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FRIDAY, 22 DECEMBER, 1939

BY THE KING.

A PROCLAMATION

APPOINTING MONDAY, THE FIRST DAY OF JANUARY, ONE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED AND FORTY, A BANK HOLIDAY THROUGHOUT ENGLAND, WALES AND NORTHERN IRELAND FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE BANK HOLIDAYS ACT, 1871.

GEORGE R.I.

WHEREAS We consider it desirable, in the circumstances of the present emergency, that Monday, the first day of January, one thousand nine hundred and forty, should be kept as a close holiday in all banks in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, and, should, as regards bills of exchange and promissory notes payable in England, Wales or Northern Ireland, be deemed to be a Bank Holiday for all the purposes of the Bank Holidays Act, 1871:

Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by section four of the said Act, We do by this Our Royal Proclamation, by and with the advice of Our Privy Council, appoint the said first day of January to be observed as a Bank Holiday throughout England, Wales and Northern Ireland:

And We do declare that this Proclamation does not have the effect of making the said day a holiday under, or for the purposes of, the Holidays Extension Act, 1875.

Given at Our Court at Buckingham Palace, this twentieth day of December, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and thirty-nine, and in the Fourth year of Our Reign.

GOD SAVE THE KING.

At the Court at *Buckingham Palace*, the 20th day of *December*, 1939.

PRESENT,

The KING's Most Excellent Majesty in Council.

WHEREAS there was this day read at the Board a Memorial from the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, dated the 13th day of December, 1939 (N.12346/39), in the words following, viz.:—

“Whereas by Section 3 of the Naval and Marine Pay and Pensions Act, 1865, it is enacted, *inter alia*, that all pay, pensions, or other allowances in the nature thereof, payable in respect of services in Your Majesty's Naval or Marine Force to a person being or having been an Officer, Seaman, or Marine therein, shall be paid in such manner, and subject to such restrictions, conditions, and provisions, as are from time to time directed by Order in Council:

“And whereas by Order in Council dated the 6th of May, 1938, there was established a branch of Your Majesty's Navy entitled the Air Mechanic Branch, the lowest ratings in which were Air Mechanic Probationer and Air Mechanic:

“And whereas, for the better administration of the Air Mechanic Branch we are of opinion that the two lowest ratings should be entitled Air Mechanic 2nd Class and Air Mechanic 1st Class:

“We beg leave humbly to recommend that Your Majesty, by Your Order in Council, may be graciously pleased to sanction this proposal with effect from such date as we may determine.”