

Section III.

DISTINGUISHING SIGNALS OF EXAMINATION STEAMERS.

(12) Armed Examination steamers will be found at the Examining Station (*see* Section VII) and near the green buoy (*see* Section IV, par. (16)), and will be distinguished by the following means:—

By Day.—At the foremost head the special pilot flag (white and red horizontal, surrounded by a blue border). When the Firth of Forth is "Closed" three Red balls vertical will be hoisted in addition.

By Night.—Three Red lights vertically 6 feet apart, conspicuously displayed at the end of a yard so as to show an unbroken light round the horizon.

Masters of merchant vessels must approach these vessels with care, and see that when stopped they are in a favourable position for the Boarding Officer coming alongside, and that a boat-rope and side-ladder are in position.

Section IV.

NAVIGATION IN THE FIRTH OF FORTH.

(13) Unescorted merchant vessels may enter the Firth of Forth at any time, but should make every endeavour to do so during official daylight and, when possible, should have sufficient daylight to allow them to be examined before dark.

(14) Vessels desirous of entering the Forth during Official Night or in thick or foggy weather must report themselves to St. Abbs Head or Fifeness Signal Stations, whence they should proceed as directed in paragraph (16). They will be met by a Patrol Vessel and taken to an anchorage.

(15) Sailing ships and other small vessels which are forced to seek shelter owing to weather conditions, and arrive during the hours of Official Night, will be anchored in the most convenient position by orders of a Patrol Vessel until the weather moderates.

(16) Unescorted vessels must pass between Isle of May and Anstruther Wester, thence they must steer a course so as to pass 2 miles South of Elieness, and within half a mile to the Southward of a Green Buoy in Lat. 56° 09' N.; Long. 2° 51' W.

Thence (if not met by a Pilot Boat or Examination Steamer) steer 297° (*N. 45° W. Mag.*) for a mile and a half to pass to the southward of a second buoy; thence to the Examining Station.

(17) All merchant vessels entering the Firth of Forth, with or without a pilot on board, are to proceed to the Examining Station to be passed by the Examining Officer and given the "Special Signal" before proceeding to any port in the Firth of Forth. On arrival at the Examining Station they are to "heave to" and await instructions from the Examination Steamer. If then ordered to the Examination Anchorage, they are to proceed there, anchor, and await further instructions. In the meantime they are to hold no communication with any other merchant vessel or with the shore without permission.

Section V.

VESSELS LEAVING THE FIRTH OF FORTH.

(18) Merchant vessels must on no account leave the Firth of Forth without first obtain-
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ing a "Port Clearance" from the Collector of Customs at the port of departure.

(19) No unescorted merchant vessels are permitted to leave the Firth of Forth—

- (a) During the hours of Official Night;
- (b) If sufficient daylight is not left to enable them to clear the Isle of May before dark; or

(c) When the Firth of Forth is "Closed," except with the permission of the Commander-in-Chief, Rosyth, which must be obtained through the King's Harbour Master, Rosyth.

(20) When the Firth of Forth is "Open" to the traffic of merchant shipping the following signal will be displayed at the various ports east of Oxcars:—

One Red ball, indicating that merchant vessels anchored in the roads off any port are at liberty to proceed.

No merchant vessel is to proceed until one Red ball is hoisted as follows:—

Leith.—From the Examination Steamer anchored in the Examination Anchorage.

Granton.—From Flagstaff at Central Pier.

Inchkeith.—From the Flagstaff at the Signal Station.

Burntisland.—From the Middle Lighthouse.

Kirkcaldy.—From the Flagstaff at the Harbour Master's Office.

Methil.—From a Flagstaff at the Dock Gate.

Wemyss.—At the entrance to Wemyss Harbour.

Dysart.—From the East Pier at the entrance to Dysart Harbour.

The Licensed Trinity Pilot in charge of a merchant vessel will be held personally responsible that such vessel does not leave her anchorage until the above-mentioned signal is hoisted.

The Red ball will be hoisted at the commencement of Official Day if the Firth of Forth is not "Closed" for any reason, and will be hauled down at the commencement of Official Night.

Note.—It will be hauled down on all occasions when the Firth of Forth is "Closed" to merchant shipping traffic by order of the King's Harbour Master, Rosyth, and will be rehoisted by order of the King's Harbour Master, Rosyth, when the Firth of Forth is "Opened" again to mercantile traffic.

Section VI.

SIGNALS INDICATING FIRTH OF FORTH "CLOSED."

(21) Whenever the Firth of Forth is "Closed" during the day the following signals will be displayed:—

Three Red balls vertical will be hoisted by each Examination Steamer and also at Inchkeith and at the principal ports in the Firth of Forth.

The Single Red ball which is hoisted at the principal ports in the Firth of Forth east of Oxcars, to indicate that the Firth of Forth is "Open," will at the same time be hauled down.

Note.—By night the Firth of Forth is closed to all unescorted mercantile shipping, except as provided for in paragraph (14).