

BEACH COMMANDO MONTHLY MEMORANDA

SECRET.

No. 41

Re-numbering of Beach Commando
Monthly Memoranda.

Beach Commando Monthly Memoranda 31-34 of 15th September 1943
are to be re-numbered 31A-34A.

No. 42.

H.M.S. "COPRA" -
Pay, Drafting and Record Office.

Attention is drawn to A.F.O. 5941/43 paragraphs 4(a) and 10.

"4(a). Flotilla and Commanding Officers whose duty it is to pay the personnel under their command should carry out their instructions both diligently and accurately. They have full authority to pay as soon as due, and without previous reference to H.M.S. "COPRA" all pay and allowances of any kind covered by their instructions. Previous reference should, however, be made to H.M.S. "COPRA" should any considerable amount of back pay become payable. The system and the instructions will be simplified as much as possible."

"10. The postal address for all communications for H.M.S. "COPRA" is :-

G.P.O., Box 456,
Chelsea,
London, S.W.3.

No other form of address is to be used on the envelope; correspondence is not to be addressed to the Commanding Officer or other officer, nor to H.M.S. "COPRA", except that correspondence on medical matters concerning medical history sheets is to be addressed to the Medical Officer. The address for signals is H.M.S. "COPRA".

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No. 43.

Range Practices - Supervision.

"All range practices are to be carried out under supervision of an officer" (A.F.O. 5964/43 para. 3.)

The following A.F.O.'s refer to the handling of revolvers:-

A.F.O. 3376/41 - Fatal Accident caused by Accidental Dropping of a Loaded Revolver.

Another fatal accident has occurred, caused by a loaded revolver being accidentally dropped. The weapon was not cocked, but on falling the hammer struck a hard object, which forced it forward and fired the revolver.

2. Further experiments have shown that revolvers of proved mechanical efficiency can be fired by a sharp blow on the hammer.

3. Except when reloading in action, revolvers are to be loaded in five chambers only, the sixth and empty chamber being placed opposite the hammer.

4. Administrative authorities and Commanding Officers are to ensure that all naval personnel, whether at present issued with revolvers or not, are so instructed - it being made clear that this precaution does not involve delay in opening fire, as the action of cocking the hammer or pulling the trigger in snap shooting automatically brings the loaded chamber in line with the striker. Also, the firer must bear in mind that he has five rounds only available for his immediate dispute without reloading.

A.F.O. 2366/42. - Small Arms - Care in Handling.

A fatal accident which recently occurred at a naval establishment was caused by a sentry armed with a loaded revolver leaving the hammer cocked when closing the revolver after inspecting it. The sentry in question had never fired a revolver before and had never had any instruction in the use and safe handling of these weapons.

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2. Attention is

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2. Attention is called to paragraph 3 of A.F.O. 1114/40; and in this connection it should be borne in mind that a revolver is a far more dangerous weapon (to his friends), in the hands of an inexperienced man, than a rifle, which is the normal weapon for a sentry.

A.F.O. 4259/42 - Revolvers - Fatal Accidents.

Several fatal accidents have recently occurred owing to carelessness in the handling of revolvers.

2. Contributory causes of these accidents have been:-

- (i) Inadequate supervision of the issue and return of revolvers and their loading and unloading.
- (ii) Turning over the revolvers to reliefs in a casual manner.
- (iii) Removing revolvers from holsters unnecessarily while on watch.
- (iv) Pulling the trigger intentionally or through carelessness and thereby bringing a full chamber of the magazine adjacent to 12 o'clock.
- (v) Issuing revolvers to young and inexperienced ratings.

3. Commanding Officers are to ensure that adequate orders are brought into force to prevent a recurrence of such accidents.

4. Attention is drawn to A.F.O.'s 3376/41 and 2366/42. "

No. 44 Life-saving equipment

"All personnel on being appointed or drafted afloat are to be supplied with life-saving torch by the establishments in which borne."

O.6022/43, Para. 4 (ii)

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No. 45 Coloured Lanyards.

Reference B.C.M.M. Nos 2 and 31A the following should be added:-

R.N.B.C.	'T'	Gold/Black
R.N.B.C.	'U'	Red/Blue
R.N.B.C.	'V'	Violet

No. 46 New Postal Address of H.M.S. ARMADILLO

Is as follows:-

G.P.O. Box 2,
Dunoon,
Argyll.

It is emphasised that the name of the ship must not be mentioned in the address.

A.F.O. 6297/43 also includes new postal addresses for other Combined Operations Establishments.

No. 47 Leave Tickets - A.F.O. 6227/43
Stamping by Railway Transport Officer.

