

Notice to Mariners No. 2 of 1953

(This notice repeats parts of Admiralty Notice to Mariners No. 3 of 1953.)

3. OFFICIAL RADIO MESSAGES TO BRITISH MERCHANT SHIPS—"THE GBMS ORGANIZATION"

Former Notice 3/52 cancelled.

NOTE.—The substance of this Notice will not be reproduced in Admiralty Lists of Radio Signals or in Notices to Ship Wireless Stations. Amendments will be published weekly in Section VI of Weekly Complete Editions, Admiralty Notices to Mariners (Corrections to Admiralty Lists of Radio Signals and Notices to Mariners 3, 3A and 3B).

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT MASTERS ENSURE THAT THIS NOTICE IS AVAILABLE TO AND UNDERSTOOD BY THEIR RADIO OFFICERS. AN EXTRA COPY IS SUPPLIED FOR THE USE OF THE RADIO OFFICER.

GENERAL

This Notice describes the organizations whereby official messages are passed to British merchant ships. Such messages will normally relate to the safety and welfare of the ships concerned, and may be addressed to one or more individual ships, or to all ships as in paragraph 10.

2. The organization described below is known as the "GBMS Organization" and will not be brought into force until so ordered by the Admiralty.

3. In peacetime when Admiralty desires to pass official messages to British Merchant Ships, such messages will be transmitted under the call sign GACQ and broadcast over the long distance organization and/or by 500 kcs coast stations if necessary.

4. When the organization described in this Notice to Mariners is ordered to be brought into force:—

- (a) Ships are to continue to read the traffic from the area station in whose area they are sailing. Messages will be broadcast at the same routine times and on the same frequencies as in the normal Long Distance Area Scheme and no alterations will be brought into force without prior notification by GBMS message.
- (b) T.R.s ARE TO BE DISCONTINUED.
- (c) MESSAGES ARE NOT TO BE ACKNOWLEDGED unless ships are specially directed to do so in the text of the message.
- (d) DAILY SERIAL NUMBERS WILL BE DISCONTINUED.
- (e) SHIPS ARE TO CONFORM TO ANY RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF RADIO WHICH MAY BE ISSUED BY THE ADMIRALTY.

5. Schedules A and B, also issued in Notices to Ship Wireless Stations, are reproduced in this Notice to Mariners for convenience. The corresponding diagram of Areas is also reproduced.

It must be clearly understood, however, that corrections to these Schedules may be in arrears and that, when GBMS Organization is brought into force, Area Transmitting and Receiving Stations will continue on those frequencies in use at the time.

6. Every GBMS message will normally be broadcast at each Schedule A period for 24 hours after receipt at the Area Station, i.e., for 6 transmissions. This number of broadcasts will, in the early stages of an emergency, be exceeded in the case of Area 1 (Portishead). Messages will be broadcast once through at each transmission period and ships should make every effort to receive the complete message at the first transmission.

Operational Authorities may use their discretion regarding the number of broadcasts required for a particular ship, when the level of traffic is such that fewer transmissions are considered justified, but only if satisfied that, knowing the position of the ship, there can be no doubt of the receipt of the message.

Navigational warnings will continue to be broadcast in the last half-hour of each period.

Short Distance

7. In addition to the Schedule A transmissions, messages will normally be transmitted from one or more of the appropriately situated coast stations shown in paragraph 13. They will normally be broadcast on receipt and, as ordered, at subsequent routine periods (see paragraph 12 for British

500 kcs Coast Stations Routines). They are NOT TO BE ANSWERED OR ACKNOWLEDGED unless ships are specially directed to do so in the text.

8. After an initial call on 500 kcs the messages will be transmitted on the appropriate working frequency, shown in paragraph 13. The naval authority responsible for arranging the transmission of GBMS messages in each area is also shown.

GENERAL MESSAGES

9. GBMS messages addressed to ALL British merchant ships will be lettered consecutively commencing with "A", in order that Masters can check that all such messages have been received.

10. Once the lettered series has been started it is most important that all the messages are received, and Masters should take the necessary steps to obtain at the first opportunity any that are missing.

Copies of lettered messages will be distributed to merchant ships in harbour by the Naval authorities.

11. Collective call-signs to which general messages will be addressed are as follows:—

- (a) GBMS—All British merchant ships.
- (b) GBMS 1 to 9—All British merchant ships in the area concerned (areas are those shown in the diagram attached).
e.g. GBMS 3—All British merchant ships in Area 3.
- (c) GACQ—All British merchant ships in peace time.

SHIP-SHORE

12. Ships are to conform to any restrictions on the use of radio which may be issued by the Admiralty. Provided the use of wireless is permissible, a message may be transmitted either on H.F. to one of the stations shown in Schedule B, or on M.F. to one of the Coast Stations shown in paragraph 13, as appropriate. Certain changes to Schedule B answering frequencies will be promulgated by GBMS message at a later stage.

14. SHORT DISTANCE COAST STATIONS

Area.	Naval Authority who will Arrange Transmission.	Coast Station.	Call Sign.	Working Frequency (kcs).
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
5	New Zealand Naval Board	Auckland Wellington Awarua Apia Rarotonga	ZLD ZLW ZLB ZMA ZKR	445 415 405 375 483
5A	C-in-C., America and West Indies	Falklands	VPC	125, 405
6	Naval Service Headquarters Ottawa	Esteban Bull Harbour Victoria Prince Rupert	VAE VAG VAK VAJ	474 470 441 436
7	Australian Commonwealth Naval Board	Darwin Broome Perth Melbourne Brisbane Townsville Rabaul Sydney *Kavieng	VID VIO VIP VIM VIB VIT VJZ VIS VJY	415 440 405 430 435 430 430 405 410
8	Commodore, Hong Kong Flag Officer, Malaya	Cape d'Aguiar, Hong Kong {Singapore Penang	VPS VPW VPX	— 425 —

Notes.—

* Restricted hours of service.