

NOTES ON NIGHT QUARTERS AND BOAT SERVICE

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Notes on night quarters and boat service by J. A. Paynter

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J. A. PAYNTER

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BY

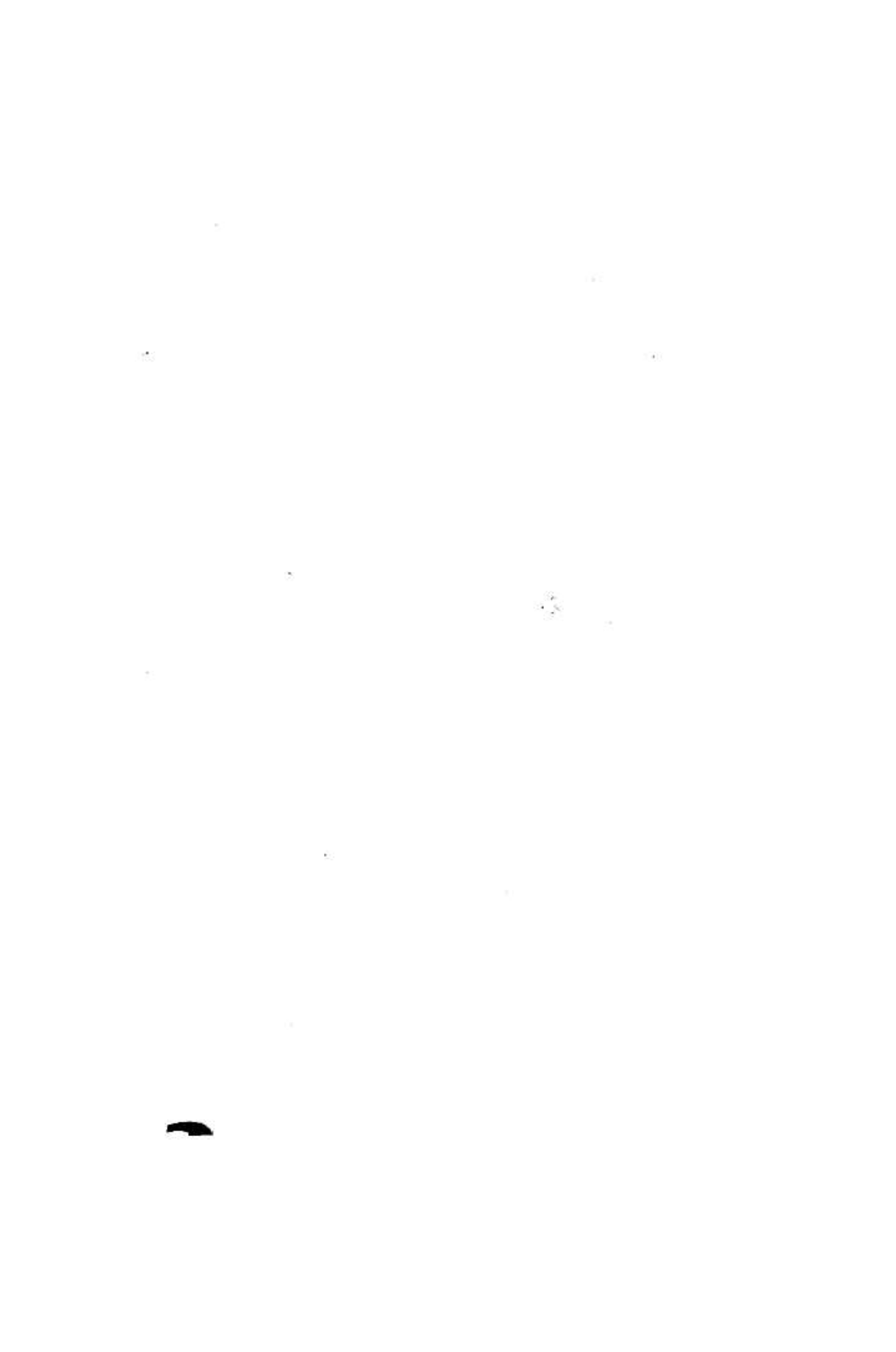
COMMANDER J. A. PAYNTER, R. N.

PRESENTED, BY PERMISSION, TO THE EARL OF AUCKLAND.

PORTSEA: W. WOODWARD.

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PREFACE.

HAVING lately returned from four years and a half service in H. M. S. *Agincourt*, on the East India and China station, and during that period being impressed with the importance of an organized system of Boat Service, I was induced to offer a few notes on the subject to the Earl of Auckland, coupling with them some observations on Night Quarters, and as my remarks have been favorably received, as will appear by the letter subjoined from the Board of Admiralty, I beg leave to offer them to the notice of the service.

J. AYLMER PAYNTER,
Commander, R. N.

ADMIRALTY, *Jan. 7th*, 1848.

SIR,

The Earl of Auckland having laid before my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty your work, entitled "Notes on Night Quarters and Boat Service," and my Lords having carefully examined that work, desire me to express their satisfaction at the pains you have bestowed on so important a subject, and their approval of the many valuable remarks contained therein.

Their Lordships can have no objection to the work being published, feeling satisfied that it will be useful to many a Naval Officer.

Their Lordships will be happy to take a certain number of copies in the event of its being published.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

W. A. B. HAMILTON,

Commander Paynter, R. N.

Secretary.

NIGHT QUARTERS

IN

LINE OF BATTLE SHIPS.

ALTHOUGH captains have seldom exercised their ships' companies in this important station, there are few duties on board vessels berthing men on a gun deck more necessary or important. As the Admiralty now make it imperative for all ships to "Clear for Action" during the night, at least once every three months, some general directions might be laid down for commanding officers to be guided by in their lower deck Night Arrangements, which, I trust, may soon emanate from the *Excellent*.

There are several obstacles in our present system of fitting which operate, more or less, against ships of the line clearing their batteries quickly; the principal ones I consider are,

- 1st—Insufficiency of light.
- 2nd—The bags of the ship's company.
- 3rd—Ship's company's mess traps and stools.
- 4th—Officers' furniture.

It is comparatively a trivial duty for a frigate to clear during the night; her gun deck is ready, her reserve shot at hand on the lower deck, and (save the hammocks, in the wake of the