

# ROYAL NAVY COLOURS

## A NEW DEPARTURE.

In the current issue of Fleet Orders directions are given for the procedure to be adopted with the Colours which were sanctioned for the use of the Royal Navy by the King last year. This is the first public announcement concerning a new departure of much interest. These Colours are to correspond to those of the King's Colours carried by the Military Forces. When carried ashore they are to be treated in the same manner as the King's Colours of a regiment, and will receive the same marks of respect. Had it taken place, the intention was that the new Colours should have been inaugurated on the march through London last autumn of the officers and men of the Special Service Squadron on the conclusion of their cruise round the world.

The Colours will be paraded on shore only on the following occasions:—(a) By a Guard of Honour mounted for the King, the Queen, Queen Alexandra, or a member of the Royal Family; (b) by a Guard of Honour mounted for a foreign Sovereign, or the President of a Republican State; (c) on such important ceremonial occasions as may from time to time be ordered by the Admiralty; or at Malta and Gibraltar by the Naval Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean; or in the Dominions and India on occasions of important ceremonial when the Viceroy or the Governor-General is present, as may be directed by the local Naval Commander-in-Chief. The Colours are only to be lowered to the King, the Queen, Queen Alexandra, members of the Royal Family, foreign Sovereigns, Presidents of Republican States, the Viceroy of India, and the Governors-General of Canada, Australia, South Africa, New Zealand, and the Irish Free State.

### COLOURS AND PROCEDURE.

The Colours will be a White Ensign of silk, 3ft. 9in. by 3ft., with red, white, and blue silk cord with gold tassels. They will be carried on an ash staff, surmounted by a gilt badge consisting of an Admiralty anchor on a three-faced shield, with Crown superimposed. The length of the staff and badge will be 8ft. 7in. Colours will be supplied to each home port, to be kept at the Royal Naval Barracks, and to each of the following commands to be kept on board the flagships of the respective Commanders-in-Chief—Atlantic Fleet, Mediterranean Station, East Indies Station, Africa Station, and North America and West Indies Station. They are not to be paraded on occasions other than those mentioned above, nor on board ship.

When the Colours are brought out for use they are to be received with a salute, the band playing the National Anthem (first six bars). They are to be carried by a sub-lieutenant or lieutenant, in a Colour belt hung over the left shoulder. The Colour party will consist of one chief petty officer and two petty officers in seamen's dress, or leading seamen. When being moved from or to the place where they are usually kept, i.e., before they have been received by the Colour Officer and after they have been surrendered by him, an escort of one chief petty officer and two petty officers will invariably attend them. When uncased the Colours are at all times to be saluted with the highest honours, arms being presented and bugles sounding the general salute.

The order now issued refers to a cinematograph film which has been prepared, showing the procedure to be adopted for bringing out, receiving, and carrying the Colours, and the positions to be taken up by them when paraded. Copies of this film will be issued by H.M.S. Excellent to the Commanders-in-Chief to whom the Colours are being supplied. The film will be accompanied by a pamphlet on the subject giving an extract from the ceremonial chapter in the new Royal Naval Handbook of Field Training, and by explanatory notes. The use of the White Ensign with naval landing parties is no longer authorized.