

3323.—Royal Marines—Closing of Chatham Group, Royal Marines and the Royal Marine Barracks, Chatham

(R.M. 5/6/20 A.—17 Nov. 1950.)

Chatham Group Headquarters, Royal Marines, and the Royal Marine Barracks, Chatham, disbanded to the following timetable:—

- (a) Royal Marine Barracks, Chatham, closed on 31st August, 1950 (except for rear party).
- (b) Royal Marines, Deal (including Royal Naval School of Music and Physical Training School, Royal Marines) transferred to Major-General, Royal Marines, Portsmouth, on 1st September, 1950, for all purposes—less works and maintenance.
- (c) Pay and Record Offices, Royal Marines (including Royal Marine Clothing Centre) transferred to Major-General, Royal Marines, Portsmouth, on 1st October, 1950, for all purposes—less works and maintenance.
- (d) Chatham Group Headquarters and rear party Royal Marine Barracks, Chatham, closed on 1st November, 1950. Major-General, Royal Marines, Portsmouth, takes over works and maintenance at Deal and Chatham.

2. The Pay and Records Office, Royal Marines, will remain in Melville Barracks, Chatham, together with the Royal Marine Clothing Centre. The Royal Marine Clothing Centre at Melville Barracks will deal with all demands for bulk supplies of Royal Marine clothing which are at present dealt with by the Group Supply Officer, Chatham Group, Royal Marines.

3. The following steps have already been taken in transferring responsibilities from Major-General, Royal Marines, Chatham, to Major-General, Royal Marines, Portsmouth:—

- (a) Pre-embarkation training of Royal Marine detachments awaiting draft to H.M. ships has been transferred.
- (b) The Publications Library for the supply of training pamphlets, etc., to Royal Marine detachments has been transferred.

- (c) The responsibilities of Major-General, Royal Marines, Chatham, concerning compassionate leave and draft on compassionate grounds outlined in A.F.O. 3987/48 have been transferred to Major-Generals, Royal Marines, Portsmouth and Plymouth, and notification made in A.F.O. 2334/50.
- (d) The release of Royal Marine ranks from Chatham has been stopped except for exceptional cases. Releases will now be made from Portsmouth and Plymouth.
- (e) Royal Marine Barracks, Chatham, ceased to operate as a Holding and Drafting Unit on 15th June, 1950.

4. No correspondence is in future to be addressed to Royal Marine Barracks, Chatham, or to Chatham Group Headquarters.

5. Correspondence to Pay and Records Office, Royal Marines, to be addressed to:—

Director of Pay and Records, Royal Marines,
Melville Barracks,
Chatham, Kent;

and to the Clothing Centre to:—

Officer-in-Charge,
Royal Marine Clothing Centre,
Melville Barracks,
Chatham, Kent.

The telegraphic addresses for these units will be:—

Pay and Records Office, Royal Marines ... "PRORM, Chatham"
Royal Marine Clothing Centre ... "CLOTHING, Chatham"

(A.F.Os. 3987/48 and 2334/50.)

(A.F.O. 2392/50 is cancelled.)