

DEFENCE OF THE REALM REGULATIONS.

NAVIGATION LIGHTS—REDUCTION OF VISIBILITY, &c.

(Cancelling previous Order of 21st January 1918.)

In Areas in which Submarines or Raiders may be met, Vessels are to be Carefully Darkened from Sunset to Sunrise, and are to proceed without Navigation Lights. These Lights must be so arranged that they can be Instantly Shown to avoid Collision, and Extinguished as soon as the Danger of Collision is past. Navigation Lights when specially ordered to be shown must be Dimmed to a Visibility of less than Two Miles. (Admiralty War Instructions for British Merchant Vessels.)

For the purpose of securing compliance with the last sentence of the above directions the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, in pursuance of the powers conferred upon them by the Defence of the Realm Regulations, hereby make the following Order:—

1. MASTHEAD LIGHTS.

No Masthead Light of a brilliancy exceeding $2\frac{1}{2}$ candle-power is to be exhibited. Lights are to be shaded with plain opal glass, and the reflectors are to be removed from the lanterns. Masthead Lights are never to be used unless the Master considers it absolutely necessary. The use of Masthead Lights is to be discontinued until provision has been made for their being dimmed in accordance with this Order.

2. SIDE LIGHTS.

No Side Light of a brilliancy exceeding 8 candle-power shall be exhibited.

In clear weather, and when specially ordered, 5 candle-power lamps are to be exhibited.

Plain coloured glass is to be fitted to the lanterns, but where already placed dioptric lenses may be continued in use until the plain glasses can be fitted.

Oil Side Lamps are only to be exhibited if electric lights are not available.

Reflectors are to be removed from the lanterns.

3. STERN LIGHTS.

No Stern Light is to be exhibited except to avoid danger of collision, and such light is to be extinguished as soon as the danger is past.

Such light shall be electric of $2\frac{1}{2}$ candle-power shaded with a plain opal glass, and is to be controlled from the bridge.

In ships fitted with dimmers bulbs of a higher candle-power may be used, but lights are not to be shown of a brilliancy exceeding that quoted in this Order, except in special circumstances, such as imminent danger of collision, thick weather, or while navigating in and entering or leaving Harbours, &c.

Such ships are to be supplied with bulbs of the prescribed candle-power, which are to be inserted and used in the lamps should the dimmers fail from any cause.

In vessels where electric light is not installed, an oil lamp or electric torch of equivalent brilliancy may be substituted.

Vessels in Convoy which on occasion necessarily have to exhibit a Stern Light are to have such

lights screened so as to show not more than three (3) points from right astern on each quarter.

This Order shall apply—subject to any directions that may be given in any particular circumstances by the Commanding Officer of the Convoy or Senior Naval Officer present—to all British Merchant Vessels, and if

- (a) the owner of any British Merchant Vessel, or where such owner is a Company, the Managing Director or other responsible person, fails to provide such vessel with the lights hereby prescribed and/or the means of shading the same; or if
- (b) the Master or other person in command or charge of such vessel so provided fails to comply with any of the directions in this Order stated or referred to; then such Owner, Managing Director or other responsible person, and such Master or other person in command or charge shall respectively be guilty of an offence against the Defence of the Realm Regulations.

(Clause 2, Bow and Masthead Steaming Lights of the Admiralty Order as to Ships' Lights, dated the 22nd May 1917, is hereby cancelled.)

Given under our hands this 15th day of February 1918.

A. L. DUFF.
HUGH TOTBILL.

ADMIRALTY NOTICE TO MARINERS.

No. 235 of the year 1918.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS TO MERCHANT VESSELS.

Former Notices.—Nos. 4579 and 581 of 1917, and No. 5 of 1918; hereby cancelled.

(1) INFORMATION RESPECTING WAR INSTRUCTIONS FOR MERCHANT VESSELS.

Notice is hereby given that, under the Defence of the Realm Regulation (Consolidation) Regulations, 1914, the following Order has been made by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty and is now in force:—

The Orders contained in Admiralty War Instructions for British Merchant Ships or in any instructions or advice, confidential or otherwise, issued or given to Masters of vessels by British or Allied Naval Officers, or by other duly authorised Officers or Officials, as to routes to be taken and other precautions to be observed to avoid capture or destruction by the enemy, are to be observed even when they are in conflict with the provisions of the Regulations for preventing Collisions at Sea, and every vessel observing such regulations, instructions or advice shall be deemed to be taking measures to meet "special circumstances" within the meaning of Article 27 of the Regulations for preventing Collisions at Sea.

(2) CAUTION AS TO OBEYING ORDERS RECEIVED FROM H.M. SHIPS, &c.

The attention of all Masters or other persons in command or charge of vessels is directed to