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FRIDAY, 21 DECEMBER, 1956

At the Court at Buckingham Palace, the 19th day of December, 1956.

PRESENT.

The QUEEN'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 6th day of December, 1956 (N.P. 5602/56) 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 Orders in Council bearing dates 21st March, 1924, 24th February, 1948, 29th September, 1949, 30th June, 1955, and 16th May, 1956, sanction was given, inter alia, to certain scales of gratuities for long service, or on invaliding for non-attributable causes, to Locally Entered Petty Officers and Men. of Your Majesty's Naval Forces:

"And whereas we are of the opinion that in so far as they affect West African, St. Helenian, Bantu, Somali, Ceylonese and Goan Petty Officers and Men of Your Majesty's Naval Forces, these scales of gratuities should be revised:

"We beg humbly to recommend that Your Majesty may be graciously pleased by Your Order in Council to authorise us to award, with effect from 2nd October, 1956, service gratuity to Locally Entered West African, St. Helenian, Bantu, Somali, Ceylonese and Goan Petty Officers and Men of Your Majesty's Naval Forces at the rates and subject to the conditions specified in the annexed Schedule.

"The Lords Commissioners of Your Majesty's Treasury have signified their concurrence in this proposal."

" SCHEDULE.

"The provisions of this Schedule apply to all West African, St. Helenian, Bantu, Somali, Ceylonese and Goan ratings of the Royal Navy who are discharged from the Naval Service after the 1st October, 1956.

"2. Subject to the following provisions such a R.N. Locally Entered Rating who has twelve or more years' reckonable service preceding his discharge may be granted a service gratuity assessed as follows:—

"After twelve years such service ... 35 0 0
For each complete year of such service in excess of twelve years an increase of 8 15 0

"A rating who is invalided and who has six or more years' reckonable service prior to his discharge may be granted a service gratuity assessed as follows:—

"For each complete year of such service in excess of five years and up to ten years 3 10 0

For each complete year of such service in excess of ten years ... 8 15 0

"3. In addition to the service element, assessed in accordance with Clause 2, a rating who is

"(a) discharged otherwise than for misconduct or for inefficiency due to causes within his own control; if he has completed at least 30 years' reckonable service; or

"(b) discharged on reduction of establishment with not less than 22 years' reckonable service; or

"(c) invalided whilst serving on a non-continuous service engagement after the completion of 12 years' reckonable service.

may be awarded rank additions, based on the whole of his reckonable service as follows:—

"For each complete year of service as—

Leading Rating 2 10 0

Petty Officer 5 0 0

Chief Petty Officer 7 10 0

"4. Reckonable service will be as for Naval Ratings generally. In calculating reckonable service all satisfactory periods of regular service may be aggregated, except that service preceding a five-year interval in service will not be reckonable service unless specially so allowed by the Admiralty. No period in respect of which a gratuity has already been paid may be allowed to reckon unless such gratuity is repaid either in cash or by deductions from pay.

"5. If a rating is discharged for inefficiency due to causes within his own control, or for misconduct, or with disgrace or ignominy, the grant of a service gratuity, or its amount, will be discretionary.

"6. A service gratuity will not be payable on discharge for the purposes of giving further full pay service in the Armed Forces,

"7. If a rating dies whilst serving no gratuity will be payable."

Her Majesty, having taken the said Memorial into consideration, was pleased, by and with the advice of Her Privy Council, to approve of what is therein proposed.

And the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty are to give the necessary directions herein accordingly.

W. G. Agnew.