

CIRCULAR.

January 25, 1869.

~~Officers of the Navy who are ordered to report to a board of examining officers, in pursuance of the act of April 21, 1864, for examination as to their mental, moral, and professional fitness to perform all their duties at sea in a higher grade, are informed that such examining boards are instructed by the Department to be governed in their decision not merely by the evidence or testimonials presented to them, but are to ascertain the fitness of the candidate for promotion by a rigorous personal examination, particularly as to his professional knowledge and qualifications.~~

GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

GENERAL ORDER, No. 88.

March 10, 1869.

Commanding officers hereafter, before approving requisitions upon this Department for money, will—

~~First. Inform themselves fully of the amount of funds already in the hands of the officer making the requisition.~~

~~Second. Ascertain definitely the objects for which additional funds are required, and in no case append their approval unless fully satisfied the interests of the service require it.~~

~~Paymasters are strictly enjoined to limit their requisitions on the Department to such amounts as are absolutely necessary for immediate use.~~

A. E. BORIE,
Secretary of the Navy.

GENERAL ORDER, No. 89.

March 10, 1869.

~~Commanding and executive officers, ashore and afloat, will take precedence over all staff officers.~~

A. E. BORIE,
Secretary of the Navy.

GENERAL ORDERS, No. 90.

March 11, 1869.

For the present, the following changes will be made in the uniform of the United States Navy:

The full-dress coat of the Admiral will have three strips of gold embroidered white-oak leaves, one inch wide and half an inch apart, on the sleeve, and one strip of the same size and pattern on the collar (as per pattern).

The full-dress sword-belt of the Admiral will be of blue cloth with a small gold cord around the edge, and one strip of gold embroidered white-oak leaves, one-half inch wide, running through the center.

The sling-straps to be of blue cloth with a small gold thread around the edge.

The full-dress coat of the Vice-Admiral will be the same as for the Admiral, except that there will be but two strips of embroidery on the sleeve.

The full-dress coat of a Rear Admiral will be the same as for the Vice-Admiral, except that there will be but one strip of embroidery on the sleeve.

The undress coat of the Admiral will have one strip of gold lace two inches wide around the cuff, with three strips of half-inch gold lace, one-quarter of an inch apart, above (as per pattern).

The undress coat of the Vice-Admiral will be the same as for the Admiral, except that there will be but two strips of half-inch gold lace above the wide lace.

The undress coat of a Rear Admiral will be the same as for a Vice-Admiral, except there will be but one strip of half-inch gold lace above the wide lace.

Captains will wear three strips of half-inch gold lace, one-quarter of an inch apart, on the sleeve of full-dress and undress coats.

Commanders will wear two strips of half-inch gold lace, three-quarters of an inch apart, and one strip of quarter-inch lace between them.

Lieutenant-commanders will wear two strips of half-inch gold lace, one-quarter of an inch apart.

Lieutenants will wear one strip of half-inch gold lace, and one strip of quarter-inch lace one-quarter of an inch above.

Masters will wear one strip of half-inch lace.

Ensigns will wear one strip of quarter-inch lace.

Midshipmen, after graduation, will hereafter be allowed a full-dress double-breasted coat, nine buttons in each row, with a gold cord one-eighth of an inch wide around the sleeve, and an anchor in gold embroidery on each side of the collar, one inch in length (as per pattern).

Midshipmen, at the Naval Academy, will wear a strip of lace one-eighth of an inch wide, around the outer edge of the collar of their parade jackets. Parade jackets will only be worn on Sundays, dress parades, or other occasions of ceremony.

No officer in the Navy below the assimilated rank of lieutenant will wear shoulder-straps, cocked hat, or epaulettes.

In lieu of shoulder-straps, warrant officers shall wear as follows:

Boatswains and gunners, a gold embroidered star on each side of the collar, similar to that worn on the sleeve.

Carpenters and sailmakers will wear a diamond or lozenge embroidered in gold, one and one-eighth inches in extreme length, on each side of the collar.

The cap ornament for all commissioned officers in the Navy will be a silver-shield with two crossed anchors in gold, arranged as per pattern. A gold cord of the same pattern as the one now worn by the midshipmen at the Naval Academy will be worn on the front of the cap by all officers.

Staff officers of assimilated rank will conform to the above regulations.

Medical officers will wear around the sleeve cobalt blue cloth, between the strips of gold lace.

Paymasters will wear around the sleeve white cloth, between the strips of gold lace.

Engineers will wear around the sleeve red cloth, between the strips of gold lace.

Staff officers entitled to but one strip of lace on the sleeve will wear the colored cloth so as to show one-fourth of an inch above and below the strip.

With the above-mentioned exceptions, the uniform of the Navy will remain as heretofore.

A. E. BORIE,
Secretary of the Navy.

GENERAL ORDER, No. 91.

March 11, 1869.

Before an officer takes command of a vessel she must be examined by a board consisting of three line officers of the Navy, who shall report any deficiencies, &c., that may exist.

No ship will carry more than two boat-davits on each quarter.

The boats may be hung double; but if this cannot be done, they must be stowed inboard. When the latter course is impossible, the matter must be brought to the notice of the Department.

A. E. BORIE,
Secretary of the Navy.

GENERAL ORDER, No. 92.

March 11, 1869.

From and after this date the practice of covering the berth-decks of vessels of war with shellac will be dispensed with.

A. E. BORIE,
Secretary of the Navy.

GENERAL ORDER, No. 93.

March 11, 1869.

From and after the date of this order the spars of ships of war will not be painted yellow as heretofore, and their yards will be painted black.

A return to the old custom is ordered.

A. E. BORIE,
Secretary of the Navy.

GENERAL ORDER, No. 94.

March 11, 1869.

All signs that have been put up in navy yards, indicating the Bureaus to which different departments belong, will be taken down.

Simple signs—such as "Navigation Office" or store, "Ordnance Office" or store, "Steam Office" or stores, "Medical Office" or stores, "Clothing Office," "Office of Docks and Yards," &c., &c.—will be put up in their places.

These offices are not branches of the Bureaus, but are departments of the yards, and are under the entire direction of the commandants.

A. E. BORIE,
Secretary of the Navy.