

**THE DORE & TOTLEY
MINESWEEPING TRAWLERS
COMFORTS FUND**

MISCELLANY

Dore & Totley Minesweeping Trawlers Comforts Fund.

Summary of Requirements

| <u>Item</u> | <u>Approx. Quantity Required.</u> |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| <u>KNITTED CLOTHING.</u> | |
| Jerseys - polo necks. | 300 in twelve months |
| Scarves - 36 inches | 500 in twelve months |
| Balaclava helmets | 100 in twelve months |
| Woolen caps. | 50 in twelve months |
| Socks - short | 500 pairs in six months |
| Sea boot stockings - heelless - 33 inches | 200 pairs in six months |
| Woolen Gloves - with fingers | 100 pairs in six months |
| String Gloves - for handling cables | 50 pairs in six months |
| <u>GAMES & MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS.</u> | |
| Wireless sets - for 110 volt D.C. | 12 in all |
| Wireless batteries - 100 volt H.T. | 6 in all |
| ✓ Dominoes | 24 boxes |
| ✓ Playing Cards | 72 packs |
| ✓ Darts outfits | 12 complete |
| ✓ Draughts | 12 complete |
| ✓ Cribbage Boards | 6 |
| Shove-halfpenny Boards | 6 |
| Deck Quoits Outfits | 6 |
| ✓ Footballs - soccer | 6 |
| ✓ Boxing Gloves | 6 sets |
| ✓ Indian Clubs - heavyweight | 2 sets |
| ✓ Medicine Balls | 1 |
| Punchball | 1 |
| ✓ Ludo Games | 6 |
| Bagatelle - complete | 1 |
| ✓ Chess Games | 1 |
| ✓ Monopoly outfit | 1 |
| ✓ Mouth Organs | 6 |
| Ukelele | 2 |
| ✓ Gramophones | 2 |
| Gramophone Records - dance tunes | Unlimited. |
| <u>MISCELLANEOUS WANTS.</u> | |
| ✓ Writing Pads - with envelopes | 100 |
| Ash Trays - metal | 24 |
| ✓ Electric Torches | 12 |
| Electric Irons - 110 volts D.C. | 5 |
| ✓ Books and Magazines | Unlimited |
| ✓ Tablecloths - coloured | 6 |
| Housewives | 6 |
| Crossword Dictionary | 2 |
| ✓ Haircutting Scissors | 1 |
| Tea set - with Sheffield coat-of-arms | 1 |
| ✓ Shaving Mirror | 1 |
| ✓ Atlas - globe pattern | 1 |
| ✓ Coloured Prints - sporting and feminine | Unlimited |
| Thermos Flask | 1 |
| Coffee Percolator | 1 |

From the ship lists of requirements which were handed to Mrs. Grayson and myself when we visited North Shields, I have prepared the attached analysis. All requests for clothing which would involve coupons have been deleted, and I have explained the position by letter to Captain Shadwell. Cigarettes, tobacco and sweets have been omitted, as these can be purchased very much more cheaply by the men. Captain Shadwell suggests that gifts of this nature can best be sent to the men by instructing the Manufacturers what quantities to send direct to him for distribution, and that procedure will permit us to buy at the same favourable terms as the Navy Canteens.

The knitting requests involve an approximate cost for wool, which we can buy at special terms, of £275. The games and musical instruments, excluding gramophone records, which we may reasonably hope to collect from our friends, will cost at wholesale prices approximately £135.

The miscellaneous section will cost approximately £18, excluding books, magazines and coloured prints which it is hoped to collect from our friends. This is not an unduly large sum for this section to indulge these whims, the greater proportion of which apparently originate from the Officers cabins.

It will be noted, therefore, that the total cost of wool, games, musical instruments and miscellaneous items will be just over £400. The amount in hand before the recent initial purchase of wool was exactly £250.

That is to say about another £175 is needed to complete this programme, excluding cigarettes, tobacco, sweets and also excluding a contribution to the Christmas dinner of the 300 men who man the trawlers we have undertaken to look after.

Captain Shadwell in a recent letter suggests that a sum of £250 will enable him to give the whole of his personnel a most enjoyable Christmas Day.

These figures are submitted without comment and merely to indicate the magnitude of the need which exists amongst the men of the minesweepers of North Shields. Ways and means of raising the necessary funds and of securing the necessary number of knitters to make the garments must be discussed.

H.M.M.S. 249

By G.P.O

London.

