

(U)823.—Uniform—RN and WRNS Ratings—Printed Badges Blue on White—Loss of Print

(N/V83C/4909/68—10 Jul 70)

1. DCI (RN) 162/70 notified the need to procure printed blue-on-white badges by an alternative production process and indicated that, while this process resulted in a greater susceptibility to loss of colour during washing, the loss of colour would be minimal provided normal laundering methods were used.

2. Reports and control samples have however shown that the quality of badges produced by the new process is considerably below the standard which had been expected to be achieved. Remaining stocks held by PSTO(N), Royal William Yard, Plymouth have therefore been returned to the contractor for a refinishing process which it is hoped will improve the dye-fastness at least to the standard against which DCI (RN) 162/70 was issued.

3. Meanwhile, ratings who have suffered loss through buying the unsatisfactory badges should be given free replacement and if the second is unsatisfactory an equivalent embroidered badge may exceptionally be supplied as far as this is possible. This applies only to those badges manufactured by Nelsons Labels Ltd under the first contract. The description and Vocabulary numbers are as follows:

<i>Description</i>	<i>Vocab Number</i>
Ratings Badges:	
Petty Officer	33001
Gunnery Branch:	
RP Star	33065
Engine Room Branch:	
Leading Eng Mech	33162
Supply and Secretariat Branch:	
Steward PO HRP	33294
Steward other ratings	33295
SA CPO HRP	33313
SA CPO LRP	33314
SA PO	33315
SA other ratings	33316

These badges were brought into issue from Royal William Yard in January last and are distinguishable from previous supplies in that they are clearer and bolder in appearance. They do not bear any specific marking to identify the maker. Such badges received since early January which appear to be of this faulty production and which remain unissued should be returned to PSTO(N), Royal William Yard, Plymouth for onward despatch to the manufacturer for refinishing.

4. It is expected that stocks of the refinished badges of the patterns listed in paragraph 3 will be available from RWY within the next few weeks. There are also further badges on order which will progressively come into issue. An assurance has been given that improved production methods used for these later supplies will achieve a dye fastness equal to the standard to which the Service has been accustomed.

5. For the immediate future, ratings might be encouraged to purchase embroidered badges until the improved printed badges become available.