

CHAPTER 47

GENEVA CONVENTIONS PROVISION OF IDENTITY CARDS AND ARMLETS; PRISONERS OF WAR

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CHAPTER 47

GENEVA CONVENTIONS PROVISION OF IDENTITY CARDS AND ARMLETS; PRISONERS OF WAR

SECTION I - GENERAL

4701. Provision of Identity Cards and Armllets

1. Under the terms of the Geneva Conventions (1949) relative to the *Treatment of Prisoners of War, for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field* and for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded, Sick and Shipwrecked Members of Armed Forces at Sea, the United Kingdom Government is obliged to ensure that:

- a. All members of its armed forces are fully instructed both in peace and war on the requirements of the Conventions; and
- b. All members of and civilians (including RFA personnel) accompanying those forces are provided with the documents and equipment prescribed by the Conventions so that they may, if captured, claim treatment as Prisoners of War.

2. The Conventions apply to all declared wars, and to any armed conflict that may arise, between any of the contracting parties, even if the state of war is not recognised by one of them. The full implementation of these instructions, i.e. general issue of documents to individuals, would depend on a declaration by Her Majesty's Government and specific instructions from the Ministry of Defence. Meanwhile it is important that the requirements and procedures, as set out in [Section II–Section V](#), should be known and understood, that the necessary preparatory arrangements be made or planned, and suitable instructions be given to those concerned. Ships and establishments are to hold all types of identity cards and armllets in bulk and to prepare certain of the cards thus reducing the time and labour involved in the event of the Ministry of Defence ordering that the completed cards are to be issued to appropriate personnel or on mobilisation.

3. **Documents - General.** The following document is prescribed for issue in war to members of the forces and civilians accompanying them:

- a. F Ident 189 identity card for each member of the UK Armed Forces / RFA and others entitled to be treated as prisoners of war. Instructions as to the issue of this document are set out in Section II.

4. **Forces Identity Cards.** The following identity cards are prescribed for members of the forces in addition to the F Ident 189:

- a. F Ident 106 (together with a Red Cross armllet) - issued to members of the Forces especially trained for, and while employed on, part-time medical duties.
- b. F Ident 107 (together with a Red Cross armllet) - issued to members of the Forces / RFA employed exclusively on medical, dental or spiritual welfare duties.

Instructions on the preparation and issue of these documents are set out in [Section III](#) and [Section IV](#).

5. **Civilian identity card.** The following identity card is prescribed for civilians in addition to the F Ident 189:

F Ident 108—issued to civilians accompanying the forces and crews of RFAs (other than those RFA personnel who form part of the Royal Naval Reserve on activation of Sponsored Reserve status).

Instructions regarding the preparation and issue of F Ident 108 to entitled civilians will be promulgated at a later date, but the categories to be included are given in [Section V](#).

6. **Commanding Officer's Responsibilities.** Commanding Officers have the responsibility of ensuring that:

a. Persons under their command, naval and civilian, are informed of their duties and responsibilities under the Conventions and are, in war, in possession of the documents appropriate to their employment.

b. Persons are warned that failure to produce their identity card or cards may, if they are captured, prejudice their chance of being treated as Prisoners of War or of being protected under the Conventions.

c. Identity cards are correctly completed and maintained once they have been issued.

d. Persons are reminded of their responsibilities towards prisoners of war whom they may capture.

e. Persons are reminded that any derogation from their responsibilities towards Prisoners of War will result in a full investigation and potential legal proceedings against them either before a military or civilian tribunal.

7. **Supply of Identity Cards and Armlets.** All Regular Reserve and RFA ships and establishments are to arrange for the supply, preparation and holding in bulk at ship and establishment level of the identity cards and armlets as set out in [Section II-Section IV](#).

8. **Photographs.** Where contract arrangements for the supply of identity photographs are currently in force (e.g. for use with the Form S.1511) these should be extended to cover the requirements.

9. **Issue Instructions.** Identity cards and armlets are only to be issued by ships and establishments on instruction from the Ministry of Defence or on mobilisation.

