

Archive Of The Month, July 2010

AccNo. 1500

Notice to Mariners – Kirkwall – Public Traffic Regulations by Order of the Naval Officer in Charge, Kirkwall, Orkneys.

This is a new accession which is part of a large collection of booklets and documents deposited by the Director of Harbours in December 2009. This is such an interesting little booklet, as it describes precisely to vessel owners the complicated procedures involved in what to do and what not to do in Kirkwall Harbour during World War II.

It is interesting to see the lengths the Admiralty went to in order to maintain security, e.g. "all lanterns are to be fitted with screens arranged so as to cut off the light at an angle of 20 degrees above the horizontal" and "small craft moving at night without lights will be treated as hostile" and "disobedience will render a Merchant vessel liable to be fired on". Scary stuff!

Some of the other items in this new collection are: Orkney Harbours Act, 1887 - Chapter cixii - An act of consolidation under one management the harbours and piers of Kirkwall, Scapa and Holm and of Gill, Whitehall (Stronsay) and Kettletoft in the county of Orkney; for the amendment of the Acts and Provisional Orders relating to those harbours and piers and for other purposes; The Kettletoft Pier Order, 1882; Photocopy of article "Opening of Scapa Pier" Orcadian 5th June 1880 + Harbour Trustees mtg article (2 copies); Whitehall, Stronsay - Order for the enlargement maintenance and improvement of the pier and harbour at Whitehall in the Island of Stronsay and County of Orkney., 1879; The Orkney Piers & Harbours Act, 1872 (2 copies); Gill Pier, Provisional Order for The Construction, maintenance and regulation of a pier at Gill, in the Bay of Pierowall, Island of Westray, and County of Orkney, 1871-2; Kirkwall Harbours Act, 1859.

Lucy Gibbon
Assistant Archivist
03/07/2010

NOTICE TO MARINERS

KIRKWALL

PUBLIC TRAFFIC REGULATIONS

*By Order of the Naval Officer in Charge
Kirkwall, Orkneys*

"ORKNEY HERALD," KIRKWALL.

NOTICE TO MARINERS

KIRK WALL

PUBLIC TRAFFIC REGULATIONS

BY ORDER OF THE NAVAL OFFICER IN CHARGE,
KIRKWALL.

The Regulations contained herein relating to Pilotage and Prohibited Areas are issued with the approval of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty.

1. Until further notice the following Regulations are to be observed by all Merchant Vessels (see Definition, para. 6) approaching or moving within the limits of the Port of Kirkwall.

2. The limits of the Port are :—

All the waters, bays, creeks, lakes and pools so far as the tide flows, lying between the following limits :—

ON THE EAST.—A line joining the following points—Mull Head, Ness of Ork and Point of the Graand, Egilsay.

ON THE NORTH.—A line joining the following points—Point of the Graand, Egilshay, South Point of Wyre and Point of Vastray.

PROHIBITED ANCHORAGES.—Anchoring in the following areas is prohibited :—

(a) Between the parallels of 50 degs. 6 min. 15 secs. N. and 59 degs. 3 min. 45 secs. N. and the

of the Examination Service, normally in the Examination Steamer, who examines Merchant Vessels wishing to enter a defended port prior to their entry. As a result of this examination he permits, or does not permit, a Merchant Vessel to enter the Defended Port.

PART I.—ENTRANCE TO THE PORT.

7. ADVICE TO SHIPOWNERS AND SHIPPING AGENTS—

Shipowners and Shipping Agents are advised that, in their own interests, and in order to avoid delays to their vessels in their recognition by and passage through the Examination Service, they should :—

- (a) Arrange for their vessels to arrive at the Port during daylight.
- (b) See that their vessels are provided with a complete set of International Code Flags, also with 2 White and 2 Red Lanterns—ready and available for use—in addition to the Regulation Navigational Lights.

8. KIRKWALL EXAMINATION AREA — POSITION AND LIMITS :—

An area extending for 1 mile East of a line joining Fit of Shapinsay and Rerwick Head.

9. INSTRUCTIONS FOR MERCHANT VESSELS WISHING TO ENTER THE PORT. (For Special Regulations for Small Craft wishing to enter the Port, see paragraph 25).

Merchant Vessels arriving from seaward during daylight are to proceed to the Examination Area and act as directed by the Examination Vessel. They are not to anchor in this area.

All orders and instructions necessary to enable a Merchant Vessel to enter the Port will be given by

the Examining Officer, whose orders and instructions are to be implicitly obeyed.

Disobedience will render a Merchant Vessel liable to be fired on.

10. Normally, Merchant Vessels are permitted to enter the Port by day after having passed through the Examination Service.

For Fog and Thick Weather Restrictions on entry into the Port, see paragraph 18.

For other restrictions on entry into the Port, see paragraphs 20-22, "Port Closed," etc.

11. Merchant Vessels approaching the Port are specially cautioned against making use of private signals of any description, either by day or night; the use of such signals will render the Merchant Vessels liable to be fired on.

12. All Merchant Vessels must pass through the Examination Service before they will be permitted to enter the Port, except as in paragraph 17.

