

8. Prize Money

ORDER IN COUNCIL UNDER THE NAVAL AGENCY AND DISTRIBUTION ACT, 1864 (27 & 28 VICT. C. 24), REGULATING THE METHOD AND CONDITIONS OF DISTRIBUTION OF SHARES OF PRIZE, PRIZE BOUNTY (FOR THE TAKING OR DESTROYING OF ARMED ENEMY SHIPS), SALVAGE AWARDS AND CUSTOMS, SLAVE TRADE, AND PIRATE CAPTURES.

1917 No. 212

At the Court at Buckingham Palace, the 6th day of February, 1917.

PRESENT,

The King's Most Excellent Majesty in Council.

Whereas there was this day read at the Board a Memorial from the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, dated the 3rd day of February, 1917, in the words following, viz. :—

“Whereas by the Naval Agency and Distribution Act, 1864, it is enacted, *inter alia*, that the several shares of any money distributable among the Officers and Crew of any of His Majesty's Ships of War in the several cases enumerated in the said Act shall be paid to the persons entitled thereto in such manner, and subject and according to such restrictions, conditions, and provisions, as may from time to time be directed by Order in Council :

“And whereas it is by the said Act also enacted that His Majesty in Council may, from time to time, make such Orders as may seem meet for the better execution of the said Act :

“And whereas, in pursuance of the said Act, certain Regulations as to the manner and incidence of payment of such shares as aforesaid were made by Order in Council dated the 5th December, 1865 :

“And whereas we consider it desirable that amendments should be made in such Regulations :

“We beg leave humbly to submit that Your Majesty will be graciously pleased, by Your Order in Council, to repeal the said Order in Council of the 5th December, 1865, and the Regulations thereby made, and in lieu thereof to make and establish the following Regulations, to come into operation forthwith, and to be effective as regards all moneys now awaiting distribution or hereafter to become distributable :—

“1. Terms used in this Order have the same respective meanings as in the said Act.

“2. All money distributable among the Officers and Crew of any of His Majesty's Ships of War, within the meaning of the said Act (all which money is comprehended under the term 'prize money' where hereafter used in this Order) shall be forthwith paid to the account of

His Majesty's Paymaster-General at the Bank of England, on account of Naval Prize, or to the Accountant-General of the Navy, in order that it may be transferred to the said account.

“ 3. Before any money distributable as aforesaid is actually distributed, notification shall be given by advertisement inserted in the London Gazette, under the direction of the Admiralty, unless in any case the Admiralty shall for sufficient reason dispense with or postpone such advertisement.

“ 4. No assignment of Prize Money may be made by any Officer or Man in respect of any advance or consideration, but any assignment made by an Officer before the date of this Order shall be discharged as heretofore.

“ 5. Any amounts due in respect of deceased Officers and Men shall be paid in the manner prescribed for the disposal of residues of Naval Assets generally.

“ 6. Shares due to persons of unsound mind shall be dealt with in all respects as are Balances of Pay and Allowances payable to such persons.

“ 7. Payment shall be made in such manner as the Admiralty may from time to time direct.

“ 8. Prize Money which is unclaimed, or to which a claim has not been proved to the satisfaction of the Admiralty, shall be deemed to be forfeited after the expiration of six years from the 1st day of April following the date when it first became distributable ; but when the relative accounts have not been finally closed the Admiralty may, if good cause is shown, remit such forfeiture and pay the amount out of the Naval Prize Cash Balance.

“ 9. All accounts relative to any Prize Money shall be finally closed at the expiration of 40 years from the date of distribution.

“ 10. The net amounts brought to account in any year in respect of percentage deductions and of forfeitures under the Naval Discipline Act, shall be regarded as finally transferred to the Exchequer Consolidated Fund at the expiration of the sixth year after that in which they were brought to account.

“ 11. An account showing all the receipts and expenditure on account of Prize Money made up to the 31st day of March in each year, and signed by the Accountant-General of the Navy, shall be laid annually before the House of Commons.

“ The Lords Commissioners of Your Majesty's Treasury have signified their concurrence in this proposal.”

His Majesty, having taken the said Memorial into consideration, was pleased, by and with the advice of His Privy Council, to approve of what is therein proposed. And the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty are to give the necessary directions herein accordingly.

Almeric FitzRoy.