

# **\*1223.—Fleet Air Arm Division—Transfer of Ratings from Present Port Division—Forms S.165**

(N. 1646/39.—11.5.1939.)

The establishment of a new Division for naval ratings permanently attached to the Fleet Air Arm was notified in A.F.O., 5/39, the Division to come into effect when control of the Fleet Air Arm is assumed by the Admiralty. Details of the new administration of the Fleet Air Arm Division under the Rear-Admiral Naval Air Stations at Lee-on-the-Solent, and the commencing date, will be promulgated separately, and the following action is then to be taken as regards the assimilation to the new Division of permanent Fleet Air Arm ratings (*see paragraph 6.*)

2. On the date on which full control of the Fleet Air Arm is transferred to the Admiralty, ratings belonging to the Aircraft Maintenance branches who have been transferred from the Royal Air Force will be assigned to the Fleet Air Arm Division. No exceptions will be permitted.

3. Other permanent Fleet Air Arm ratings will also be transferred from their existing Port Divisions to the Fleet Air Arm Division, although exceptions will be permitted for those ratings who express their desire to remain attached to their present Port Division. The service of any such men who are excepted from the transfer will conform generally to requirements in the Fleet Air Arm, their drafting records will be maintained by the Fleet Air Arm Drafting Officer, and they will be included in the Fleet Air Arm Division advancement rosters. When *discharged* from a ship or Fleet Air Arm Base *on completion of a period of service*, and entitled to leave, those who belong to Chatham or Devonport Port Division are to be given the option of being discharged to their home port depôt in which event they are to be discharged to Lee-on-the-Solent immediately their leave expires.

4. Forms S. 165 reporting the movements of all permanent Fleet Air Arm ratings are to be despatched to the Rear-Admiral Naval Air Stations, Lee-on-the-Solent, marked "For F.A.A. Drafting Officer." As soon as possible after notation such Forms S. 165 as relate to men not belonging to the Fleet Air Arm Division are to be forwarded from Lee-on-the-Solent to the appropriate Port Division. Forms S. 165 which relate to permanent Fleet Air Arm ratings and are received direct at Portsmouth, Chatham or Devonport should be forwarded to the Rear-Admiral Naval Air Stations, Lee-on-the-Solent.

5. The Service Certificates of all permanent Fleet Air Arm ratings are to be noted, in the ship or establishment where the man is serving, by cancelling the present Port Division as noted on page 1 and substituting "F.A.A. Division," except for those men who under paragraph 3 above are permitted to remain attached to their present Port Division. Transfer of Port Division should be reported on Form S. 161.

6. Permanent Fleet Air Arm ratings will include the following :—

Air Artificers.

Air Fitters and Air Riggers

Air Mechanics.

Air Apprentices.

and men holding the undermentioned non-substantive rates :—

Rating Pilot.

Observer's Mate.

Air Gunner.

Ratings transferred to any of the above duties in future will be required to belong to the Fleet Air Arm Division on satisfactorily completing training. Men now under training for Fleet Air Arm duties will also be transferred to the Fleet Air Arm Division on satisfactorily completing training, unless they elect to remain attached to their present Port Division.

*(A.F.O. 5/39.)*

*(A.F.O. 10/1938 is cancelled.)*

*(K.R. & A.I. Article 1732, clause 9.)*

*(This Order will be reprinted for posting on Notice Boards.)*