13. All Merchant Vessels approaching the Port must hoist their Signal Letters on arriving within visual distance of the Port and are not to wait for the signal "What is the name of your vessel?" to be made from the Examination Steamer or Signal Station.

14. As a general rule, Merchant Vessels will be examined by the Examining Officer in the order of their arrival in the Examination Area.

15. Any Merchant Vessel attempting to leave the Area without permission from the Examining Officer will be liable to be fired on.

16. PROHIBITED ENTRANCES—Entrance to Kirkwall through Eynhallow Sound and all entrances between

- (2) Communicate in any way with the shore or with other vessels.
- (3) Lower any boats.
- (4) Work cables.
- (5) Allow any person to leave the vessel, or any part of the vessel, cargo, stores, etc., to be removed.

Should it be necessary in order to save life, or to avoid accident, to do any of these things without previous permission of the Examining Officer, this officer is to be communicated with at once.

24. TO GET INTO COMMUNICATION WITH THE EXAMINING OFFICER WHEN IN THE EXAMINATION ANCHORAGE—

- (a) BY DAY—Merchant Vessels are to hoist Flags JG, International Code.
- (b) BY NIGHT—Merchant Vessels are to hoist 2 lights, Red over White, 3 ft. apart at the fore masthead.

25. PROHIBITIONS AFFECTING SMALL CRAFT.—Masters of Fishing Vessels, Tugs, Yachts, Barges, Boats, and Small Private Craft of any kind are to be informed that, when the Examination Service is in force, although they are allowed to pass in and out, by day, when identified, they are liable to inspection and search at any time, and that they should keep a careful lookout on the Examination Steamer for orders.

PART II.—INTERNAL MOVEMENT.

26. LOCAL AUTHORITY CONTROLLING INTERNAL MOVEMENT—The King's Harbour Master, Kirkwall.

No movement in the Port is to take place without the authority of this Officer.

27. RESTRICTIONS ON MERCHANT VESSELS ENTERING CERTAIN AREAS IN THE PORT.

No vessel shall anchor in any prohibited area as marked on the Admiralty Charts or published from time to time by Admiralty Notice to Mariners.

28. SPECIAL REGULATIONS FOR SMALL CRAFT.

The movement of Boats and Small Craft within the Port, both during day and night will be subject to the following Regulations :—

- (a) The Orders of the King's Harbourmaster at Kirkwall are to be obeyed immediately.
- (b) No boat other than those in the employ of Government Departments is allowed to approach any Government ship, vessel, lighter, or other Government craft, or establishment, without a written permit from the King's Harbourmaster.
- (c) Dimmed sidelights only are to be displayed at night.
- (d) Small Craft moving at night without lights will be treated as hostile.

29. LIGHTS TO BE SHOWN OR OBSCURED AT NIGHT IN THE PORT AND IN THE EXAMINATION ANCHORAGE.

By all Merchant Vessels :—

- (a) When under Way—Dimmed steaming and bow lights are to be displayed.
- (b) When at Anchor or Secured—Normally no lights are to be visible from outboard (but see paragraphs 30 to 32).

30. When a Merchant Vessel is under way, Merchant Vessels at anchor or secured are to show

PART V.

42. List of Authorities connected with these Regulations from whom permission to do certain acts is to be obtained :—

NATURE OF PERMISSION GRANTED BY AUTHORITY CONCERNED.	AUTHORITY CONCERNED	PARAGRAPH IN REGULATIONS.
To Enter the Port	Examining Officer.	12, 13, 18
To leave the Examination Area	Examining Officer.	15
When the Port is Closed	Examining Officer.	21, 23
Moving Vessel, communicating with shore or other vessels, lowering of boats, working cables, allowing persons to leave vessel or any part of cargo, etc., to be removed whilst in Examination Anchorage.	Examining Officer.	24
Small Craft to enter the Port	Examining Officer.	26
Internal movements in the Port	King's Harbour Master.	27
To approach Government Ships and Vessels	King's Harbour Master.	29 (b), 35
Permission to leave Port.	King's Harbour Master.	39

R. H. T. RAIKES,
Vice-Admiral,
Naval Officer in Charge,
Kirkwall.
Kirkwall, Orkney,
31st March, 1940.

APPENDIX " A "

WARNINGS TO MASTERS OF INCOMING
VESSELS.

- (a) Your attention is called to the Public Traffic Regulations of the Port.
- (b) If you wish to communicate with the Examination Service Officers, hoist I U X by day and lights Red, Red, White by night.
- (c) Disregard of any of the following warnings will render your vessel liable to be fired on and yourself liable to penalties.
- (d) All orders given to you by the Officers of the Examination Service, or by the Port War Signal Station must be strictly complied with.
- (e) The Flags of the " Special Signal " are to be kept shaken out on calm days so as to be easily recognised, and the lanterns of the " Special Signal " at night are to be kept clear of funnel smoke or other obstruction. The " Special Signal " is to be kept hoisted until anchored, after which it is to be no longer exhibited.
- (f) While at anchor in the Examination Anchorage (or within the area specified), it is forbidden, except for the purpose of avoiding accident, to do any of the following things without the permission of the Examining Officer :—
 - To lower any boat.
 - To communicate with the shore or with other ships.
 - To move the ship.
 - To work cables, except under stress of weather.