10. **Custody and Control.** The custody and control of the forms and registers are to be as follows:

a. Forms to be held by the Navigating Officer (Logistics Officer on RFA ships).

b. F Ident 107 register to be maintained by the Navigating Officer (Logistics Officer on RFA ships).

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- c. An annual inspection is sufficient; to be carried out by an officer detailed by the Commanding Officer.
- d. The issue of F Ident 107 should be recorded in the Register. No other record should be needed.
- e. Issue of armlets record to be maintained by the rating in charge of loan/cash clothing.

11. On joining the Maritime Reserves (Royal Naval Reserves and Royal Marines Reserves) Reservists are issued with a Royal Naval Reserve ID card. When brought into permanent service, the ID card is replaced at the Mobilisation Centre with a Regular Service ID card (the suffix 'Reserve' is removed). On completion of permanent service, the Reserve ID card is re-issued and the Regular ID card destroyed.

12. Demands for all F Ident Forms should be made via the DE&S Joint Supply Chain, Millie Online Portal Red Cross armlets are to be requisitioned from the nearest Principal Supply and Transport Officer (Naval).

4702–4711. Unallocated

SECTION II - IDENTITY CARD F IDENT 189

4712. F Ident 189 (With Plastic Cover F Ident 189A)

1. All members of the forces and civilians accompanying the forces abroad (including those entitled to F Ident 106, F Ident 107 or F Ident 108) are to be provided with F Ident 189. The object of this card is to comply with the requirements of Article 17 of the *Geneva Convention Relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War 1949* (third Geneva Convention). It enables the person concerned to produce documentary evidence to show that they are entitled to be treated as a prisoner of war. It also provides a concise and convenient means of informing the captors of a person's particulars so that they may inform the Protecting Power of their capture and thus enable their next-of-kin to be informed.

The F Ident 189 contains brief general instructions and provides for the insertion of rank, full name and date of birth. It does not require stamping, embossing or counter signature and may therefore be completed by the holder.

4713. Stocks

1.

a. Ships and establishments in the United Kingdom and overseas, are to hold sufficient pamphlets, cards and plastic covers for issue on the scale of one to each individual at war (or equivalent) complement, plus 10% reserve (30% reserve for RFAs to reflect roulement in theatre).

b. In order to ensure that all reservists proceeding overseas are protected at all stages, Maritime Reserve Units in the United Kingdom to which reservists may report on mobilisation are also to hold Mobilisation Packs sufficient copies for issue on the scale of one to each reservist due to report, plus 10%.

c. Sufficient copies for all entitled personnel in new ships and establishments which are to be commissioned on mobilisation are to be held in bulk by the Flag Officer of the area where the ship is held in reserve or where the establishment is to be created on the scale of one to each entitled individual, plus 10% reserve.

d. Issue to individuals will only be made on instructions from the Ministry of Defence or on mobilisation. It is the responsibility of the Commanding Officers of ships and establishments to ensure that F Ident 189 is correctly completed.

4714–4730. Unallocated

SECTION III - F IDENT 106 AND RED CROSS ARMLET

4731. F Ident 106 and Red Cross Armlet

1. Article 25 of the *Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field 1949* (first Geneva Convention) requires that members of the Armed Forces specially trained for and employed part-time or temporarily, but exclusively, as stretcher bearers, hospital orderlies, nurses, ambulance drivers, etc. shall, while carrying out these duties, be respected and protected in all circumstances. So that they can establish their right to this respect and protection if they are carrying out these duties at the time of capture, such persons are to be provided additionally to the F Ident 189 with a special identity card (which for members of the British Forces is the F Ident 106), together with a white armlet marked in the centre with a red cross in miniature. The F Ident 106 is a unit card for issue to selected personnel as necessary by the establishment concerned; it requires a military stamp but does not require a photograph. The card is required by the Convention to be prepared in duplicate. Every card has a duplicate with the same serial number.

