ADMIRALTY FLEET ORDER

"ON ARRIVAL" INFORMATION FOR SHIPS VISITING GIBRALTAR

ADMIRALTY, S.W.1,
22nd July, 1943.

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 and Vessels.

NOTE: — The scale of distribution is approximately half that shown in the Admiralty Fleet Order Volume, 1941, Instructions, paragraph 10.
In view of the large numbers of ships visiting Gibraltar, the following orders issued by Flag Officer Commanding, Gibraltar, to ships on arrival are promulgated for information:

Office of
Flag Officer Commanding,
Gibraltar.

10th June, 1943.

The following resume of local orders is promulgated for information. Full sets of orders will not normally be issued to ships remaining for less than one week.

2. Local Authorities.—

Authority Office
Flag Officer Commanding The Tower
Commodore Superintendent The Tower
Captain (D) ... ... The Tower
S.O. Submarines ... ... Area Combined Headquarters
Base Accountant Officer Immediately North of Naval Officers' Pavilion.

3. Official Calls.—The Flag Officer Commanding does not wish Commanding Officers to wait on him unless the service requires, but will be glad to see any Commanding Officer who so desires.

4. Berthing.—When berthing, green flag or light marks position of standard compass. Ships are to cut bouses, single up and coil down wires neatly on the jetty as convenient before sailing. When casting off, eyes of wires are to be eased out on the bight of a heaving line and NOT let go from inboard.

5. Notice for Steam.—The normal notice for steam in harbour is four hours. On entering harbour, ships are to revert automatically to four hours notice for steam, subject to requirements for moving under own power after oiling, and if orders are not received for shorter notice.

When defects necessitate longer notice for steam, ships are to report by signal to F.O.C. Gib. and Commodore Superintendent and, in the case of destroyers and below, to Captain (D) Gibraltar.

S. Supplies.

6. General.—Ships calling at Gibraltar must bear in mind that stores and provisions there are primarily for the use of ships working permanently on the Mediterranean Station. Thus, ships proceeding to United Kingdom should not top up with items not essential to seagoing efficiency. (See also paragraph 10 regarding purchases on shore.)

(a) Destroyers and below.—On arrival in harbour ships are to complete with fuel, ammunition, fresh provisions and canteen stores so as to be in all respects ready for sea. This need not be done when it is known that a ship will boiler clean.

The following standardised procedure is invariably to be used for drawing fresh provisions:

(i) As soon as V/S touch is gained with Port War Signal Station, the senior officer of ships entering harbour is to report by signal to Commodore Superintendent, Gibraltar (R), Captain (D) the amount of fresh provisions required by ships in company.

(ii) As soon as berths are known, Captain (D) will decide what transport is necessary and the time at which it will be required and will request lorries from Commodore Superintendent, Gibraltar and/or a boat from "Cormorant" in the form:

C.S. Gib. "Cormorant (R)" "Wishart" "Verity" from Captain (D).

"Wishart" 1650. Request lorry at 25 berth at 1800 and boat at No. 12 Buoy at 1745.

(iii) The working parties from all ships in or near the berths mentioned are to be ready at the time given in the second signal.

(iv) If Commodore Superintendent or "Cormorant" cannot supply the transport at the exact time requested, they will inform the ships concerned of the time at which transport will be available repeating this signal to Captain (D).

This procedure is also to be carried out by a single ship entering harbour.

(b) Ships larger than destroyers.—Demands are to be made to the Commodore Superintendent.

7. Requests for Dockyard Services.—All signals relating to Dockyard services, e.g. defects, stores, etc. are to be addressed to the Commodore Superintendent and NOT to the department concerned.

These signals are to be telephoned direct to Civil Secretary's Office, telephone number Dockyard "Z". This line is manned day and night. Ships not on the telephone should pass to Commodore Superintendent via Dockyard Tower Signal Station.

Defects requiring Dockyard assistance should be signalled to the Commodore Superintendent before arrival and a berth in the Dockyard requested. This applies to URGENT defects affecting fighting and seagoing efficiency.

8. Water.—Stocks at Gibraltar are very limited and all practicable economies are to be exercised. Ships are to limit their demands to the minimum possible compatible with operational requirements. Ships with distilling machinery are to arrive with all fresh water tanks as full as possible and, if it involves supplies of water from shore, are not to put distilling machinery out of action without the permission of the Flag Officer Commanding.

Demands for fresh water are to be based on a daily ration of 50 men per ton of water, i.e. 44 gallons a man.

