

WEDNESDAY, 8TH NOVEMBER, 1950.

- 5. Dr. Reginald Bennett - To ask the Parliamentary Secretary to the Admiralty, what ship's name is attached to Queen Anne's Mansions, S.W.1., in view of the fact that it flies the White Ensign and not the Admiralty flag.

MR. JAMES CALLAGHAN,

None, Sir. The White Ensign may, with Admiralty approval, be worn ashore on buildings used for naval purposes. Such establishments need not necessarily be independently commissioned.

NOTES FOR SUPPLEMENTARIES.

The White Ensign is primarily a maritime flag. It may also be worn at naval establishments on shore when commissioned as one of H.M. Ships or on naval establishments which are not independently commissioned. Buildings occupied by naval personnel, such as Naval Recruiting Offices, may also wear it where special permission is given. Copies of A.F.O's 4486/46 and 3197/48 on this subject are attached.

It is customary for the White Ensign to be flown at Headquarters. No formal approval can be traced for the flying of the White Ensign on Queen Anne's Mansions, but such use of the flag is considered to be reasonable. The alternative would be the Union flag and not the Admiralty flag as suggested by Dr. Reginald Bennett in his question.

The Admiralty Flag (Gold Anchor recumbent on red background) is of course, the flag of the Board of Admiralty and has been flown over Admiralty Headquarters in London for at least 100 years. Two Lords Commissioners and a Secretary (Parliamentary Secretary, Permanent Secretary or the Deputy Secretary) can fly this flag when engaged on Board business. Queen Anne's Mansions houses only the Second Sea Lord and would not, therefore, be entitled to fly the Admiralty flag.

The White Ensign is not flown continuously on Queen Anne's Mansions but on days notified to the Admiralty by the Ministry of Works. Examples of fixed days on which the flag is flown are Birthdays of the King, The Queen, Princess Elizabeth; Coronation Day, Empire Day; and Remembrance Day.