2. Ship and Establishment Holdings of F Ident 106, Armlets and Stamp.

a. All ships and establishments are to hold in bulk in safe custody, sufficient cards and armlets for issue on the scale of one to each individual at war complement who may be temporarily engaged as in Clause 1. Demands are to be calculated at 10% of the war complement of the ship or establishment.

b. Sufficient cards and armlets for ships and establishments which are to be commissioned on mobilisation are to be ordered via the DE&S Joint Supply Chain, Millie Online Portal. Demands are to be calculated at 10% of the war complement of the ship or establishment (30% reserve for RFAs to reflect roulement in theatre).

c. Red Cross armlets (Vocab. No. 27703) are to be accounted for in the loan clothing account. It should be noted that this armlet (see Clause 1) is different from the one authorised for issue with the F Ident 107 which has a large red cross.

d. Every ship and establishment is to hold a special rubber stamp with which to stamp F Ident 106 and armlets. When demanding the stamp, 'Authenticating Stamp No. 2' is to be quoted by ships and establishments. Responsibility for the custody of the stamp is to be decided by the Commanding Officer.

4732. Issues and Withdrawals

1.

a. F Ident 106 cards and armlets are only to be issued by ships and establishments to individuals on orders from the Ministry of Defence or on mobilisation. It is stressed that F Idents 106 and armlets are required for individuals who are employed on a part-time or temporary basis and therefore are to be issued whenever they are needed by the individual, and are to be withdrawn, and no longer carried, when the individual is no longer entitled to carry them. Every F Ident 106 has a duplicate with the same number.

b. When issues are made, ships and establishments are to:

(1) Apply the signature of the issuing officer and date of issue to both copies (the words '(OC Ship/Unit)' denote the status of the issuing officer and he or she is, under no circumstances, to enter anything other than their signature and rank).

(2) Apply the official rubber stamp (Authenticating Stamp No. 2) in the place designated 'Stamp'.

(3) Obtain the individual's signature on both copies and issue them with the original for retention, during the period whilst they remain entitled, together with an armlet which will also be stamped with Authenticating Stamp No. 2 and is to be worn on the left arm. The duplicate card is to be attached to the holder's Service documents.

c. Entries are to be made in block capitals in ink except the entry against 'Rank/Rating' which is to be made in pencil and is to show the rank/rating at the time the card is issued to the holder: thereafter any change of rank or rating is to be amended in pencil as and when it occurs.

d. When making the entry in pencil against 'Rank/Rating' the following abbreviations only are to be used irrespective of branch:

| RN | Abbr | RM | Abbr |
|---|-------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Warrant Officer | WO | Warrant Officer | WO |
| Chief Petty Officer | CPO | Colour Sergeant | C/Sgt |
| Petty Officer | PO | Sergeant | Sgt |
| Leading Rate | LH | Corporal | Cpl |
| | | Lance Corporal | LICpl |
| Able Rate | AB | Marine | Mne |
| QARNNS | | Abbr | |
| Warrant Officer Naval Nurse | | WONN | |
| Chief Petty Officer Naval Nurse | | CPONN | |
| Petty Officer Naval Nurse | | PONN | |
| Leading Naval Nurse | | LNN | |
| State Registered Nurse/State Enrolled Nurse | | NN | |
| Warrant Officer Naval Nurse | | WONN | |

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- e. A ship and establishment register, by serial numbers, is to be maintained of cards and armlets to include receipts, losses or accidental or deliberate destruction.
- f. The cards and register are to be available for inspection.
- g. If the holder ceases temporarily to carry out the duties which entitle them to hold an F Ident 106 then the card and armlet are to be withdrawn and held with their documents ready for re-issue when required. If the holder ceases permanently to be entitled, through death or for some other reason, then the card and duplicate are to be destroyed as classified waste and the armlet withdrawn and held in ship or establishment reserve.
- h. The F Ident 106 is to be kept in the protective cover F Ident 189A issued for use with the F Ident 189.

4733–4750. Unallocated

SECTION IV - F IDENT 107 AND ARMLET

4751. F Ident 107 and Armlet

1. The first Geneva Convention requires that all persons employed exclusively on medical, dental or spiritual welfare duties shall be respected and protected in all circumstances. So that these persons shall be accorded this respect and protection they are to be provided additionally to the F Ident 189, a special identity card embossed with a military stamp (which for members of the UK Armed Forces / RFA is the F Ident 107), and a white armlet marked with a red cross. This card is required by the Convention to be prepared in duplicate. Each card and its duplicate carries the same serial number.

