

Reminder to the Ministry.

J.W. 12/4/51.

With reference to the minutes in N.L.2628/50, herewith, on the question of the proper flags to be flown by Service hospitals in peacetime, the general situation may now be summarised as follows:-

Present practice

Proposed practice

R.N. Hospitals:-

Haslar. Has no flagstaff. Has in past flown White Ensign only.

Plymouth. Flies Union Flag at masthead and Red Cross flag at yard.

Chatham. Flies Red Cross flag at masthead and Union Flag at yard.

M.D.G. considers Union Flag should be flown at masthead and Red Cross flag at yard.

M. Sees no objection.

War Office.

Red Cross flag not flown over military hospitals in peacetime. Union Flag flown by certain hospitals and flag of formation to which they belong by other hospitals.

No proposals for altering practice of flying Union Flag or flag of appropriate formation.

Air Ministry.

No uniformity in practice. Some hospitals fly Royal Air Force Ensign and Red Cross flag. Other hospitals fly Royal Air Force Ensign only.

Not considered flying of Red Cross flag is necessary in peacetime outside operational areas. Propose to issue instructions that R.A.F. Ensign is to be flown by R.A.F. hospitals entitled to fly Ensign, in peacetime. During hostilities (and in operational areas at all times) the Union Flag and Red Cross flag to be flown over all R.A.F. medical formations and establishments.

2. It seems reasonable to accept the view that the Red Cross flag should be flown by Service hospitals only in (a) wartime or (b) according to emergency and/or operational requirements.

3. Accordingly, in peacetime the Royal Naval hospitals should fly only one flag, viz: the Union Flag, there being no naval equivalent of the Royal Air Force Ensign or the flags of military formations. The K.R. & A.I. Committee have expressed the view that it would be in order for permission to be given to Royal Naval hospitals to fly the White Ensign, either at the masthead or yard,
on

the grounds that they are "organised units of the Royal Navy" and "buildings used for naval purposes". The principal objection to this suggestion is that naval hospitals cannot be accepted as the "shore extension" of one of H.M. Ships of war in commission. It has been decided by the Board in the past, and has recently been confirmed by the Fourth Sea Lord, that naval dockyards and civil establishments should fly the Union Flag. The Union Flag, rather than the White Ensign, therefore seems appropriate for naval hospitals.

4. It is proposed to submit for approval to inform the War Office and the Air Ministry that the Admiralty intends to instruct the Royal Naval Hospitals to the effect that
(a) In peacetime the Union Flag only is to be flown;
(b) In wartime, or in times of emergency or in operational areas, both the Union Flag and the Red Cross flag are to be flown, positioned at the masthead and yard, respectively, and also to include the instruction in K.R. & A.I.

J.A. Williams

for Head of N.L.
20th. April 1951.

Concur with Head of N.L. para 4.

L.S. Curran

for M.D.G.

23 April 51.

N.L. para 4 (b) Concur.

W. Williams

for Head of N.L.

27.4.

Submitted accordingly.

J.A. Williams
for Head of N.L.
27/51.

Concur

W. Williams
W.S.N.

N.L. 2056/51