

2333.—Royal Marines—Bands—Amalgamation of School of Music and Group Bands—Titles and Uniforms

(N.2/N. 7117/49.—4 Aug. 1950.)

It has been decided to amalgamate the School of Music and Group Bands. Direct entry into Group Bands has now ceased and all recruits will in future enter through the School of Music.

2. All present School of Music band ranks and all new entries will be on the same rosters for drafting and promotion.

3. Members of existing Group Bands will continue to serve on their old terms until their current engagements expire. Thereafter they will be permitted to re-engage for general service only on the terms applicable to existing School of Music band ranks. There will be no promotion rosters for remaining Group Band ranks but each candidate for promotion will be considered on his merits.

4. As from 1st September, 1950, the Royal Naval School of Music will be re-named the Royal Marine School of Music and Group Bands will be re-named Staff Bands. As the use of the rank title Staff Sergeant in the Band Service has led to misunderstanding of the status and responsibilities of that rank in relation to Bandmasters and Band Sergeants, the rank is to be re-named Staff Bandmaster.

5. The Musical Director of the Royal Marine School of Music will be designated "Director of Music, Royal Marines". The Directors of Music of the Staff Bands at Portsmouth and Plymouth will be designated "Director of Music, Portsmouth" and "Director of Music, Plymouth". They are to supervise musical training in all bands under the Major General's control and, when required, they are to advise on any musical matter relating to the bands under the control of Commanders-in-Chief.

6. Bands under Major Generals at Portsmouth and Plymouth are to retain their special cap badges; that at Portsmouth will also retain the "Royal Yacht" arm badge.

Further instructions will be issued regarding the wearing of trousers with broad red stripes by all ranks of the amalgamated service.

Instructions will also be issued on the wearing of the Lyre collar badge.

7. The financial arrangements for the supply and upkeep of instruments and music are being reviewed and a further Order will be issued shortly. It will take effect from 1st April, 1951.