2. **Categories.** The following categories of persons are entitled to F Ident 107, and the Red Cross armlet:

a. All naval personnel who are members of the following:

- (1) Royal Naval Medical and Dental Services, including Reserves.
- (2) Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Service, including Reserves.

Naval Chaplaincy Service, including Reserves

RFA Medical Technicians.

Above-mentioned personnel attached to the Royal Marines are also included.

b. All naval personnel on the War Complement of or attached to one of the following:

- (1) Ambulance Pools.
- (2) Naval Administrative Officers' Staffs Civil Hospitals.
- (3) Any other medical or dental unit or establishment except convalescent depots, physical development centres and units of a like nature.

c. All whole-time members of voluntary aid societies duly recognised and authorised by Her Majesty's Government who are subject to naval law and regulations and are exclusively employed with naval medical units or are undertaking welfare services in a theatre of operations are placed on the same footing as Service medical personnel. These societies are:

- (1) The Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem.
- (2) The St. Andrew's Ambulance Association.
- (3) The British Red Cross Society.

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In the United Kingdom members of these societies are to have identity cards prepared and armlets issued in accordance with special arrangements made with Headquarters, The British Red Cross Society.

Overseas, members of these societies, should apply to The Senior Medical Officer in the command concerned who is responsible for making arrangements for the preparation and issue of cards and armlets to such members in accordance with the instructions set out in this Section. A separate register is to be maintained by the Senior Medical Officer to record the preparation and issue of these cards and armlets.

F Idents 107 and armlets are only to be issued to individuals of the voluntary aid societies on orders from the Ministry of Defence or on mobilisation; when such issues are made, the duplicate F Ident 107 is to be forwarded to the British Red Cross Society, 44 Moorfields, London EC2Y 9AL.

4752. Preparation of F Ident 107

1. The instructions for the preparation of the F Ident 107 are complex but it is essential that they are properly carried out in order to comply with the requirements of the Geneva Conventions. The subsequent paragraphs set out the various procedures which must be followed in preparing and issuing the card and its duplicate.

4753. Ship and Establishment Holdings of F Ident 107 and Armlets

1.

a. All ships and establishments at home (including RNR units) and overseas in which personnel as listed in **Para 4751 sub para 2** serve, are to hold F Idents 107 as described below. In addition they are to hold an equivalent number of armlets Vocab. No. 27702. This armlet is different from the armlet authorised for issue with the F Ident 106 which has a red cross in miniature.

b. The cards should be prepared for serving personnel in peace-time and then held with the individual's ship or establishment documents for issue when ordered by the Ministry of Defence or on mobilisation. In addition, these ships and establishments are to hold sufficient blank cards and armlets for entitled reinforcements who join on mobilisation, plus 10% reserve (30% reserve for RFAs to reflect roulement in theatre).

c. Sufficient cards and armlets for all entitled personnel in new ships and establishments which are to be commissioned on mobilisation are to be held in bulk by the Flag Officer of the area where the ships are held in reserve or where the establishments are to be created, on the scale of one to each entitled individual plus 10% reserve.

d. Holdings of F Ident 107 (and duplicates) should therefore be as follows:

(1) Ships and establishments:

(a) Completed cards (except for signature and date of issue to the individual) kept with the documents for serving entitled personnel.

(b) Bulk holding of blank cards to cover replacements of (a) above, and any reinforcements to be expected on mobilisation plus an overall 10% reserve.

(2) Cards for all entitled personnel in new ships and establishments to be commissioned on mobilisation are to be held in bulk by the Flag Officer of the area where the ships are held in reserve or where the establishments are to be created.

Armllets Geneva Cross 40 should be held to match the cards in all cases.

4754. Photographs

1. The card and its duplicate require a photograph which is to be a 35mm × 35mm contact print showing the subject's head full face, without head-dress and with sufficient of the neck showing to facilitate recognition. The official number (Discharge Book Number for RFA personnel) of the individual is to be incorporated in the base of the photograph, i.e. no badge or other insignia will appear but the subject must be wearing uniform. Prints are to be affixed to the blank card and its duplicate by the unit. For this purpose two additional prints of the photograph for Royal Navy or Royal Fleet Auxiliary Identity Card Form (S.1511) are authorised to be provided under contract for all entitled personnel.

