

**CONFIDENTIAL**

C.A.F.O. 341/1948 - DIVERS - "P-PARTY" DIVERS - RENAMED  
CLEARANCE DIVERS - CONDITIONS OF SERVICE AND  
RESPONSIBILITIES.

"P-PARTY" divers are in future to be known as Clearance Divers (Divers(C)). The Diver (C) will be a specialist diver and will be subject to the same conditions of service as are applicable to the diver (see A.F.O. 3212/48).

2. Selection of ratings for specialisation as Diver (C) will be made from those who are already qualified as divers. Men may volunteer at any time after they have qualified. Subject to the necessary recommendation they will then be given specialised training for the Diver (C) qualification.

3. Since in peace-time their duties will involve a proportion of instructional work, 50 per cent. of the total Clearance Divers in the Fleet are to be Leading Seamen or above or Leading Stoker Mechanics qualified as Divers 2nd Class. For advancement from Diver (C) 3rd Class to Diver (C) 2nd Class there is no separate course but it will be necessary to qualify as Diver 2nd Class. Of those who qualify as Divers 2nd Class, the requisite number with the necessary proficiency and suitability will be selected as Divers (C) 2nd Class. There will be a requirement for Divers (C) 1st Class who will be selected from Divers (C) 2nd Class who qualify as Divers 1st Class. In peace-time it may not be possible to employ all Divers (C) 1st Class on clearance diving duties, but they may retain their Diver (C) rating irrespective of the nature of their employment.

4. At least one T.A.S. officer will be trained in clearance diving each year.

5. The specialised training in clearance diving will consist of a course at H.M.S. "LOCHINVAR", Port Edgar, in methods of detecting, locating and disposing of enemy mines and the infernal machines which may be attached by the enemy to ships, docks, etc.

6. Divers (C) and, when available, officers trained in clearance diving, will be allocated as follows :-

Home Fleet	..	..	..	..	10 + 1 officer.
Mediterranean Fleet	..	..	..	..	10 + 1 officer.
Far Eastern Fleet	.	..	..	..	6 + 1 officer.

7. The division of responsibility for experimental and trial work in clearance diving will be :-

- (a) The Superintendent of Diving will be responsible to the Director, Underwater Weapons Department, for the development of the necessary diving equipment other than detection equipment of a type normally developed by U.D.E.
- (b) The Commanding Officer, H.M.S. "LOCHINVAR", will be responsible to the Director, Underwater Weapons Department, for user trials of diving equipment developed by the Superintendent of Diving as in (a) above and for trials of methods of detection and location of underwater explosive objects and their subsequent disposal.

8. The search of ships' bottoms for limpets and other infernal machines will normally be the responsibility of the ships' divers, and gear for the purpose will, when available, be supplied to vessels of the Fleet. The assistance of the Clearance Divers on the station should, however, be sought in cases of difficulty or emergency.