Ships on arrival are to forward to the Commodore Superintendent a written statement showing:

(a) Present full complement.
(b) Full stowage of water.
(c) Estimated weekly consumption while in harbour.
(d) Stocks on board on arrival.
(e) Maximum distilling capacity—
   (i) in harbour,
   (ii) at sea.

* Separate figures to be given for drinking water and boiling water.

9. Pay, Money and Exchange.—It is illegal to tender or accept United Kingdom currency notes in Gibraltar, and the various currencies on the North African Coast are not allowed to be exported from there by individuals. U.K. coins are legal tender.
Gibraltar currency is to be obtained in bulk from the Cashier, H.M. Dockyard, Gibraltar, or, if that office is closed, from the Base Accountant Officer, H.M.S. "Cormorant", and changing is to be done on board by ship's officers before personnel proceed on shore.

10. Control of Exports.—Most of the stores at Gibraltar are shipped out from the United Kingdom and it must be obvious that it is very wasteful in valuable cargo space if goods are brought out here merely to be shipped home by visiting ships.

Small quantities of fresh fruit, fresh fish and fresh vegetables for the personal consumption of Naval personnel and their families may be taken out of the Colony without restriction, but export permits are required for all other foodstuffs, clothing, clothes and similar rationed articles.

11. Leave.—Ships at two hours' notice or more may give leave at Senior Officer's discretion, until 2245; Chief and Petty Officers until 2300.

12. Recall from Leave.—The following signals are to be displayed should it be necessary to recall officers and men:

**By day**—Hoist flag "0" (Nought—the Blue Peter) and shift the colours to the mainhead.

**By night**—Hoist white-red-white lights vertically.

Ships' sirens are not to be sounded.

The local organisation for rounding up libertymen will be put in force on request to Flag Officer Commanding. Ships concerned are to land a patrol to assist if the recall is made before 1800.

13. Curfew.—No one not on duty may be out of doors between 2300 and 0530.

14. Liquor.—Complaints are frequently received that the local drinks (Jungle Juice and Merry Merry) are doped. Specimens have been thoroughly analysed on several occasions and show no grounds for these complaints, but there is no doubt that these drinks are extremely potent and, if lapped down like beer, are very harmful. Libertymen should be warned accordingly.

15.—Pay Books and Identity Cards.—Some form of identity card is to be carried by all personnel landing on duty or otherwise (see also Paragraph 39 regarding orders).

16. Leave to Spain.—Regulations for officers proceeding to Spain are contained in local orders. Ratings belonging to sea-going ships are not allowed to visit Spain.

Shore Patrols

17. Patrols are to be landed at Gibraltar as follows:

(a) Each heavy ship ... ... ... 1 P.O., 2 Ldg. Sea. and 9.
(b) Each cruiser and each Depot ship 1 P.O. or Ldg. Sea. and 4.
(c) Escort group ... ... ... ... 2 Ldg. Sea. and 6.
(d) Each destroyer flotilla ... ... On the scale of 1 Ldg. Sea. and 3 for every group of four destroyers of that flotilla present and giving leave (to be arranged by Captain (D)).

It is desirable that the P.O. and Ldg. Sea. should always be picked men and, if possible, that only reliable men of good physique should be detailed.

18. Patrols are to be reported at the Picket House at 1800 daily and are to return to their ships as ordered by the Officer of the Patrol after leave has expired. All Petty Officers and Leading Hands are to be provided with a whistle.

19. One Lieutenant Commander or Senior Lieutenant and one Warrant Officer are to be landed daily as detailed by the Flag Officer Commanding, Gibraltar. The officer in charge of the Patrol need not land until 2000. The ship supplying the officer of patrols is to land a Sick Berth rating with valise for duty at the Picket House.

20. In the absence of heavy ships or cruisers, the officers of patrol and sick berth rating need not be landed. If one heavy ship or cruiser only is present, only one officer of patrol need be landed; a Lieutenant Commander or Lieutenant in the case of a heavy ship, or a Warrant Officer in the case of a cruiser.

21. The patrol is to arrest any men seen drinking from bottles, and in cases where this is being done elsewhere than in places of refreshment, the patrol should ascertain and inform the Civil Police of the establishment from which the liquor was obtained.

*(Note. — While the present shortage of glasses exists, beer may be sold in bottles for consumption on the premises. No bottles must, however, be taken off the premises.)*

22. Patrols are not to enter cafes, canteens or military messes unless called upon to do so by the persons in charge thereof.