Special contracts in respect of photographs for F Ident 107 are not to be placed except in cases where no spare photographs taken for Form **S.1511** are available.

4755. Entries on F Ident 107

1. When the photographs have been affixed, all details other than the signature, date of issue (to the holder) and the rank/rating, are to be completed as follows:

- a. Entries are to be made in block capitals (typed wherever possible) or in ink.
- b. Under the entry 'Other Distinguishing Marks' refer to any marks which would aid identification such as a scar or tattoo mark.

4756. Embossing of F Ident 107

1.

a. When photographs have been affixed and entries made in accordance with paragraphs 5 and 6, the original and duplicate cards (completed except for signature, date of issue to the holder, and rank/rating at date of issue) are to be sent to the Director Royal Naval Medical Service NCHQ for embossment. The photographs are to be embossed at the back of the F Ident 107 where indicated within the dotted circle and are to be so embossed as to overlap the print without rendering the subject of the photograph unrecognisable. When demanding the embossing machine, Director Royal Naval Medical Service is to quote 'Embossing Machine No. 1' (supplied by the Ministry of Defence (Common Services (PS)2)).

b. The cards will then be returned to the ship or establishment.

4757. Retention and Accounting for F Ident 107 before Issue to the Holder

1.

a. Ships and establishments are to:

(1) Retain both copies of all prepared or unprepared cards in safe custody. They are to be mustered periodically in the same way as confidential books, etc.

(2) Forward both partially prepared copies to the new ships and establishments of individuals posted and remaining entitled.

(3) Destroy (as classified waste) both partially prepared copies of individuals ceasing to be entitled while remaining on the Active List.

(4) Forward both partially prepared copies for entitled individuals leaving the Active List to the Director Royal Naval Medical Service in the case of Medical, Dental, Medical Services, Nursing and Quarters officers and ratings, and Chaplain of the Fleet for Chaplains.

(5) Account for both copies of all cards by serial number in a ship/establishment register showing:

Cards taken on charge.

Number, Rank, Initials and Name for whom intended.

If embossed and prepared.

Losses or accidental destruction.

Deliberate destruction.

Issue (to be supported by signature of recipient on receipt from ship or Establishment.

All cases of loss are to be reported as soon as possible to the issuing authority.

(6) Make cards and register available for inspection.

b. On receipt of cards Director Royal Naval Medical Service and the Chaplain of the Fleet are to:

(1) Record receipt in a register.

(2) Retain both cards of individuals with their personal documents while they have a reserve liability and destroy (as classified waste) all others, recording destruction in the register.

(3) Re-issue both copies, with other personal documents to the ships and establishments of personnel transferring from a reserve to the Active List or on joining the Reserves for ship or establishment action as in paragraph 8a of the Convention. Record re-issues in register.

4758. Retention of and Accounting for Red Cross Armlets before Issue to the Holders

1. Sufficient armlets are to be retained in ship or establishment store with a nominal roll showing for whom they are intended. Armlets are not to be transferred between ships and establishments before their issue to individuals is ordered.

4759. Issue of F Ident 107 to the Holder

1.

a. F Ident 107 cards are only to be issued to individuals on orders from the Ministry of Defence or on mobilisation.

b. When issues are made, establishments are to:

(1) Apply the signature of the issuing officer and date of issue to both copies. The words 'OC Ship/Unit' denote the status of the issuing officer and he or she is under no circumstances to enter anything other than their signature and rank.

(2) Complete the entry against 'Rank/Rating' in pencil showing the rank or rating at the time; thereafter any change of rank or rating is to be amended in pencil when it occurs. This will enable the holder to be accorded his correct status. When making the entry in pencil against 'Rank/Rating' the standard abbreviations only are to be used irrespective of branch.

(a) **Officers.** Abbreviations as given in JSP 101, The Defence Writing Guide, but in block capitals. Chaplains are to put the word 'CHAPLAIN' in the relevant space.



