

## RANK AND COMMAND.

## EXTRACT FROM THE KING'S REGULATIONS.

## OFFICERS IN GENERAL.

1. The Officers of His Majesty's Navy are divided into the following branches, namely: Military, Engineer, Medical Accountant, Naval Instructor, Artisan.

2. The Military Branch is comprised of the under-mentioned Officers who, with the exception hereinafter mentioned, shall rank and command in the following order:—

- |                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| 1. Admirals of the Fleet.        |   |
| 2. Admirals.                     |   |
| 3. Vice-Admirals.                |   |
| 4. Rear-Admirals.                |   |
| 5. Commodores.                   |   |
| 6. Captains.                     |   |
| 7. Commanders.                   |   |
| 8. Lieutenant-Commanders.        |   |
| 9. Lieutenants.                  |   |
| 10. } Sub-Lieutenants.           | } according to<br>date of<br>Commissions. |
| 11. } Mates.                     |   |
| 12. } Chief Gunners.             |   |
| 13. } Chief Boatswains.          |   |
| 14. } Chief Signal Boatswains.   |   |
| 15. } Commissioned Telegraphists | } according to<br>date of<br>Warrants.    |
| 16. } Gunners.                   |   |
| 17. } Boatswains                 |   |
| 18. } Signal Boatswain.          |   |
| 19. } Warrant Telegraphists.     |   |
| 20. } Chief Masters-at-Arms.     |   |
| 21. Midshipmen.                  |   |
| 22. Naval Cadets.                |   |

3. Commodores, when in the presence of Captains senior to them, shall rank and command according to their seniority as Captains.

4. A ship must always be represented by an Officer of the Military Branch in the following order of command:—

- |                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 1. Captain.                     |   |
| 2. Commander.                   |   |
| 3. Lieutenant-Commander.        |   |
| 4. Lieutenant.                  |   |
| 5. } Sub-Lieutenant.            | } according to<br>date of<br>Commissions. |
| 6. } Mate.                      |   |
| 7. } Chief Gunner.              |   |
| 8. } Chief Boatswain.           |   |
| 9. } Chief Signal Boatswain.    |   |
| 10. } Commissioned Telegraphist | } according to<br>date of<br>Warrants.    |
| 11. } Gunner.                   |   |
| 12. } Boatswain.                |   |
| 13. } Signal Boatswain.         |   |
| 14. } Warrant Telegraphist.     |   |
| 15. } Chief Master-at-Arms.     |   |
| 16. Midshipman.                 |   |
| 17. Naval Cadet.                |   |

5. All Officers of the same denomination in the Military Branch shall rank and command according to the order in which their names stand in the

Official List of Officers of the Royal Navy; or, when not inserted in the List, according to the dates of their first Commissions, Warrants, or Orders, in their existing rank. If only acting in the rank, they shall rank and command after Officers holding the corresponding confirmed rank, and in relation to each other shall rank and command according to the order in which their names stand in the Official List of the Officers of the Royal Navy, unless the Admiralty may otherwise direct.

6. Officers of the Non-Military Branches shall rank with each other and with the Officers of the Military Branch, the Royal Marines and the Army in the order given in the following table, and shall command in the same order the Officers and men of their own Branch as well as those of any other branch or of the Royal Marines who may be appointed or detailed for duty in their respective departments or placed under their orders by superior authority.

7. Officers on whom a step of temporary or local rank has been conferred under the provisions of Order in Council of 21st November, 1855, shall, subject to the provisions of Clauses 5 and 6, be entitled to take command and precedence and to enjoy all the privileges and emoluments of the rank in which they are acting.

8. Officers in command of His Majesty's Ships must take rank and precedence of Officers placed under their Command on all occasions, whether on shore or afloat.

9. When Commanders, Lieutenant-Commanders, Lieutenants, or Sub-Lieutenants, who are seniors to the Executive Officer, are appointed for Navigating duties, they will succeed to the command of the Ship, in the absence of the Captain; but they are not to take upon themselves the routine duties of the Executive Officer except by order of the Captain, or in case of necessity.

10. All Officers of the Military Branch are liable to be called upon to perform Navigating and Pilotage duties in His Majesty's Ships, but the additional pay to Commanders, Lieutenant-Commanders, Lieutenants, and Sub-Lieutenants for the discharge of such duties, is contingent on their having passed the necessary examination in Pilotage.

11. Lieutenant-Commanders, Lieutenants and Sub-Lieutenants appointed for Navigating duties are to take a share in the ordinary duties of their Ships, such as watch keeping, acting as Divisional Officers, &c., but this participation in the ordinary duties is not to interfere with their special navigating duties and is to be arranged at the discretion of the Captain.

12. At Courts of Inquiry, Surveys, and other similar assemblages of Officers, the Officer who, in virtue of his office, would, under these Regulations take the military command, is in all cases to preside, irrespective of the relative rank of the other members, whose precedence on such occasions shall be determined by the table given on page 951.