



## ORGANISATION OF THE SPANISH HYDROGRAPHIC SERVICE

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*The royal Decree of 7th September 1927 reorganizing the Hydrographic Service of the Spanish Navy has been published in the "Hydrographic Review", Vol. V, N° 1, page 55.*

*The Hydrographic Service is thus attached to the Marine Observatory of which it constitutes the fourth section.*

*Previously, the Hydrographic Service was attached to the Department of Navigation, and a short summary of its interior organisation has been published in the "Hydrographic Review" Vol. III, N° 1, page 25.*

*The Director of the Instituto y Observatorio de Marina of San Fernando has kindly forwarded the detailed instructions concerning the new regulations for the Spanish Hydrographic Service. In order to make complete the information already supplied, we give below these regulations which contain certain common parts governing the application of the above-mentioned Royal Decree.*

### REGULATIONS

#### FOR THE FOURTH SECTION OF THE NAVAL OBSERVATORY (HYDROGRAPHIC SERVICE)

ROYAL ORDINANCE OF 19th APRIL, 1928.

(Translated from the Spanish)

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ARTICLE 1. — The Fourth Section of the Observatory, which was created by the Royal Decree of 7th December 1927, shall be called the "Hydrographic Service of the Navy".

ARTICLE 2. — The duties of this Section are :-

(1) to maintain close relations and the exchange of publications with the hydrographic services of other nations ;

(2) to take part in all international conferences and congresses dealing with hydrography, drawing up memoranda and proposing the best procedure which is suitable in all which affects the Hydrographic Service, with the object of causing it to reach and to maintain the highest efficiency ;

(3) to propose the appointment of such hydrographic Senior and other officers, whether attached or not to the Section, as shall be necessary for the purpose of making studies both at home and abroad of new appliances and methods

in the practice of hydrography and in the engraving and printing of nautical charts with the object of applying them in our Service if found advantageous ;

(4) to study and propose drafts of the work which should be carried out by the Hydrographic expeditions, noting the most modern and practical methods to be used in the execution thereof, such notes being the result of studies made by the personnel of the Section in technical books and of their relations with foreign hydrographic centres ;

(5) the examination of the charts and plans made by the hydrographic expeditions, selecting and proposing those which should be published.

(6) the study of tides, currents and meteorology off the coast of the PENINSULA, of the BALEARIC and CANARY ISLANDS, of the SPANISH PROTECTORATE IN MOROCCO and of the SPANISH POSSESSIONS on the WEST COAST OF AFRICA and in the GULF OF GUINEA ;

(7) the construction, drafting, engraving and printing of hydrographic charts and plans ; the editing of the *Anales Hidrograficos*, *Light Lists* and *Lists of Sea-marks, Sailing Directions, etc.* ; and the publication, issue and sale of all these publications.

ARTICLE 3. — To carry out the duties enumerated in the previous Article the basic personnel which the Royal Decree appoints for this Fourth Section is divided into two groups.

*First Group.* Will have its offices and carry out its studies at the Observatory and will consist of :-

- 1 Captain, Hydrographic Surveyor, Head of the Section ;
- 2 Lieutenant-Commanders ;
- 1 Lieutenant ;
- 1 Cartographer.

This Group will have, as Subordinate Personnel, an Assistant and a Writer from the Office Personnel.

The duties of this Group are all those mentioned in Article 2 except the engraving and printing of charts.

*Second Group.* Will have its offices and workshops at the Ministry of Marine and will be considered to be on detached duty in Madrid ; it will have the following personnel :-

- 1 Commander, Hydrographic Surveyor ;
- 3 Cartographers ;
- 6 permanent Engravers ;
- 3 supernumerary Engravers ;
- 1 employee in charge of Ruling machines ;
- 1 Conservator of chart-plates ;
- 1 Master-Printer ;
- 1 Photographer.

As Subordinate Personnel there will be an Assistant from the Office Personnel who, in addition to these duties, shall have charge of the stores and in this connection shall be under the orders of the Accountant Officer of the Observatory.

The principal duties of this Group are the construction, engraving and printing of hydrographic charts and plans.

ARTICLE 4. — The Director of the Observatory has the same authority over this Fourth Section as is conferred on him over the other Sections by Chapter III of the existing Regulations of this Organisation and, in addition, that which the present rules confer.

Without prejudice to the imposed subordination to the Captain General of the Department, which is due to the site of the Institute, he will be under the Director General of Operations and the General Staff in all matters connected with the Hydrographic Expeditions by the Direction of which Offices the projected programmes and work of these will be drawn up and to which Offices the charts, plans, sailing directions *etc.* which have been prepared, will be submitted.

To sum up - although the Director of the Observatory, in his capacity as "Head of the Hydrographic Service" will have all the autonomous powers which these Regulations confer on him in scientific and technical domains, he is subordinate in other domains to the Director General of Operations who will be the channel of reference to the Central Administration in all matters of personnel and material and further will be informed on such subjects as the movements of surveying ships and others with which that Office deals under the Regulations.

Further the Director of the Observatory is charged with :-

the proposal for appointment of the Senior and other Officers of the Hydrographic Service in accordance with the terms of Principle "B" of the Royal Decree which created these appointments ;

the preparation and report on the results of visits of inspection, in so far as they deal with Hydrographic work allotted to the Expeditions either by himself or by the Head of the Section ;

the proposal for appointment of Senior and other hydrographic Officers, whether attached to the Section or not, to proceed abroad to study new appliances and methods for carrying out hydrographic work and for engraving and printing nautical plans and charts.