Note. Chaplains RN have no equivalent military rank (see 0304).

(b) **Ratings**

| RN | Abbr | RM | Abbr |
|---------------------------------|-------|-----------------|-------|
| Warrant Officer | WO | Warrant Officer | WO |
| Chief Petty Officer | CPO | Colour Sergeant | C/Sgt |
| Petty Officer | PO | Sergeant | Sgt |
| Leading Rate | LH | Corporal | Cpl |
| | | Lance Corporal | L/Cpl |
| Able Rate | AB | Marine | Mne |
| QARNNS | Abbr | | |
| Warrant Officer Naval Nurse | WONN | | |
| Chief Petty Officer Naval Nurse | CPONN | | |
| Petty Officer Naval Nurse | PONN | | |
| Leading Naval Nurse | LNN | | |

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(3) Obtain the individual's signature on the reverse of both copies and issue him or her with the original for retention while the individual remains entitled. On mobilisation, the issue to recalled reserve officers and ratings should be entered in red on the Individual Mobilization Card.

(4) For ratings, send the duplicate to the Commodore HMS Centurion to retain with the individual's documents and for chaplains send it to Chaplain of the Fleet as appropriate to be placed on their personal files.

(5) Record the issue in the ship or establishment register and in red on the Service Certificate Cover (Form S.459A) in case of ratings and the front of the personal file in the case of officers.

c. The F Ident 107 is to be kept in the protective cover F Ident 189A issued for use with the F Ident 189.

4760. Issue of Red Cross Armlets

1. On mobilisation or on instruction from the Ministry of Defence to issue F Ident 107, one armlet is to be issued with each F Ident 107. Individuals are to retain armlets on moving between ships and establishments while they remain entitled to hold F Ident 107. Armlets are to be stamped prior to issue with the special rubber stamp provided and are to be worn on the left arm. (See Section III, **Para 4731 2 sub para d** for details of the stamp to be issued.)

4761. Action on Cessation of Entitlement after Issue

1.

a. If holders of F Ident 107 cards and Red Cross armlets cease to be permanently entitled to them ships and establishments are to:

(1) Withdraw F Ident 107 and record in ship or establishment register. A record is to be made in red on the Form S.459A for ratings and the front of the personal file for officers.

(2) Return original F Ident 107 to Director Royal Naval Medical Service for officers and ratings and Chaplain of the Fleet for Chaplains with information that the holder is no longer entitled. Record the return in the ship or establishment register.

(3) Withdraw the armlet, return to store and adjust the Form S.459A and the front of the personal file for ratings and officers respectively.

b. On receipt of such F Ident 107 cards Director Royal Naval Medical Service or Chaplain of the Fleet is to destroy (as classified waste) both the original and duplicate and record destruction in the individual's personal documents.

4762. Hospital Ships

1. All ships designated as hospital ships should abide by the above instructions in conjunction with regulations laid down in BR 1991, *Instructions for the Royal Naval Medical Service*.

4763–4780. Unallocated

SECTION V - F IDENT 108

4781. F Ident 108

1. Civilians who accompany the armed forces are required to be in possession of an identity card which complies with the provisions of Article 4 of the third Geneva Convention. Such persons accompanying the armed forces are to carry a special identity card F Ident 108 in addition to the F Ident 189 and AFZ 13662. In the event of their being captured, civilians carrying this card are entitled to claim to be treated as prisoners of war.

2. **Categories of Persons to be Issued with F Ident 108.** All civilians authorised to accompany the armed forces who are not entitled to hold F Ident 106 and 107 cards are to be issued with an F Ident 108 by their appropriate civilian organisations on instructions from the Ministry of Defence or when mobilisation is ordered. They include the following categories:

- a. Civil servants excluding those who have a commitment to join the forces on mobilisation.
- b. War correspondents; including press photographers, press artists, cine cameramen and representatives of broadcasting organisations.
- c. Supply contractors.
- d. Civilian technicians not already included in Para 2 [sub para a](#).
- e. Members of civil labour units excluding those who would be enlisted in the Royal Navy.
- f. Certain civilian members of Service sponsored organisations such as Naval, Army, Air Force Institutes and Services Cinema Corporation.
- g. Members of the Women's Royal Voluntary Service.
- h. Crews of Royal Fleet Auxiliaries.
- i. Chaplains' Assistants.