Attention is directed to A.F.O. 6227/43 :-

"In order to ensure uniform practice and to assist Commanding Officers in dealing with leave breakers, it has been arranged that Railway Transport Officers who are stationed at the London termini and other important stations throughout the country, shall undertake to stamp the leave tickets of naval ratings:-

- (a) When the late arrival of the rating at the station is due to unpunctuality of trains or other circumstances beyond his control.
- (b) When there is no evidence available that the rating missed his train except through his own fault.

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2. The.....

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2. The endorsements used will be:-

(a) Train arrived.....late.

(b) Rating reported at.....

3. Liberty men should realise that all systems of communication in the country are now liable to delay and when making arrangements to return from leave, they should take this fact into account. "

No. 48

Revised Arrangements for Payment of Officers.

A.F.O. 6204/43

"As from 1st January, 1944, the only method of paying officers borne on the books of "COPRA" will be payment by local Accountant Officers on Emergency Pay Lists (Form S.1039), which will be dealt with by Transfer of Cash procedure.

2. Separate Forms S.1039 are to be used for payments to officers and C.O. ship's book numbers are always to be shown.

3. The date and amount of each advance are to be entered in the pay books and initialled by the Paying Officer.

4. Pay due for December will be disposed of according to present arrangements. Thereafter no cheques are to be sent by "COPRA" to banks or to individual officers.

5. Officers wishing money sent to their banks regularly must use the ordinary allotment procedure.

6. Allotments must be limited to the amount due in respect of full pay, marriage allowance and C.O. allowance, less income tax deductions.

7. Allowances of a temporary nature such as Hard Lying Money, Special Victualling allowance when allotted on the ledger, Lodging and Provision Allowance, Colonial Allowance and Field Allowance will not be shown in the "daily rate" column or included in the "monthly rate" in pay books, but sums due in respect of them may be drawn in addition to the monthly rate.

8. When Hard.....

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8. When Hard Lying Money or Field Allowance is payable, the difference between the allowance and C.O. allowance may be paid to the officer concerned in addition to the monthly rate shown in the officer's pay book.

9. All officers borne in "Copra" must be in possession of pay books complete with "Copra" alteration slip giving current pay details: Pay books are to be issued locally as necessary. Names of officers requiring alteration slips are to be reported to "Copra" reports in the case of officers abroad to be by signal.

10. Special steps are to be taken to bring this order to the notice of all officers concerned. "

No. 49

Clothing Rationing.

Attention is called to A.F.O. 5817/43 and important amendment relating to officers in A.F.O. 167/44.

No. 50

Nomenclature of Landing Ships, Craft and Barges.

Special attention is directed to C. F. O. 2189/43, which all R.N.B.C. officers must see.

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No. 51

Standard Nomenclature for H.Q. Ships and Senior Officers.

Attention is directed to C.A.F.O. 2811/43

"The following is the standard nomenclature for Headquarters ships and Senior Officers:-

Senior Naval Officers.	H.Q. Ship or Craft	Associated Military	Remarks
A. Assault Force Commander. (Flag Officer or Commodore.)	Assault Force H.Q. Ship. (L.S.H.).	Assault Divisional Commander.	
B. Senior Naval Officer(Landing) (S.N.O.L.) (Long Range Operations). Senior Officer Assault Group (Short Range Operations).	Assault Group H.Q. Ship (L.S.I.). Assault Group H.Q. Ship (Destroyer Frigate, etc.).	Assault Brigade Commander.	
C. Deputy S.N.O.L. (Long Range Operations). Deputy Senior Officer, Assault Group (Short Range Operations).	Landing Craft H.Q. (L.C.H.) (in initial stages).	Battalion Commander. (in initial stages).	These craft may be of different types, such as U.S. type M.L., L.C.I. (L) H.M.S. "Locust"

+ The Associated authorities in line C should not be taken as a rigid definition. As the assault merges into the follow-up the Battalion Commanders naturally go ashore. Similarly the D/S.N.O.L. or D/S.O.A.G. might also go ashore, independently, to take up his duties as P.B.M., in which case H.Q. craft would probably be placed at the disposal of the "S.O.F." (S.O. Ferry Craft) or other officer running the "ferry service" of L.C. in the next, i.e. "build-up" phase.

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No. 52

Temporary Advancements to
Acting Petty Officer and Acting Leading Seaman (C.O.)

Commanding Officer, H.M.S. ARMADILLO's 2686/18L refers, also A.F.O. 5562/43 in so far as instructions and composition of board is concerned. The syllabus as laid down by above A.F.O. is not to be utilised.