23.—Embarkation Patrol.—Cruisers and above using H.M.S. "Cormorant" landing for embarking libertymen are to land an Embarkation Patrol of 1 Petty Officer and 2 men, half an hour before libertymen are due to embark.

They are to ensure that libertymen remain on the roadway and do not go down on to the pontoons until their boat comes alongside. The number of men allowed on any one pontoon should at no time exceed 25.

Uniform

24. White tropical dress may only be worn on board ships and in the Dockyard.

25. When white uniform is being worn:

(a) After 2000, officers are to wear one of the following:

(i) No. 5 (Blue monkey jacket and trousers)
(ii) No. 12 (white mess undress)
(iii) White tunic No. 10 dress with blue trousers.

(b) Libertymen returning after 1800 may wear No. 2 or No. 2 negative jumpers.

(c) Dress for patrols is to be No. 2, belts and gauntlets, negative jumpers.

26. Plain clothes may only be worn when taking part in games and other athletic exercise. Plain clothes must be worn for visiting Spain.

Communications

27. Use of V/S at Gibraltar.—(a) It must be remembered that V/S and telephone are both liable to interception at Gibraltar and confidential and secret messages should never be sent by this means unless in great urgency. This not only applies to ships in harbour but also to those at sea communicating with the Port War Signal Station.

(b) Ships are to keep V/S or telephone watch in harbour except as laid down in Mediterranean War Communication Orders. When ships with small complements are berthed in groups and their aggregate signal complement is more than five they are to keep continuous V/S or telephone watch.

28. Telephone Watch in Harbour.—(a) When a ship is connected to the shore telephone system, she is to report the fact to the Signal Distributing Office, Dockyard Tower.

She is also to report to the Signal Distributing Office before being disconnected.

(b) The Senior Officer of ships using the same telephone is to organise the telephone watches, informing the Signal Distributing Office of the arrangements made and whenever there is any change in these arrangements.

29. Hand Messages.—(a) Owing to the undesirability of passing messages by V/S and telephone (vide Paragraph 27), the importance of frequent and regular collection of hand messages and secret hand messages is stressed.

(b) Orders are to collect hand messages daily at 0815, 1230, 1630 and 2030. (See also Paragraph 39.)

30. Serial Messages. Major War Vessels.—The importance of ships taking early opportunity of getting serial messages up-to-date cannot be overstressed. Immediately on arrival, ships should report on the form which is sent on board, the latest numbers of Serial Messages held and the numbers of those known to be missing. In any case of doubt a signal rating is to be sent to the Dockyard Tower S.D.O. with the request for missing numbers. Sufficient foolscap for required copies must be provided.

31. Messages from H.M. Ships for Transmission.—(a) Messages for despatch to authorities outside Gibraltar are to be sent in triplicate to the Duty Signal Officer for
transmission. One copy will be initialled and returned as receipt. The second copy is returned with time of despatch inserted after transmission is completed.

(b) With the exception of delivery groups, messages are to be ready for despatch; coding and cyphering, if appropriate, are to be done by the ship of origin.

(c) Messages in code or cypher are to be accompanied by a copy of the plain language version which is to be enclosed in a separate envelope marked "Confidential" or "Secret".

32. Harbour W/T Watch.—Harbour W/T watch is to be kept in accordance with Mediterranean War Communication Orders.

Destroyers and below may, however, erect airails when berthed inside the Admiredy Harbour, provided:

(a) That an organisation exists in the ship for setting watch on Port Wave within five minutes of an Air Raid RED warning or other emergency such as a Human Torpedo attack.

(b) That watch is set on Port Wave when at two hours' notice for steam or less.

(c) That watch is set on Port Wave two hours before sailing.

33. Port Wave.—(a) W/T and R/T are used on the Port Wave and traffic is made as follows:

(i) W/T routines for vessels with less than three operators are made at 0000, 0400, 0800, 1200 and 1600 local time. Messages are broadcast and when "X 277" is made on completion of the Routine these vessels may revert to Loudspeaker watch. Messages of an urgent nature which cannot wait for the next routine are passed by R/T.

(ii) Ships with three or more operators keep continuous watch. Messages are passed by Direct method unless contained in routines as indicated in paragraph (i).

(b) Port Wave is to be kept as follows:

(i) In harbour as indicated in paragraph 32.

(ii) At sea.—(a) By all vessels operating between the meridians 04° 40' W and 06° 20' W.

(b) By major war vessels, in addition to sub-paragraph (a) above, two hours before arrival and one hour after departure.