The categories mentioned above are not exhaustive.

3. Categories of Persons not Issued with F Ident 108. The following categories will not be issued with F Ident 108:

- a. Families and dependants of Service and civilian personnel who as such accompany the armed forces.
- b. Civilian teachers (who stay with their schoolchildren).
- c. Persons who are to join the forces on mobilisation, e.g. certain retired officers.
- d. Locally entered civilians (with certain exceptions which will be notified in due course).

4. **Establishments Abroad - Responsibilities.** Establishments abroad who sponsor the various categories of civilians authorised to accompany the armed forces are responsible for checking, in time of war, that all entitled civilians have been issued with F Ident 108 cards by their appropriate civilian organisation and that the cards are correctly completed.

5. **Entitled Civilians Ordered Overseas in War.** Entitled civilians in the United Kingdom under orders for overseas in time of war are to be issued with an F Ident 108 card before departure by the civilian establishment division or other sponsoring authority.

6. **Entitled Civilians Serving Overseas in Peacetime.** F Ident 108 cards for entitled civilians serving overseas in time of peace are to be prepared in accordance with instructions to be issued by the appropriate civilian authority.

4782–4785. Unallocated

SECTION VI - PRISONERS OF WAR

J.4786. Prisoners of War

1. **Responsibility for Prisoners of War.**

a. Both the Government whose forces capture them and the individual members of those forces are responsible for ensuring that, from the moment of capture, prisoners of war are treated in accordance with the requirements of the Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War 1949.

b. Prisoners are on no account to be regarded as the property of or at the mercy of the units or individuals who captured them or have them in their charge. Consequently all persons who have prisoners of war in their charge are strictly to observe in their treatment of them the requirements of the third Geneva Convention, and in particular ensure that:

(1) they are treated humanely and that the wounded and sick are cared for. Prisoners are to be given adequate and appropriate provisions and are to be allowed fresh air and exercise in so far as the exigencies of the situation and the needs of security will allow.

(2) they are protected as far as possible from danger and are removed from the area of immediate hostilities as soon as possible.

2. **Status of Captured Persons.** If there is any doubt whether a captured person is, in fact, entitled to claim to be treated as a prisoner of war, he or she is, nevertheless, to be so treated until their status is determined by a Service Inquiry or other means determined by policy or regulations.

3. **Knowledge of Duties and Obligations Towards Prisoners of War.**

a. Joint Doctrine Publication 1-10 Captured Persons provides the doctrinal guidance on how to deal with persons who fall into the hands of the UK Armed Forces during military operations.

b. Commanding Officers are therefore to satisfy themselves that all personnel under their command are properly instructed in their duties and obligations towards prisoners of war.

4. **Conduct after Capture by the Enemy.** Commanding Officers are to satisfy themselves that all personnel under their command who may be captured by the enemy are familiar with the precautions to be observed in the event of their being taken prisoner of war and, in particular, of the need to prevent material likely to be useful to the enemy from falling into their hands.

SECTION VII - LAW OF ARMED CONFLICT**J.4787. Prevention, Reporting and Investigation of Breaches of the Law of Armed Conflict**

1. It is the duty of all personnel to:
 - a. Abide by the law of armed conflict
 - b. Do all in their power to prevent any breaches taking place
 - c. On suspecting any breach of the law of armed conflict to report the circumstances to their Commanding Officer and/or the Service Police.
2. If a Commanding Officer becomes aware of an allegation or circumstances which would indicate that breach of the Law of Armed Conflict may have been committed, they must as soon as reasonably practicable ensure that his or her higher authority and the Service Police are aware of the matter.
3. A Commander is responsible for offences committed by forces under their effective command and control if they
 - a. either knew, or owing to the circumstances at the time, should have known that the forces were committing or about to commit such offences, and
 - b. failed to take all necessary and reasonable measures within their power to prevent or repress their commission or to submit the matter to the competent authorities for investigation and prosecution.