No. 53

Canc 1 Beach Commando Monthly Memorandum No. 14.

No. 54

Armament Stores.

Supplies of the following items of armament stores are now available at H.M.S. ARMADILLO and beachmasters should forward their requirements :-

Breech covers for rifle
Camouflage nets for steel helmets.
Tripods for stripped Lewis M/G.

No. 55

Personnel Returns

The P.R.O. complains that the following Commandos have lately adopted very irregular habits in regard to the despatch of fortnightly personnel returns:

'C'	'P'		'U'
'E'	'Q' except	'Q.1'	'V'
'J'	'R'		'W'
'L'	'T'		

2. It is important that these returns should be rendered regularly and punctually, and include accurate details:-

- (a) any rating who has left the party and
 - (b) any rating who may have joined the party
- during the preceding fortnight. (The return submitted very punctually
15th January 1944 - for the first...

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for the first time in about three months - by the Beach Master 'R.3' - turned out to be a hollow mockery since it omitted the name of a Leading Seaman and an Able Seaman who had joined in December!),

3. The P.R.O. has many worries - and apparently very few friends - so don't be unnecessarily brutal.

No. 56 Limit and Sector Signs.

The attention of Beach Masters is drawn to the necessity for keeping the white canvas of the new Limit Signs and the white parts of the Sector Signs freshly painted in white.

No. 57 List of A.F.O.'s and C.A.F.O.'s.

	A.F.O.	C.A.F.O.
Combined Operations Personnel - Amendments to C.A.F.O. 1631/42		2334/42
Advancement to Acting Able Seaman and Acting Stoker 1st Class (General Service)	5250/42	
Allowances - Combined Operations	448/43	
Badge, special - Combined Operations Per- sonnel	4366/42	
Badges, Coxswains - Combined Operations	4490/43	
Bearing of Personnel in Connection with Overseas Operations.		577/43
Billeting - Naval Regulations.	6195/43	
Battle Dress for Officers - Combined Operations Personnel		2079/42

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A.F.O.

C.A.F.O.

Clothing - Rope Soled Shoes for Beach Parties - and Army Tropical Kits for Combined Operations Personnel.

1127/43

Kit, Combined Operations -
As. and As.

2426/43

Kit, Combined Operations -
As. and As. (Amendment)

2548/43

Kit (Ratings only) -
Combined Operations Personnel

1508a/42

Kit (Ratings only) -
Combined Operations Personnel

2029/42

Landing Craft Lead Lines -
Modification to Standard Markings

2453/43

Landing Craft - C.O. Personnel serving
in Minor Landing Craft and General Service
Personnel Drafted to Special Parties for
Operations Overseas - Revised Mail
Arrangements

2697/43

Landing Craft, Major - Speeds of

2638/43

Movements, Pay - Kit, etc. -
Control of - Combined Ops.
Personnel

1631/42

Medical History Sheets -
Custody of

2396/42

Payments Fortnightly and Quarterly
Settlements - Combined Operations
Personnel.

793/43

H.M.S. "STAG" - renamed H.M.S.
"SAUNDERS"

511/42

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A.F.O.

C.A.F.O.

Uniforms - Combined Operations Personnel. 2930/43

Uniform - Khaki Tropical Kit for Certain Combined Operations Personnel. 1309/43

Victualling - Combined Operations Personnel Victualled at Naval Bases and in H.M. Ships - Discontinuance of Entry on List 17 of the Ledger. 4414/43

No. 58 Alterations and Additions to staff of H.M.S. "ARMADILLO".

Lieutenant R. Wake, who is now in H.M.S. "EXCELLENT", sends his Best wishes for the future to both officers and ratings of the R.N. Beach Commandos, which he helped to "harden for war" at Coulpport, Inverkip, ARMADILLO, Inveraray and adjacent parishes. It was he who threatened to "harden them on the beaches, on the landing grounds, in the fields, the streets and up the hills" and finally to "harden them whatever the cost might be!"

Both Lieutenant L.C.D. Godwin D.S.C. and Lieutenant P.U. Bayly D.S.C., R.N., have been returned to General Service and wish all Commandos the best of luck in future operations.

Lieut. Commander D. Methur R.N.V.R. has assumed duties of Senior Training Officer, H.M. ARMADILLO.

Second Officer J. S. and Rao, W.R.N.S. has been appointed Officer in Charge, W.R.N.S. Rossan, and Second Officer M. Keen W.R.N.S. to Staff of Supreme Allied Commander-in-Chief, Far East.

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