

DEMORILISATION

First man out of the Royal Navy, Chief Petty Officer Hime bids a sailor's farewell to his C.O. Sixty years old, he joined the Navy in 1902. Naval men on the first discharge list provided the first test for the elaborate Admiralty Dispersal arrangements. Petty Officer Manning tackles the first and most popular department of all.

After pay, the next job is to choose a civvy suit and all the trimmings - the first since the war started.

These shoes won't have to negotiate a heaving deck like the pair he's wearing.

After years of a peaked cap and navy uniform it's hard to say if civvies look quite the thing. This selection wins approval - but what will the old woman say? B.L.A. men in the first demob groups assemble at the Released Embarkation Camp at Ostend. Their next step is England and home. The majority for group-one-release are last-war veterans, younger men embark by the same boat on their way to join a draft for Burma.

The Isle-of-Man Mail steamer, Ben-My-Chree puts out of Ostend Harbour - first "Eligible Boat" of the B.L.A. Back in England, these men will go through much the same demobbing process as their Air Force comrades. At the demob centre at Uxbridge, the first step is the record-and-release book. At each department they tear off a page for records, pay and all the rest until you are left with the remainder - certificate of service, conditions of release, identity card, and.....

The routine visit to the man who says "Cough."

There's more to come. Ministry of Health, Ministry of Labour, notification to records....but it's worth it.

Goodbye to the paybook - it's that money again.

The R.A.F. shop window looks better equipped than most civvy stores. All that's missing is the price tag.

A complete new outfit - the coupon-clippers dress.

Civilian experts are there to help - just in case the Erk has forgotten how to put on a civvy waistcoat. There's

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everything here from pin-striped suits for budding business men,  
to light checks for country gents.

Time for a rest, dang, you're off parade now. Who said  
hot dogs only meant sausages?

You get a choice of shirts to go with the suit and an old  
school tie to match.

Oh bother!