Dear Friends,

I am writing these few lines hoping that you can supply me once again with a few games & comforts for my crew. This is a brand new motor minesweeper & we have a complement of 2 Officers & 18 ratings. As you can see I have left H.M.S. "Sir Iustian" & have been on a course for Lt. Hoping you can help me out & thanking you once again for previous kindnesses,

Yours truly,

Skipper-Lt W. J. Holman D.S.C.

P.S. Our Base will be Granton, Scotland.

By the Navy

For the Navy

ADDRESSES:

HEAD OFFICE:

10, New Road, Rochester, Kent.

LOCAL OFFICES:

| | |
|------------|------------------------|
| CHATHAM | Batchelor Street, |
| DEVONPORT | Stopford Place, Stoke, |
| PORTSMOUTH | 70 Kingston Crescent, |

MAYFIELD HOUSE CHILDREN'S HOME.

Temporarily at:-
Luffness House, Aberlady, East Lothian.

NAVAL SCHOOL OF MOTORING:

311, Twyford Avenue, Stamshaw, Portsmouth.

By the Navy

For the Navy

PATRON:

His Majesty The King.

PRESIDENT:

Admiral Sir Martin Dunbar-Nasmith, V.C., K.C.B.

THE ROYAL NAVAL BENEVOLENT TRUST.

What it is

and

What it does.

HONORARY TREASURER:

Mr. E.C. Hill, Chief Engine Room Artificer.

HEAD OFFICE:

10, New Road, Rochester, Kent.

THE ROYAL NAVAL BENEVOLENT TRUST
WHAT IT IS AND WHAT IT DOES.

It is possibly easier to say what The R.N.B.T. is NOT rather than what it is. It is NOT an Insurance Company, a Sick Benefit, Thrift or Death Club, or any form of organisation into which individuals pay regular contributions, in return for which there is a recognised contract for what they will receive. Neither is it a department of the Admiralty.

Anyone who gives to The R.N.B.T. gives to a VOLUNTARY BENEVOLENT ORGANISATION, and, in the same way, anyone who is assisted by The R.N.B.T. is given a GRANT WHICH IS A FREE GIFT, and not money which has to be repaid, or which it is even expected will be repaid.

WHAT THE R.N.B.T. IS.

The intention lying behind The Trust is that the men of the Royal Navy, by contributing indirectly, or even on occasion directly to the funds, desire to help their less fortunate shipmates, and, therefore, themselves also, if at some future date they or their families are in need of assistance.

There are, naturally, limits to what it can do, and, based on practical experience, there are of necessity certain regulations and rules under which it works. Its Objects are to assist men who have served or are serving on the Lower Deck of the Royal Navy, and their families and dependents in a variety of ways. The amount of assistance it can give from its funds is obviously, not unlimited, as it tries to treat everyone fairly and in the same way, and, also, to be in a position to do the same in the future for those who have not yet even joined the Royal Navy.

THE THREE PRIMARY BENEFICIAL OBJECTS OF THE R.N.B.T.

THE FIRST OBJECT.

- (a) To provide relief IN CASES OF NECESSITY OR DISTRESS to those who have served or are serving under ordinary engagements, and on ordinary rates of pay on the Lower Deck of the Royal Navy.

Examples of grants made after paying reasonable regard to the circumstances and merits of each application.

In the Home.

For clothing, bedding, cots and removal of articles of necessity from pawn.

Towards payment of various kinds of pressing debts and of instalments or arrears under hire purchase agreements.

In cases of sickness.

Towards payment of Doctor's, Hospital or Specialist's fees, dental treatment and for surgical appliances.

To provide special diet.

Ambulance for conveying adults and children to and from Hospital.

Towards funeral expenses but not cost of mourn-

ing.

Away from Home.

Expenses arising from convalescence or Sanatorium treatment.

Towards fees of children undergoing higher education or special training, within certain limits.

THE SECOND OBJECT.

- (b) To make provision of training for them, and assistance to enable them to obtain suitable employment after leaving the Service.

Examples:-

Many grants are made to individuals towards purchase of tools, fees for training, removal expenses in taking up employment. The Trust owns a School of Motoring at Portsmouth where a thorough course in driving and practical maintenance of motor vehicles can be taken.

Large annual grants are also made to the Regular Forces Employment Association, the activities of which are confined to obtaining employment for the men of the three fighting Services. The Association has offices in London and the Home Ports as well as in many other parts of the country, and anyone wishing further information should write to one of The R.N.B.T. offices.

THE THIRD OBJECT.

