

General

1. The personnel Branch has been strengthened and its organization rounded out by the appointment of Lieutenant Commander M. A. Medland, R. C. N., as Director of Seaman Personnel. In this capacity Lieutenant Commander Medland is responsible for the training and welfare of all Seaman Personnel and for the training schemes for Officers of the Executive Branch. He also concerns himself with the policy governing the advancement and general conditions of service of Seaman ratings and the regulations governing their promotion to Commissioned and Warrant Rank.
2. Further on the subject of organization, the fixing by the War Committee of the Cabinet of maximum totals for Naval strength in 1944 and 1945 seemed to warrant the establishment of a Directorate of Manning in the Personnel Branch and a recommendation to this effect was submitted. Experience has shown however, that the complements of Shore Establishments are in such a fluid state that the problem has not yet resolved itself to one of manning only, and the need for a Staff Officer, Complements still exists. The necessity for a Directorate of Manning will become apparent as, and when, complements become more static.
3. In an attempt to ensure economical use of manpower a Complement Committee was established at Naval Service Headquarters under the nominal chairmanship of, and responsible in all its decisions to the then Vice Chief of Naval Staff. The Committee is comprised of the Deputy Chief of Naval Personnel as Vice Chairman, Director of Engineering personnel, Director of Accountant Personnel, Director of Seaman Personnel, Director of Civilian Organization and its Secretary is the Staff Officer, Complements. It has the power to co-opt certain Directors of the Personnel Department and any others whose advice it may require. Broadly speaking its function is to consider and pass upon all recommended increases in existing complements and to carry on a current review thereof, with the object of effecting decreases and hence promoting economy wherever possible. Although it is too early to comment upon the measure of success which the Complement Committee may have achieved, it has (i) eliminated the personal responsibility for the refusal of requests for complement increases, (ii) made those concerned with the handling of Personnel more complement conscious and (iii) brought to the attention of higher authority the difficulties involved in maintaining a ceiling in the face of continually increasing Naval commitments.
4. The salient feature about the last quarter is the tremendous manning assistance we are committed to give and in fact have already given to the Royal Navy. The following is a brief summary of what has been accomplished and what is anticipated in the near future:

	<u>Approx. No. of Ratings</u>
(a) Two 1/3 Cruiser crews have been drafted to H.M.C.S. "NIOBE" as the first step in the infiltration scheme.	500