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2727.—Royal Marines—Re-organisation of in the U.K. under Command of
Commandant General, Royal Marines

(N. 18117/46.—1 Aug. 1947.)

The Board have decided upon a change in the organisation of the Royal Marines in the United Kingdom under the command of the Commandant General from its present basis of three similar groups at Chatham, Portsmouth and Plymouth, each of which discharges a similar common function, to one under which each of those groups will discharge a specific and separate function. Broadly, in the Chatham group will be located a central pay and records system, with at Deal the preliminary recruit training; in the Portsmouth group all training for sea service, etc., and in the Plymouth group all land service training.

2. This re-organisation will provide the following advantages:—

- (a) The training needs of the new functions of the Corps (which were promulgated in A.F.O. 809/46) will be met with increased efficiency and economy by putting the available facilities for training and accommodation in the three Home ports to their best use.
- (b) There will be a better balance between "effectives" and "overheads" than existed under the old system.
- (c) In future the Pay Code will lead the activities of all other ranks along certain well defined lines. By this re-organisation the training of the various branches can be more easily and economically effected.
- (d) It will better meet the needs of mobilisation.

3. The re-organisation will result in the following disposition of Corps Establishments in the United Kingdom:—

Chatham Group

(Headquarters at Melville Barracks)

- (a) Royal Marine Barracks, Chatham:—
 - (i) Chatham Holding Company (includes Drafting Margin).
 - (ii) Clerks' Training Wing.
- (b) Melville Barracks:—

Pay and Record Office, Royal Marines.

This will be responsible for the documentation and drafting of all other ranks and the promotion of all non-commissioned officers. It will also maintain the pay accounts of officers and other ranks serving under the Army Act, who will be paid on the Home Base Ledger system. Those serving under the Naval Discipline Act will continue to be borne on the books of H.M. ships.
- (c) Depot, Royal Marines, Deal:—
 - (i) Entry and primary training of recruits.
 - (ii) P.T. and S. School.

Portsmouth Group

(Headquarters at Eastney Barracks).

- (a) Royal Marine Barracks, Eastney:—
 - (i) Portsmouth Holding Company (includes drafting Margin).
 - (ii) Gunnery School, Royal Marines.
 - (iii) Seamanship Training.
 - (iv) Signal School, Royal Marines.
- (b) Small Arms School, Royal Marines, Browndown (with Advanced Handling Wing detached in Plymouth Group).
- (c) Technical Training Centre, Royal Marines, Fort Cumberland:—
 - (i) Technical Training of Tradesmen.
 - (ii) Training of M/T and Amphibian Drivers.

Plymouth Group

(Headquarters at R.M. Barracks, Stonehouse).

- (a) Royal Marine Barracks, Stonehouse:—

- (i) Plymouth Holding Company (includes drafting margin).
 - (ii) Commando Holding Company.
 - (iii) Officers' Training Wing.
 - (iv) Non-commissioned Officers' Training Wing.
 - (v) Advanced Handling Wing of Small Arms School (Blarrick Camp).
- (b) Bickleigh Camp, Commando School, Royal Marines :—
- (i) Commando Training Wing.
 - (ii) Infantry Training Wing (Advanced Infantry Training of recruits for sea service and all M.M.G. and 3-in. mortar training).
 - (iii) Commando Cliff Assault Wing (detached at St. Ives).
- (c) Lympstone Camp :—
 Infantry Training Centre, Royal Marines (Weapon and Individual Fieldcraft Training of Recruits).

4. *Implementation of the Scheme.*—(a) The changes in the functions of groups and the locations of units made necessary by this re-organisation will be carried out in phases, so as to be completed by 31st December, 1947.

(b) Other ranks who are serving in the Corps on 31st December, 1947, will retain their Divisional prefixes and will, in so far as the requirements of the Service permit, be appointed or held as a drafting margin within their own Group when they are serving in the United Kingdom under the command of C.G.R.M. New intakes after this date will be given Corps numbers and will not be affiliated to any particular Group.

(c) Instructions for the implementation of the scheme will be issued by C.G.R.M. as Royal Marine Routine Orders which will be reprinted in Admiralty Fleet Orders as necessary.

(A.F.Os. 809/46, 3245/46 and 901/47.)

(A.G.M. 011704B/July is cancelled.)