

territorial waters adjacent to the United Kingdom."

2. After Regulation 39 the following Regulation shall be inserted:—

"39A. If a seaman lawfully engaged in accordance with the Merchant Shipping Acts, 1894 to 1914, to serve on board any British ship belonging to or chartered or requisitioned by the Admiralty—

(a) neglects or refuses without reasonable cause to join his ship, or to proceed to sea in his ship, or deserts or is absent without leave from his ship or from his duty at any time; or

(b) joins his ship in a state of drunkenness so that the performance of his duties or the navigation of his ship is thereby impeded;

he shall be guilty of an offence against these regulations; and the master, mate, or owner of the ship, or his agent, or any naval or military officer, or any superintendent as defined by the Merchant Shipping Acts, 1894 to 1914, may, with or without the assistance of any police constable, convey on board his ship any seaman whom he has reason to believe to be guilty of an offence under paragraph (a) of this regulation, and police constables are hereby directed to give assistance if required.

"The exercise of the powers conferred by this regulation shall not be subject to the restrictions imposed by the Merchant Shipping Acts, 1894 to 1914, on the exercise of any similar powers conferred by those Acts."

3. At the end of Regulation 56, the following paragraph shall be inserted:—

"(13) Where a person is alleged to be guilty of an offence against these regulations which

appears to the Director of Public Prosecutions in England, the Lord Advocate in Scotland, or the Attorney-General for Ireland in Ireland, to be a press offence as hereinafter defined, the case, instead of being referred to the competent naval or military authority, shall be referred to the Director of Public Prosecutions, the Lord Advocate, or the Attorney-General for Ireland, as the case may be, who shall investigate the case and determine whether or not the case is to be proceeded with, and, if it is to be proceeded with, whether it is to be tried by a court of summary jurisdiction, or by a civil court with a jury, or, subject to the rights of the offender if a British subject under the Defence of the Realm (Amendment) Act, 1915, and to the consent of the Admiralty or Army Council, by court-martial.

"For the purposes of this provision 'press offence' means the publication or attempted publication, or communication or attempted communication for publication, in any newspaper or other periodical, or any reprint of any part thereof, of any information, report, or statement in contravention of the provisions of these regulations, and where the person alleged to be guilty of such an offence is also alleged to be guilty of any other offence against these regulations in relation to the information so published or communicated, or attempted to be so published or communicated, such other offence shall also be treated as a press offence. The decision of the Director of Public Prosecutions, the Lord Advocate, or the Attorney-General for Ireland, as to whether an alleged offence is a press offence or is to be treated as a press offence, shall be conclusive."

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