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SECRET.

BEACH COMMANDO MONTHLY MEMORANDA.

15th June 1943.

10. A Note for Beach Masters. Beach Masters should foster a spirit of closer liaison between themselves, their Assistant Beach Masters, Petty Officers and Leading Seaman. Where this liaison does not exist unnecessary misunderstandings creep in, and there is a lack of that comradeship so essential to any team. The resulting lack of confidence and feeling of mistrust inevitably leads to a drop in efficiency, unhappiness, and general deterioration.

The first essential of a well run Special Service party is clean living and pride in person, leading to pride of unit and pride of Service, happiness and efficiency. This cannot be instilled too often.

Junior officers and Petty Officers must be taught to take an active interest in the welfare of their men; to know them, understand the regulations governing their advancement and welfare, and to encourage and further this. Many officers take all too little interest in these vital matters, and some Petty Officers do not even consider it.

Never make the mistake of advancing a man to a higher rate if he is not 100%. You will pay for it in the long run, or if he leaves your command, someone else will buy the baby.

11. Petty Officers' Rig. Attention is drawn to the fact that there is no authority whatever for deviation from the uniform regulations as laid down in the appendix to the Navy List. No Petty Officer may wear "Fore and Aft Rig" until he is confirmed.
12. Volunteers for Parachutists. Numerous enquiries have been received as to the possibility of undergoing parachute training. Director of Combined Training has stated that it is considered uneconomical to train numbers of officers and ratings for parachutists in advance. Special arrangements will, however, be made to train personnel when required for a specific operation.

There has been no call for volunteers for this type of work recently.

12. Volunteers for Parachutists. (cont.)

Any men wishing to volunteer for Hazardous Service of any kind should fill in Form PR/4, giving details of the type of service they are particularly anxious to perform. Provided this application has the necessary backing from his Beachmaster, the man's name will then be noted on the records at H.M.S. Armadillo and his services will be called upon should the opportunity arise.

13. Wearing of Battledress. (Extract from Northern Combined Operational Bases Temporary Memoranda.)

"(a) The conditions governing the issue and wearing of battledress are laid down in C.A.F.O. 1508a/42, C.A.F.O. 2079/42 and A.F.O. 1036/43. An amplification of the last named order is given in the Rear Admiral Landing Craft and Bases' Temporary Memorandum No. 154.

(b) It is to be clearly understood that, in future, battledress is to be worn, both by officers and ratings, only as a working rig and under working conditions."

This is to apply to Beach Commandos anywhere in the United Kingdom.

14. Advancement of C.O. Ratings. (Extract from Combined Operations Temporary Memorandum No. 9, adapted for use in the Royal Naval Beach Commando organisation.)

(i) Pending the issue of an A.F.O. the following information regarding present procedure is promulgated for guidance.

(ii) Advancement from Ordinary Seaman to Able Seaman.

These advancements are governed by the normal regulations set out in A.F.O. 5250/42, i.e. a minimum of six months service for Continuous Service ratings and a minimum of nine months service for Hostilities Only ratings, with the exception given in paragraph (iii) below.

Note: Attention is drawn to K.R. & A.I. Article 401 (iv) concerning the notation "Tr". This procedure is also applicable to Dominion ratings.

14. Advancement of C.O. Ratings. (cont.)

(iii) Advancement to Temporary Acting Leading Seaman (C.O.)

Ordinary Seamen or Able Seamen recommended for such advancement may be advanced on the authority of C.O. Quebec, to Temporary Acting Leading Seaman (C.O.) irrespective of the professional and time qualifications laid down in A.F.O's provided they have passed the appropriate examination (vide paragraph (vi) below) and that their conduct when they are advanced has been continuously "Very Good" for a period of three months. Ordinary Seamen are to be rated Acting Able Seaman the day before advancement to Temporary Acting Leading Seaman (C.O.).

