

higher penalty.

3.14 **Loss and hazarding of ships**²⁹

3.14.1 **General.** Loss means total loss; hazarding has always been regarded as having its ordinary sense of “exposing to danger” and includes collision. The relevant provisions of the Service Discipline Acts encompass “stranding” which requires that a ship should run aground, settle on the bottom (or into or on to some object affixed on the ground) and remain fast for a time. Such cases often include allegations of neglect to perform or negligent performance of some duty which played a part in the hazarding or grounding. Whilst the Acts allow an unlimited sentence of imprisonment in cases of wilful neglect, with a limit of two years imprisonment in other cases, punishments awarded in the latter cases are usually confined to those which have an effect on the offender’s future career and promotion, as these offences call into question their professional abilities. Punishments appropriate for truly criminal conduct are avoided.

3.14.2 **Entry points.**

Severe Reprimand - or in more serious cases where level of negligence was higher dismissal from ship (Royal Navy only) and/or loss of seniority.