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DEFENCE COUNCIL INSTRUCTIONS ROYAL NAVY

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MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
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By Command of the
Defence Council

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146/81. UNIFORM—RN, RM AND RNR OFFICERS AND RN MASTERS-AT-ARMS—ESTABLISHMENT OF LOAN POOLS OF CEREMONIAL SWORDS (U)

[N/STE1675/71DGST(N)83A]

1. Ceremonial swords, scabbards, sword knots and belts are now available for issue on temporary loan to RN and RM officers and to RN masters-at-arms.
2. These swords and accoutrements will be held in loan pools as detailed in ANNEX A, and in addition to the current allocation of drill swords and accoutrements.
3. There is no change in the arrangements for supply of scabbards and sword belts for RN officers of Flag rank and other special ceremonial items for RM general and band officers. (BR 81 arts 0317 (c and d), 0515 (b) and 0518 (d) refer.)

Accounting arrangements

4. Full accounting details are shown in ANNEX B including details of drill swords, scabbards and knots and of webbing belts, all of which are to be transferred to the victualling range. RN pattern drill and ceremonial scabbards are identical and have been allocated one Vocab/NSN number.
5. To permit unrestricted use on ceremonial occasions, the blades of drill swords will be engraved during refurbishment and black leather slings will be added to webbing belts. Drill sword knots as they become unserviceable will be replaced by gold cord knots if funds permit.

Demanding arrangements

6. **Shore establishments.** PSTO(N) Devonport will issue (without demand) ceremonial swords (with scabbards, belts and knots) to RN and RM shore establishments and to headquarters of RNR divisions to bring them up to the authorized holdings.
7. **HM ships.** Supply officers of HM ships detailed in ANNEX A may demand swords and accoutrements as required from PSTO(N) Devonport within their authorized holding. Other HM ships should obtain swords from the nearest base supply officer as required for particular occasions and return them immediately after use.
8. **Miscellaneous requirements.** Because funds were limited it has not been possible to provide swords other than for the loan pools detailed in ANNEX A. PSTO(N) Devonport will however hold a small reserve stock from which individual officers not covered by the above arrangements may be able to borrow swords, subject to availability.
9. **Refurbishment.** When items require refurbishment, details should be reported to PSTO(N) Devonport.
10. **Review.** The size and distribution of the loan pools will be reviewed in twelve months time and any necessary reallocation will be made at that stage. It will, however, not be possible to increase the total number of items available.
11. The establishment of these loan pools does not affect the individual officer's or MAA's right to purchase his own sword should he so wish, but the grant authorized in BR 1950 article 1325c to assist MAAs to buy their own swords is abolished.
12. BR 81 (*RN and RM Uniform regulations*), BR 96 (*Stores Accounting and Storekeeping Regulations*), BR 1950 (*Pay Regulations*) and CB 4940 will be amended.

ANNEX A
SWORDS: LOAN POOL ALLOCATIONS

Ship/establishment	RN and RM Officers			RN MAA Total authorised holding
	Current allocation of drill swords	Additional allocation of ceremonial swords	Total authorised holdings	
CINCNAVHOME				
HMS				
CALEDONIA	12	—	12	—
COCHRANE	1	—	1	—
COLLINGWOOD	2	—	2	—
DARTMOUTH	150	150	300	—
DRAKE	20	12	32	—
EXCELLENT	12	—	12	—
NELSON	2	—	2	10
NEPTUNE	—	—	—	8
OSPREY	—	—	—	2
PEMBROKE	12	—	—	2
ROYAL ARTHUR	—	—	—	2
SULTAN	2	10	10	—
THUNDERER	12	8	20	—
CINCFLEET				
Aircraft and commando carriers/assault ships	{	HMS HERMES HMS BULWARK HMS INTREPID —2 —2 —1	As required to in- crease holdings to: 4 per ship	—
Destroyers/frigates				
HMY BRITANNIA		—	2 per ship	—
BSO Chatham		—	6*	—
BSO Devonport		—	5	—
BSO Faslane		—	10	—
BSO Portsmouth		—	5	—
BSO Rosyth		—	10	—
	for temporary loan to other HM ships		5	—
			5	—
FONAC				
HMS DAEDALUS	6	15	21	—
HMS HERON	6	15	21	2
FO Gibraltar				
CAPIC Hong Kong		8	8	2
		12	12	1
CGRM				
RM Barracks Stonehouse				
RM Depot Deal		30*	30	—
RM Base Condor		10*	10	—
		10*	10	—
Royal Naval Reserve				
HMS				
PRESIDENT				
GRAHAM	—	2	2	—
CLAVERHOUSE	—	2*	2	—
EAGLET	—	2	2	—
FLYING FOX	—	2*	2	—
WESSEX	—	2*	2	—
CAMBRIA	—	2*	2	—
SUSSEX	—	2*	2	—
CAMPERDOWN	—	2*	2	—
CALLIOPE	—	2	2	—
CAROLINE	—	2	2	—

*Note: Already allocated

ANNEX B

SWORDS-ACCOUNTING DETAILS

<i>NATO stock number</i>	<i>Vocab number</i>	<i>Superseded armament supply ref no.</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Size</i>	<i>Catalogue price</i>
8465-99					£
977-1891	41485	—	Sword, RN officers	—	115
963-1526	41486	A247-99-963-1526	Sword, drill pattern, RN officers	—	77.53
977-1892	43700	—	Sword, RM officers	—	96.50
977-1890	25750	—	Sword, RN masters-at-arms	—	115
963-1527	41489	A247-99-963-1527	Scabbard, sword, RN	—	68.25
To be allocated	43701	—	Scabbard, sword, RM	—	36.25
To be allocated	41498	—	Knot, sword, RN	—	18.00
To be allocated	43702	—	Knot, sword, RM	—	4.00
962-2024	41499	A247-99-962-2024	Knot, sword, drill pattern	—	1.92
977-1893	41492	—	Belt, sword, undress, RN	28 to 32 in	
977-1894	41493	—	Belt, sword, undress, RN	30 to 34 in	
977-1895	41494	—	Belt, sword, undress, RN	32 to 36 in	
977-1896	41495	—	Belt, sword, undress, RN	34 to 38 in	
977-1897	41496	—	Belt, sword, undress, RN	36 to 40 in	
962-2023	41497	A247-99-962-2023	Belt, sword, drill pattern	—	18.87