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Upon March 14, 1894, the Naval War College, Naval Training Station and Torpedo Station, were, by order of the Department, consolidated into one Station, ^(General Order No. 421) to be known as the Naval Station, Newport, R.I. The senior commanding officer on duty at that time was designated as Commandant of the new station. The Order further reads:—"2. The Training Station, the War College and the Torpedo Station will continue to perform, under the Commandant of the Station, the functions for which each was established."

The Training Station, War College and Torpedo Station had heretofore been directly under different Bureaus viz:--
 Training Station, Bureau of Navigation,
 Torpedo Station, Bureau of Ordnance,
 War College, Asst. Secretary of Navy,
 but the effort to centralize the methods and systems of the different departments of the new Station, making one general storehouse etc., not being attended with success, in fact delaying instead of facilitating business ~~that~~ the Department found it necessary to promulgate the following Special Circular (NO 14), about a month after the consolidation:--

"In the administration of General Order No. 421, the property at Newport belonging to the Bureaus of Navigation and Ordnance shall remain under control of those Bureaus, and, under the Commandant, in charge of their respective representatives, as at present.

"All estimates for the improvement and maintenance of these establishments shall be made as at present by these Bureaus.

Stores belonging to Ordnance, or hereafter purchased from that appropriation, shall be stored at the Torpedo Station"

THE REASONS (UNOFFICIALLY GIVEN) FOR THIS CONSOLIDATION WERE:--

- ECONOMY.
- EXPEDITION OF BUSINESS.
- SCARCITY OF OFFICERS

ECONOMY-----

A Commandant's house built in 1897.

~~A yearly~~ A yearly appropriation for maintenance of Comdt.s office

A steam launch for comdt.

A crew of three men for same.

A steward,cook and attendant to commandant.

A clerk to commandant.

A Marine Orderly and Messenger to Comdt.

Two offices in ^{the} building. No.10 for Comdt.

EXPEDITION OF BUSINESS -----

By the addition of another office, the business of the Station has been increased,instead of ~~being~~ diminished, by ~~delay, misunderstanding, and the inevitable increase of mistakes attendant upon an increase of handling.~~

The addition of a Comdt's office has not decreased the work of the other offices, for it has become merely a forwarding office with its consequent delays and liability to error. ~~No~~ ^{Mail} ~~can~~ ^{must not} be sent to Comdt's office after 1.30 P.M.,consequently official matter ready after that time ~~must~~ wait until the following day

Mail(Official) received at Comdt's office at 2.30 P.M. ^{is} ~~very often~~ ^{occasionally} delayed in delivery to the different parts of the Station until the next day.

Communications to ~~certain~~ ^{having cognizance of the individual Stations} Chiefs of Bureau are indirect ^{through the Commandant instead of direct}

Estimates for yearly appropriations,methods of carrying on the work of the different departments ,etc.etc.,are all formulated,arranged,and prepared in the several offices of the Chiefs of the Station departments and "forwarded" through the Commandant's office

ECONOMY:---

In the matter of economy the result may be summed up as follows:--

A commandant's house, built in 1896.

A yearly appropriation for maintenance of Comdt's office.

A steam launch for commandant.

A crew for steam launch

A steward, cook and attendant for commandant.

A clerk to commandant.

A marine orderly and a messenger to commandant.

Two rooms in building No.10 for offices for Commandant.

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EXPEDITION OF BUSINESS:--

Regarding expedition of business, the result is as follows

By the addition of another office (Office of Commandant) the business has been increased instead of diminished--by delay, misunderstanding and the inevitable increase of mistakes attendant upon an increase of handling.

The addition of a commandant's office has not decreased the work of the other offices; it is merely a "forwarding" office with its consequent delays and liability to error. No mail must be sent to the commandant's office after 1.30 P.M.

SCARCITY OF OFFICERS-----

When General Order No.421 went into effect, the senior officer present (Captain Bunce) was named as Commandant; one paymaster was detached and for some time there was but one Surgeon at the Torpedo Station and One at the Training Station.

It was, however, found impossible to perform the duties required with this diminished force and it has since been augmented until the same number of paymasters and surgeons are doing duty here as before consolidation, with the addition of a Commodore as Commandant.

The Training Station and Torpedo Station Surgeons and Paymasters are still responsible to their respective commanding officers, and there are still pay offices and sick bays at these stations.

In effect the experiment has failed as regards a saving of officers, for, under the present system, more officers are required than ever before.

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Though this has been known as the "Naval Station" there does not appear to be any "Naval Station" property or plant. The Torpedo Station still continue to use ^{its} their machine shops and other plants for Torpedo Station work alone. The Training Station ^{its} their plants of various kinds for Training Station work, and the War College the same.

There is no division of labor; no effort, apparently to combine the work of the various stations, which was of course, originally intended as an economic feature.

This combining of the work is not done because it is impossible to do it. The experiment has been tried and failed because ^{the} plants are used and intended to be used for certain specific purposes ^{are} and supported by entirely different appropriations and under the cognizance of different Bureaus. It may be said that this sort of thing is carried on at the different Navy Yards, and to a certain extent this is true, but the general object in a Navy Yard is the same, and it is ^{furthermore} primarily a supply depot--

while the "Naval Station", Newport, R.I., is ^{but perhaps} ~~not~~ only a supply Station (Torpedo Station), ^{while it} ~~but~~ also embraces a Staff College and a training school for boys--each having nothing in common ^{with the others} ~~each~~ ^{just as well} ~~might~~ ^{if} ~~able to~~ carry out the functions originally intended one hundred miles ^{distant from the others} ~~apart~~ ~~as well~~ as here together. ~~and not together.~~

The union is, in short, forced and unnatural. It might ~~be~~ well be permitted to die.

Regarding V. O. H. 21
concerning the
Mrs. Cole & T
Training & Report etc.

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