- (c) To contribute directly, or through other organisations to the care, training, maintenance and welfare of their families or dependents IN CASES OF NECESSITY OR DISTRESS.

Examples:-

The Trust has its own Children's Home in Edinburgh which has accommodation normally for twenty-five boys and twenty-five girls.

It also assists financially other Children's Homes and Orphanages for girls at Chatham, Devonport and Portsmouth, and for boys at Brixham, Swanley, etc.

The Trust endeavours to arrange admittance for sons of naval men to special training ships such as the "Arethusa" and the Royal Hospital School, Holbrook.

There are also Maternity Homes at Chatham, Devonport and Portsmouth where special arrangements and fees are made for naval men's wives, concerning which information can always be obtained from the Local Offices.

The R.N.B.T. also itself administers a number of special funds, but these are usually for certain individuals, such as after a submarine disaster, and of course, the same persons are just as eligible to be assisted by The R.N.B.T. as anyone else.

HOW THE R.N.B.T. IS ADMINISTERED.

The R.N.B.T. is administered under a Royal Charter, granted by His late Majesty King George V in 1922.

There are Local Committees at Chatham, Devonport and Portsmouth, consisting of 25 serving ratings, 5 ex-serving men and 4 officers. Each of these Local Committees elect four serving men and one ex-serving man as ordinary members of the Central Committee, which is the Governing Body. The Central Committee has also three officers as nominated ordinary members and, as ex-officio members, the five Governors, The President, who is appointed by the Admiralty, and the Honorary Treasurer, who is elected by the Central Committee.

In addition to the Local Committees and the Central Committee, there are special committees set up for the administration of the Naval School of Motoring at Portsmouth, The R.N.B.T.'s Children's Home at Mayfield House, Edinburgh, and at Malta.

HOW APPLICATIONS ARE DEALT WITH.

Broadly speaking, every man who is entered in the Royal Navy belongs or is attached to one of the Port Divisions at Chatham, Devonport and Portsmouth, the Fleet Air Arm Division, a Division of the Royal Marines or Royal Naval Patrol Service.

Any serving or ex-serving man, or the dependent of any man who wishes to apply for assistance from the benevolent funds, or for information or advice, has only to write to The R.N.B.T.'s Local Committee, according to Division, the addresses of which are given later. If they are, however, in any doubt, they can write to the Head Office giving, if possible, some de-

tails of service, such as official number, etc., and Head Office will pass the application on to the right Committee, or if unable to do so, will write to them to obtain a few more particulars. Men of the Fleet Air Arm Division are dealt with by the Portsmouth Committee; the R.N. Patrol Service by Chatham Committee and EX numbered Marines by Portsmouth; the R.N.V.R. Divisions are broadly allocated between the three Committees.

The Local Committees decide on the grants to be made, or the best possible manner in which assistance can be rendered, subject to certain rules laid down by the Central Committee.

HOW APPLICATIONS ARE CONSIDERED.

Two essentials are that the person who makes an application, or on account of whose service it is made, shall have served at some time on the Lower Deck of the Royal Navy, and that the assistance asked for shall be such as can reasonably be given from benevolent funds.

For the Committees to assist to the best of their abilities, and for them to know just what the circumstances are, it is obviously essential that they should have certain information. This is obtained by means of an application form, and through a visitor, usually from some other benevolent organisation, who arranges to obtain the information required.

There are many ways in which a person may be helped, and by a grant of money is certainly not the only one. A little expert advice may solve a problem, or there may be some provision made by the Local Authority or the Government to which a person is entitled,

but of which they know nothing. There may be local funds waiting to help, or there may be other funds from which The R.N.B.T. can get further assistance if it has full particulars. These and many other points make the application form an essential part of The R.N.B.T.'s, or any benevolent organisation's work, and, administered, as it is, by the men of the Navy for the men of the Navy, it can be safely said that only necessary information will be asked for, and that the Committees, dealing as they do with thousands of applications in a year, are in the best position to know just what that information is. All information is regarded as confidential between the applicant and The R.N.B.T., and names are never mentioned in any general literature.

CAN THE R.N.B.T. HELP.

This, of course, depends on many things, including the kind of help needed and other circumstances. Stories about The R.N.B.T. refusing to help until the piano has been sold, or, to bring the story more up to date, the wireless set, have been going round chasing their own tails for many years, but no one has yet been able to give the name of an actual person.

