

CORRESPONDENCE FOR MERCHANT SHIPS

The Postmaster General announces that the following improved conditions will in future apply to letters for the crews of merchant ships on commercial service which are due to be addressed to the care of the owners or the owners' agents in the United Kingdom for re-direction to a port abroad:-

- (1) Letters and postcards intended for transmission by surface mail to a ship outside home waters will be accepted at the reduced rates of postages applicable to similar correspondence for H.M. Ships abroad and for those merchant ships abroad which have been requisitioned for Naval or Military service, namely:-

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| Letters   | 1½d for the first ounce, and<br>1d for each additional ounce; |
| Postcards | 1d each,  |

Letters and postcards for delivery at a port in the United Kingdom are subject to the ordinary inland rates of postage.

- (2) Air mail correspondence will be accepted at a flat air postage rate of 1s. 3d. per half ounce (postcards, 7d) and will be forwarded by Air Mail in all cases where an air mail service to the port of call overseas is available.
- (3) Airgraphs may be sent to merchant ships if an airgraph service to the port of call overseas is available under the conditions indicated in the current announcement concerning the civilian airgraph service to certain countries abroad.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

The above rates place men of the merchant ships on a level with the men of the Royal Navy. Former rates of correspondence to crews on merchant ships were -

|           |                       | <u>TO</u>   |                                      |
|-----------|-----------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
|           |                       | British Empire, Egypt,<br>U.S.A., and British<br>P.O's in Morocco | Other<br>destin-<br>ations<br>abroad |
| Letters   | First ounce           | 2½d   | 3d                                   |
|           | Each additional ounce | 1d  | 1½d                                  |
| Postcards |                       | 2d  | 2d                                   |

Air mail correspondence -

The rate varied according to destination up to 3s. 6d. per half ounce (postcards, 1s. 7d.).

Hence the general improvements are very considerable.