ARTICLE 5. — The Assistant-Director of the Observatory has the same powers as are conferred on him over the other Sections by Chapter IV of the existing Regulations of this Organisation.

ARTICLE 6. — The Captain - Hydrographic Surveyor - who carries out the duties of Head of the Section will attend to the elaboration of all points mentioned in Article 2 as the principal work of his Section, making all proposals whether referring to the personnel or to the material.

He will have under his immediate orders all the personnel of the Section whether at the Observatory or on detached duty in Madrid.

He is a member of the Permanent Committee on Lights, but he may delegate the duty of attending its sessions to the Chief of the detachment at Madrid.

In order to obtain early notice and data for the study of tides, meteorology, sea-marks, lighthouses, radio-telegraphic and radiogoniometric stations, the geodetic triangulation of Spain and other necessary details for the work of the "Hydrographic Service", the Head thereof may ask for them directly (though always through the Director of the Observatory) of the Captains of vessels, Senior Officers *etc.* at ports, the Director General of the Geographical and Cadastral Institute, the Chief of the *Deposito de la Guerra*, the Engineer-in-Chief of the Central Service for Sea-marks, the Chief of the Management of Radiotelegraphy of the Ministry of Marine, the Naval Superintendents of the Protectorate of Morocco, the Heads of the Hydrographic Services of other Nations and the International Hydrographic Bureau at Monaco.

ARTICLE 7. — The Senior Hydrographic Officer on detached duty in Madrid will receive direct orders from the Head of the Section in all matters connected with the Hydrographic Service.

Both he and the personnel under his orders will comply with the existing Regulations which govern the interior organisation of the Ministry.

He will receive instructions and will fulfil the orders from the Head of the Section and will take care that all work is carried out without delay and with due accuracy.

He will inform the Head of the Section on the capacities for and performance of duties of the whole personnel under his immediate orders.

He will study the cartographic methods employed in the *Deposito de la Guerra* and at the Geographical and Cadastral Institute and, when the Minister so orders, those employed abroad, with the object of proposing the most suitable methods so that our charts shall not fall in their production below those of the most advanced Nations.

He will take part in the sessions of the Permanent Lighthouse Committee as the Delegate of the Head of the Hydrographic Section, whenever the latter does not do so himself.

ARTICLE 8. — All the machines, appliances, plates for engraving and those engraved and all other necessary stores which must be maintained for the issue of charts shall be kept at such place as shall be allocated for the purpose at the Ministry, in the custody and under the care of the Office Assistant who, in so far as these duties are concerned, is under the orders of the Administrative Officer of the Observatory.

ARTICLE 9. — When the studies and proposed work for the Hydrographic Expeditions have been prepared by the Section, the Director will forward them well beforehand to the Director General of Operations in order that they may be submitted for the approval of the Minister. When this is received the Director will give such general instructions to the Commanders of the Expeditions as are necessary for the execution of the work.

ARTICLE 10. — As soon as the projected work has been carried out the Commanders of the Expeditions will forward to the Director of the Observatory two copies of the charts constructed and, after examination and study by the Section with a view to its publication, one copy, with a report, will

be submitted, through the Director General of Operations, for consideration by the Minister. Should he order it to be published the Director General will send it direct to the Senior Hydrographic Officer who is in charge of such work in Madrid for execution of the order. The other copy will remain in the Section for comparison with proofs which will be forwarded for the purpose by the Senior Officer on detached duty in Madrid.

ARTICLE 11. — When the chart or plan has been issued and the necessary number of copies have been printed by the Madrid office, they will be sent to the Observatory, the Administrative Officer of which will take charge of them and will keep an account and register thereof, providing the Branch Officer with the copies which they require and making direct supply to the Ships of the Navy, both for new publications and for those which have been corrected.

ARTICLE 12. — As soon as new charts have been published or those already published have been corrected, those which they replace at the Branch Offices shall be withdrawn from circulation.

ARTICLE 13. — The Library of the "Hydrographic Service" shall be under the care of the Head of the Section, is independent of that of the Observatory and shall be kept in the Offices of the Section in which there shall also be established a record of charts and documents in the custody of one of the Senior Officers and a register of charts and books in circulation which will be kept by the Accountant Officer of the Observatory.

ARTICLE 14. — The *Anales Hidrograficos*, *Sailing Directions*, *Lists of Lights and Beacons* and all other printed publications shall be printed, whenever possible, by the Observatory Press, the personnel of which will be determined on the representation of the Director once the number of printers necessary to keep these publications up to date has been ascertained. Those which cannot be printed by this Press shall be put out to public tender.

ARTICLE 15. — Deals with salaries.

ARTICLE 16. — Deals with administration of Finances.

ARTICLE 17. — Deals with matters of Discipline.

ARTICLE 18. — Deals with salaries.

ARTICLE 19. — The staff of the Observatory is increased in number as laid down for the two Groups mentioned in Article 3, which is the personnel specified in Principles C & D of the Royal Decree which created the Section.

ARTICLE 20. — In addition to the two Chief Hydrographic Surveyors, whose appointment is referred to in Articles 6 and 7, the other Senior Officers

and Officers appointed to the Section should be specialists also but, if this be not so the Director may appoint to each Section the Officer whom he considers most capable of carrying out the duties from amongst those of the General Service who have been appointed to the Observatory.

ARTICLE 21. — The Staff of the Section shall give special attention, at first, to the study of tides until the harmonic constants are obtained for the principal ports, in order to arrive at the calculation and annual publication of "*Tide Tables*" of our ports.