It is possible that this story sometimes begins when the wife of a serving man or an ex-serving man in receipt of good wages has, as quickly as she can, to adjust her whole financial circumstances when he suddenly dies, leaving her with perhaps three or four young children, and an income which may have fallen from pounds to almost shillings. It is not a question of getting rid of personal belongings before The R.N.B.T. is prepared to consider helping, but the sad necessity for the widow, herself, to try to adjust expenditure exactly to a reduced income. It is natural that it is sometimes better to lose at once what may have been paid on say a piano when the amount has

only been small, rather than to continue the burden of a weekly hire purchase agreement which will be a drag, and which eventually may still have to be given up.

As a matter of fact, The R.N.B.T. does make grants which will enable people to save hire purchase furniture, and there are plenty of instances in which this has included a wireless set when it has represented a common sense business transaction.

Broadly speaking, The R.N.B.T. cannot give permanent assistance over years, and this is not difficult to understand when the number of people who can and do apply for assistance is realised. In many instances, it does try, however, to put, say a widow, on her feet, and makes large grants, in doing so, aided by grants that it may possibly obtain from other funds. It often pays large Doctor's bills, bills for Hospital treatment and for many other things that might otherwise for years cripple not only a widow, but, also, a man in the Service or in civil employment.

It has always to be remembered that, so far as making grants of money, The R.N.B.T. has naturally to take into consideration each individual's circumstances, and, in common sense, what they can do, or are doing to help themselves. The Local Committees endeavour to consider each application on its merits, and, when it is felt that assistance can and should be given, to give it as generously as possible, so that something real is accomplished rather than merely postponing the evil day.

There must be, obviously, some limits to certain types of grants, such as rent, rates, Doctor's bills, funeral expenses, hire purchase agreements and so on,

but when limits have been laid down, they are usually after the practical experience in dealing with thousands of applications.

Care has also to be taken in the use of benevolent funds that they do not mean that the assistance being received from some other source automatically stops. This is common sense, for if one takes say Public Assistance it would obviously be the wrong policy to use The R.N.B.T.'s funds with the only result that the Government or Local Authorities' responsibility would be removed. That does not mean that the person will be compelled to ask for Public Assistance, but it does mean that if an applicant is in receipt of say 5/- a week from Public Assistance, The R.N.B.T.'s help may have to be in some special form, as, otherwise, the law requires that it shall be taken into consideration by the Public Assistance Committee, and that may mean the 5/- being stopped. Neither the applicant nor The R.N.B.T. is any better off, and the only benefit is to the Local Authority.

APPLICATIONS NOT CONSIDERED.

Loans or repayable grants from The Trust.

Payment of money or interest borrowed from money-lenders.

Purchase of discharge from Royal Navy or Royal Marines.

WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM.

The R.N.B.T. has three main sources of income.

- (1) General donations made by Canteen Committees, members of the public and special donations from other sources such as, in peace-time, grants from the proceeds of the Royal Tournament and Navy Week.
- (2) The contribution of one-fifth canteen rebate that is made by each ship and establishment.
- (3) The income it receives from its investments.

HOW THE MONEY HAS BEEN USED.

It is not everyone who will be interested in figures, but the following may give at least an idea of the work The R.N.B.T. does, and how the past and present men of the Royal Navy, their families and dependents have directly benefited from it. These figures exclude, of course, the assistance given from The R.N.B.T.'s special funds, and obtained, in hundreds of instances, from other funds. The latter often does not pass through the accounts, and The R.N.B.T. may not even know what it has accomplished by interesting some other fund in a naval man's circumstances.

EXPENDITURE TO 30TH JUNE, 1942.

| | |
|---------------------------------|---------------|
| Grants to individuals | £497,100 |
| For training and employment | 71,000 |
| Grants to Hospitals, etc. | 74,400 |
| Maintenance of Children's Homes | <u>74,200</u> |
| | £716,700 |

AGENDA

Minutes.

Disposal of Funds.

Disposal of Wool.

Letter to Mrs Wass.

Annual Meeting.

Bank A/c.

L478.

Any other Business.

Minutes read & confirmed.

Funds. Letters from Wth Shields
decided to ask for further particulars
& then ask charities com for permission
Wool. To ask Wth Shields if they would
like gift of wool, & give wool to
members for knitting for navy.
Letters W. Wans. 300 lbs £10.

Official letter of thanks to
Sunshine for help at W. Wans.

fundraising. £468.

Banquet

Meat something
Potato Salad
Pickled onions
Nut mill

Come at 11:30

Kells
Butter
Griffle
Cold chicken
Salad.

12:30. to ¹⁵ Thursday

30 900
50
2850
£42