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The Chief and Warrant Officers beg most respectfully to place this Appeal before the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, and also to earnestly request the assistance of all Naval Officers and Members of Parliament in their endeavour to obtain the moderate concessions herein submitted, so that Naval Men may be placed more on an equality with their comrades in the Army. They appeal for this equality with confidence, as they believe that their case is now better understood than heretofore—as is the Service, in which they have the honour to serve—through recent events in South Africa, China, &c.

The concessions appealed for are as follows, viz. :—

- (I.) That the “Honorary” Rank of Lieutenant now granted to Chiefs on retirement, who have served three years in that rank, may be conceded to officers on the Active list having three years seniority as Chief, with the maximum pay now attainable by officers of this rank.
(b). That greater facilities be given to young Warrant Officers and Petty Officers to obtain the substantive rank of Lieutenant.
- (II.) That the rank of Chief may be granted to deserving Warrant Officers after 18 years’ service in the latter rank.
- (III.) That executive Warrant Officers may be granted 6s. per diem on promotion.
- (IV.) That Carpenters be granted 8s. 6d. per diem on promotion to that rank, with a rise of 1s. per diem after every five years service, the store and other allowances remaining as at present.
- (V.) That the Boatswains of all ships, and those holding special appointments, including Instructors in Training Ships, shall receive an allowance of 1s. 6d. per diem.
- (VI.) That the children of Warrant Officers be granted compassionate allowance.

ARGUMENTS.

In advancing these requests the Chiefs and Warrant Officers submit the following arguments as being some of the reasons why the concessions should be granted :—

FOR CLAUSE I.—Considering the great and growing importance of the Navy to the Empire, and the need of securing the very best class of Naval recruits to “man” our splendid Fleet, it is desirable to be able to offer young men as full a career in the Navy as in the Army—which does not at present exist. If the rank of Honorary Lieutenant, after three years’ service as Chief, were conceded, Naval men who had climbed to that rank from Training Ship boys—often after a total service of nearly 40 years—would be rewarded for long, faithful, and oft-times brilliant services, and a further step would be opened to the Naval “Ranker,” thus more nearly assimilating his opportunities to those of his brother in the Army.

(b). The Admiralty have of late years promoted three officers to substantive Lieutenant rank for services in the field; and it is now requested that this rate may be quickened, and that deserving young Warrant and Petty Officers may be allowed to share with Officers drawn from the Mercantile Marine the honour of augmenting the Naval Lieutenants’ List. In short, that young officers trained under the White Ensign may have the same opportunities to get a Lieutenant’s Commission as those trained under the Red Ensign.

CLAUSE II.—Warrant Officers at present go a longer number of years without a step in rank than any other class of Naval Officers, viz., from 19 to 21 years, and this period will in the near future extend to 23 or 24 years at the present rate of promotion. They request that deserving Warrant Officers may be promoted to Chief at 18 years seniority, irrespective of the number of Chiefs already on the list. They sincerely hope that it will be recognised

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that 18 years in one rank is more than sufficient, and gives a very strong claim indeed for Warrant Officers to ask for a step in promotion at that seniority.

CLAUSE III.—At present many Petty Officers obtain little more than 6d per diem as an increase in pay when promoted to be Gunner or Boatswain, while their expenses (in Mess and Uniform) advance nearly fifty per cent. They therefore ask that the present rate of pay, viz., 5s. 6d. per diem, on promotion be increased to 6s., so that they may not be saddled with a heavy financial burden during their first five years of service in the Warrant Rank.

CLAUSE IV.—The duties of Carpenters in the Royal Navy correspond to that of a Foreman in a Royal or Private Dockyard, yet the Carpenters begin at less than half of the pay which the men who do corresponding duties in the Dockyards obtain. They therefore submit they may begin on 8s. 6d. per diem, which would be more in keeping with wages paid outside the Navy, and that they be given a rise of 1s. per diem every five years. The Carpenters hope and believe this request will be examined and acceded to, when their position and duties are fairly weighed and compared with other mechanics and the wages that rule in shipwright circles throughout the country.

CLAUSE V.—In asking for an extra 1s. 6d. per diem for Boatswains, who perform the responsible duties of that rank when serving afloat in charge of their ship as Boatswain and in other special appointments such as Instructional Boatswains on board a training ship, or in responsible posts in home and foreign Dockyards and other places, it is felt that with this additional allowance they will be no more than fully rewarded for the important duties they are called on to perform in the ships of our present Fleet. They therefore press for this concession with every belief that it will be granted.

CLAUSE VI.—In seeking to obtain compassionate allowances for their children the Warrant Officers are only asking for that which is very properly allowed to the children of all the other classes of Naval Officers. Considering their dependents will be equally as necessitous and deserving of help as those of their brother officers, with whom the Warrant Officers share all dangers and hazards, it is felt that so just a claim as that of seeking compassionate allowances for their children has only to be brought clearly before the authorities to be granted. They therefore earnestly and respectfully solicit the help of all Naval Officers, from the Board of Admiralty down, in assisting them to obtain this last, and the other five requests set out in this "Earnest Appeal," with every confidence that they will receive it not only from their brother officers afloat, but from all Members of Parliament and civilians ashore.