

CHAPTER 23

TOWING BILL
(PLATE IV)

23-1 GENERAL:-

The Towing Bill provides for the procedure to be followed and the assignment of personnel for:

- (a) Towing another vessel.
- (b) Towed by another vessel.

23-2 TOWING EQUIPMENT:-

The complete towing gear provided the LSM is shown in PLATE IV.

23-3 PREPARATIONS ON TOWING VESSEL:-

- (a) Stop off stern anchor using additional stopper.
- (b) Unshackle stern anchor wire from stern anchor and lead enough out to stop off at quarter rail.
- (c) Bend 30 fathoms of 2" manila with rolling hitch to wire about five feet inboard of open socket splice, as messenger. Fake rest of line (messenger) on deck clear for running.
- (d) Bend two 21 thread lines of 30 fathoms each to the 2" manila messenger and lead enough out-board to reach rail for heaving.
- (e) Test stern anchor winch engine.
- (f) Man telephones from stern winch to engine room and bridge.

23-4 PREPARATIONS ON TOWED VESSEL:-

- (a) Rig towing bridle and flounder plate as shown in PLATE IV.
- (b) Rig 21 thread messenger through flounder plate shackles for raising and easing away on towing bridle. Have flounder plate raised to rail.
- (c) Test anchor windlass capstan for proper working order.
- (d) Man telephone from anchor windlass to bridge and engine room.

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TAKING IN TOW:-

- (a) Towing vessel approaches tow from astern on parallel course and to windward of towed ship, using slow speed.
- (b) When amidships section is abreast of the bow of the vessel to be towed, the heaving lines are thrown from the towing vessel and the vessel to be towed takes in this line through the bow chock.
- (c) When messenger is on board the vessel to be towed, it is taken to the capstan and heaved in until the eye of the towing wire reaches the bow chock.
- (d) Shackle eye into flounder plate of towing bridle.
- (e) When eye has been shackled, ease away on flounder plate messenger and towing cable messenger until both are slack.
- (f) Towing vessel goes ahead slowly in order that towing cable will pay out.
- (g) When desired scope of cable has been let out, towing vessel sets up on winch brake.
- (h) Towing vessel works up speed slowly so as not to put too much strain on towing cable.
- (i) Vessel being towed should assist towing vessel by steering in the wake of towing vessel.

23-6 CASTING OFF TOW:-

- (a) When signal is given to cast off, the towing vessel eases strain on towing cable.
- (b) Towed vessel heaves in on messenger until flounder plate can be brought to rail.
- (c) Unshackle towing cable from flounder plate, clear deck of unnecessary men and then walk back on wire messenger until a good slack comes, then throw off all turns from capstan and allow messenger to run.
- (d) Towing vessel takes in towing cable on anchor winch.
- (e) In the event of an emergency that requires towing vessel to release tow prior to informing towed vessel, run out towing cable to the bitter end, cut it with cable cutter.

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23-7 SIGNALS:

A system of signals should be arranged for between the towing vessel and the vessel being towed to cover all contingencies that may arise during the towing period.

23-8 STATION ASSIGNMENTS:-

When it becomes necessary to be towed or tow another vessel, the Boatswain's Mate of the Watch will pass the word when directed by the Officer of the Deck, "Towing Detail on Deck, Rig Towing Gear." The Towing Detail is given in TABLE 23-1 below. When the ship is to be towed the party proceeds forward; when the ship is to tow the party will proceed aft.

TABLE 23-1

TOWING STATION ASSIGNMENTS

DIVISION	RANK OR RATE	STATION	DUTIES
Officer	Executive Officer	Forward or Aft	Officer in charge.
D	CBM	Forward or Aft	Petty Officer in charge.
D	BM1c	Forward or Aft	Rigs towing gear.
D	S1c	Forward or Aft	Handles lines.
D	S2c	Forward or Aft	Handles lines.
D	S2c	Forward or Aft	Handles lines.
D	S2c	Forward or Aft	Handles lines.

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TABLE 23-1 (cont'd.)

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TOWING STATION ASSIGNMENTS

DIVISION	RANK OR RATE	STATION	DUTIES
E	EM3c	Forward or Aft	Stand-by.
SC	RM3c	Forward or Aft	Telephone to bridge.
E	F1c	Forward or Aft	Telephone to engine room.

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