(c) By minor war vessels and those capable of keeping one line only between the meridians indicated in sub-paragraph (a) above, shifting to station broadcast, vide A.F.O. "S" 1/43 on leaving this area.

(iii) Ships on Patrol.—(a) Destroyer—Continuous W/T watch in addition to single line periods on the broadcast.

(b) Corvettes—Continuous W/T watch.

(c) Minor war vessels—Continuous W/T watch if three operators are borne, otherwise W/T and R/T as in paragraph (a).

34. Testing of V.H./F Sets.—(a) A type 86 V.H./F set is fitted in the Dockyard Signal Tower for testing communications with ships.

(b) Ships wishing to test their equipment should signal Flag Officer Commanding, Gibraltar, quoting this paragraph and referring to the following items:

(i) Time test is required.

(ii) Channel to be used.

(iii) R/T call sign to be used by ship.

Note.—(1) If 6450 is required to be used great care must be taken not to interfere with R.A.F. on 6440 kc/s.

(2) Dockyard Tower use R/T call sign "Tower."

35. R.D.F. (Radar) Calibration Facilities.—(a) Index Correction.—With reference to C.B. 04182, chapter XIII, paragraphs 6 and 8, Algeciras Breakwater gives a distinct signal which can be used to check index error. On passing through either of the harbour entrances, the following ranges should be observed from points 100 yards from the lights at either end of the Detached Mole and when in line with the outer face of the Moles:

North Entrance—6,212 yards.

South Entrance—6,497 yards.
Requests for Admission.—Flag Officer Commanding, Gibraltar repeated Liaison Officer, by signal. On same signal, ask for Transport stating time and berth. Ships at buoys, etc. to land cases at Admiral Superintendent’s Steps.

All officers to Military Hospital.

T.B. and mental cases to 10th General Hospital (K.G.V.).

Outpatients.—Ratings to be at hospital stated at 0930 with letters.

Out-Patients. 10th General Hospital.

Surgical ... Mondays and Thursdays.

Medical ... Tuesdays and Fridays.

E.N.T. ... Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

Skin ... Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Venerial ... Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays (Zymotics).

Ophthalmic ... Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

Radiologist ... Every morning.

Psychiatrist ... By appointment only.

Medical ... Tuesdays and Fridays.

Surgical ... Mondays and Thursdays.

E.N.T. ... Investigations carried out at City Council Laboratory each a.m. (Sundays excepted). Patients for Kahn Tests to be sent to laboratory a.m. Mondays and Wednesdays.

Scabies (Gear for Should be at Zymotic Hospital with all gear for disinfection by 0930 each morning except Sunday.

51. Medical Surveys.—(a) Outpatient Surveys are held at Military Hospital on Fridays, cases for survey to be at hospital by 1030 accompanied by M.188s in quintuplicate describing cases in full.

(b) Ships which will not be in harbour on that day should discharge their cases to H.M.S. “Cormorant”, with papers, to await survey, notifying H.M.S. “Cormorant” by signal.

(c) Permission to send cases for out-patient survey should be by signal to Flag Officer Commanding Gibraltar, repeated Officer Commanding Military Hospital and H.M.S. “Cormorant”.

52. Casualties.—A.F.O. 2901/41 applies. In cases of doubt, add whether Medical Officer is carried on board.

53. Dental Treatment.—There are two Naval Dental Surgeries:

(a) At western end of the Admiralty Tunnel in H.M. Dockyard (Telephone : Dockyard 385) for use of ships and establishments to the south of the Coastal Force Base including the South Mole.

(b) Near H.M.S. “Cormorant” opposite the Naval Officers’ Pavilion (Telephone : Tower) for use of ships and establishments to the north of and including the Coastal Force Base.

All classes of dental work can be undertaken. Cases should be sent, as far as possible, by appointment only.

54. General.—(a) Telephone H.M.S. “Cormorant” when in doubt.

(b) Cases discharged to H.M.S. “Cormorant” for medical reasons should always be accompanied by an M.188 and S.47.

(c) H.M.S. “Cormorant” has no cot accommodation. All such cases must be sent to hospital.

(d) Sickbay washing (clearly labelled) to be handed in at H.M.S. “Cormorant” on Wednesdays. This is returned a week later.

(e) Attention is drawn to K.R. & A.I., Arts. 738, 1345 and 1404.

The following gear is to accompany all ratings sent to hospital: Hairbrush and comb, shaving gear, toothbrush, clothes brush, boot brush, anti-gas respirator and one pair of gym shoes.