
   Source. Amount(s).
   (a) As pay issued to me during (n)
   (b) As working pay issued to me during (n)
   (c) From other source(s) during captivity. (Give details of source(s).)

3. After release from captivity.
   Source. Amount.
   (a) ........................................................................ (n)

Date .........

Signed

Certified that token (camp) money and/or foreign currency as detailed above has been duly received.

(Signed) ..................................................

(Rank) ...............................................

Date ..................

H.M.S. ..................................

I certify that the information furnished in answer to the questions in Sections I to VI above is correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Date Signature

(C.A.F.L. 1900/24 is cancelled.)

(C.A.F.L. 1900/24 is cancelled.)

(C.A.F.L. 1900/24 is cancelled.)