

GENERAL ORDERS.

G.O. 49.
June
1903.

Establishment of a Naval School of Music.

The Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty being of opinion that it is desirable to improve the efficiency of naval bands, and to reduce the expense which at present falls upon the officers of the Naval Service, have obtained the sanction of His Majesty in Council (Order-in-Council dated 20th May 1903) to the formation of a Naval School of Music.

In future, band ratings for the Navy will be entered as Royal Marines and form part of the Royal Marine Force, the total number of that force being correspondingly increased.

So far as possible naval band ratings now serving will be gradually transferred to the Royal Marines or otherwise disposed of under such arrangements as the Admiralty may direct.

The School of Music will be established temporarily at Eastney Barracks.

Their Lordships have been pleased to approve of the following appointments (and promotion) to the staff of the School of Music :—

Major Herbert Slessor, R.M.A., to be Commandant.
Dated 20th May 1903.

Superintending Clerk Joseph McF. Mitchell,
R.M.L.I., to be Quartermaster and Acting
Adjutant with the honorary rank of Lieutenant.
Dated 20th May 1903.

The Commandant will communicate direct with the Deputy Adjutant-General on all questions of administration, but questions of discipline are to be referred to the Colonel Commandant, R.M.A., and through him to the Deputy Adjutant-General when necessary.

A separate weekly return is to be rendered to the Deputy Adjutant-General, on a manuscript form until the school is fully established.