- (iv) Recommendations should be submitted to H.M.S. Armadillo for forwarding to C.O. Quebec. The following information should be given:- Date of rating's request to be examined, date of passing examination, and an explanation if there has been undue delay in holding the examination after the date of the request.
- (v) Advancement will be effective only while the ratings are serving in the Combined Operations Command (including sickness up to a period of one month). If reverted to General Service, Temporary Acting rate will be relinquished, but in order to avoid this, men should be encouraged to obtain the normal General Service qualifications in order that they may receive normal advancement from the depot roster. All such Temporary Acting advancements authorised by C.O. Quebec are to be reported by him to the appropriate depots.
- (vi) Examination for Advancement to Temporary Acting Leading Seaman (C.O.)
- (a) The examining Board shall consist of one officer not below the rank of Lieutenant R.N. and one officer not below the rank of Lieutenant R.N.R. or R.N.V.R. An R.N.R. or R.N.V.R. Lieutenant Commander may be appointed as senior officer of the Board if an R.N. Lieutenant is not available.

(b) Syllabus for Royal Naval Beach Commandos.

(i) Craft used in Combined Operations.

Marks.

General knowledge of all types of vessels used and their functions, carrying capacity, men, stores and vehicles, equipment, types of engines, fuel capacity and radius of action, draught.

100 marks

- (ii) Rule of road, understand a chart elementary map reading and direction finding by day and night.
Tides.

50

(iii) Signals.

Exercise in Morse and Semaphore.

V/S - 8 w.p.m.

Morse - 6 w.p.m.

50

(iv) Gunnery.

General knowledge of stripped Lewis gun, Lanchester carbine, Bren and Sten guns. Small arms ammunition; pistol. General knowledge of Rifle. Use of smoke apparatus. Principles of Fire Discipline, eye-shooting and aircraft recognition. Shanghai shooting, Unarmed Combat. Knowledge of explosives used. Field Craft.

50

(v) General Duties.

- (a) Leading hand of a mess and with reference to troopship organisation.
- (b) Duty Leading Seaman.
- (c) First Aid. Lookouts.
- (d) Thorough knowledge of all Beach drill.
- (e) Handling quarter lines and boats by Beach Parties.
- (f) Reconnaissance of Beaches.
- (g) Beach Signal Station.
- (h) Beach Group.
- (i) Ardent Loud Hailer.

50

(vi) Power of Command.

Marks.

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|-------------------------------------------------|----|
| (a) To take Charge of a Squad. | 50 |
| (b) To tell off a party for a job of work | |
| (c) To be able to improvise and get a job done. | 50 |

(vii) Seamanship.

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| (a) Use of anchors in boats. | |
| (b) Bends and hitches and their uses | |
| (c) Use of strops, can hooks, tackles, sheerlegs, hold fasts, etc. | |
| (d) Rough knowledge of breaking and working strain of wire and hemp. | |
| (e) Splicing wire and hemp. | 50 |

(viii) General knowledge in Combined Operations.

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|------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| (a) Knowledge of personnel and units working on the beach. | |
| (b) Relative ranks, Navy, Army, Air Force. | |
| (c) Fire Fighting. | 100 |

Marks Required.

85% and above	-	V.G.
70 - 85%	-	Good
60 - 70%	-	Fair
Below 60%	-	Fail

- (c) It is emphasised that ratings should not be allowed to take this examination unless their Beachmaster is satisfied that they are proficient to perform the practical duties of the higher ratings in the Service in which they are employed, i.e. in the case of Beach Commandos, a Leading Seaman of a Beach Party, etc. A certificate to this effect is to be produced to the senior officer of the Board.

(vii) Advancement from Leading Seaman to Temporary Acting Petty Officer (C.O.)

The names of Leading Seamen (including Temporary Acting Leading Seamen) recommended for advancement to Temporary Acting Petty Officer (C.O.) are to be reported to Commanding Officer, H.M.S. Armadillo for forwarding to Commanding Officer, H.M.S. Quebec. Recommendations will be forwarded to F.O.C.O. with copies to the Commodores of the appropriate depots. F.O.C.O. will forward them for approval to Admiralty. Service documents are to accompany all such recommendations.

The details to be reported should include names, depot, official number, present rating and seniority, whether Active Service, Reserve (including type) or Hostilities Only, and whether Civil employment or hobbies have contributed to the efficiency of the man.

The Admiralty have stated that in some cases it may be possible to grant Temporary advancement effective for the period of the war, but that in others Temporary Acting advancement effective only while serving in the Combined Operations Command under similar conditions to those mentioned in paragraph (v).

There is at present no professional examination for advancement to Temporary Acting Petty Officer (C.O.).

H. M. S. ARMADILLO.
15th June 1943.

(E. A. DAVIS)
COMMANDER IN COMMAND