

***3417.—Royal Marines—Bands—Amalgamation of School of Music and Group Bands—
Titles**

(N.2/N. 6930/51.—5 Oct. 1951.)

Consequent upon the amalgamation of the Royal Marines School of Music and Group Bands, R.M., direct entry into the Group Bands has ceased, and all recruits now enter through the School of Music.

2. School of Music band ranks serving prior to 1st September, 1950, and ranks enlisted or re-enlisted since that date will be on the same rosters for drafting and promotion.

3. Members of Group Bands serving prior to 1st September, 1950, will continue to serve on their old terms until their current engagements expire. Thereafter they will be permitted to re-engage or re-enlist 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. From 1st September, 1950, the Royal Naval School of Music has been re-named the Royal Marines School of Music, and Group Bands have been re-named Staff Bands. The Staff Bands will consist of :—

- (a) The Band of the Royal Marines, Portsmouth Group.
- (b) The Band of the Royal Marines, Plymouth Group.
- (c) The Band of the Royal Marines School of Music.

5. The Musical Director of the Royal Marines School of Music has been designated "Director of Music, Royal Marines". The other Directors of Music will be designated "Director of Music, Royal Marines, Portsmouth" and "Director of Music, Royal Marines, 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. 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 has been re-named Staff Bandmaster.

(A.F.O. 2333/50 is cancelled.)