

SECTION 1, CHAPTER 8

TECHNICAL AIR PUBLICATIONS

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Introduction

1. The official publications dealing with technical equipment and the practices to be adopted in servicing such equipment are known as Technical Air Publications. Unless otherwise stated officially, these are the only publications which may be quoted in regard to technical equipment and practices.

2. The layout of Technical Air Publications was periodically amended to suit the existing requirements until in 1948 the **six-volume layout** was introduced.

Six-Volume Scheme

3. The purpose of the introduction of this scheme was to provide a more flexible framework for the standardization of technical publications. The layout of the scheme, together with a synopsis of the contents of each volume, is illustrated on the fly-out page. For certain applications some volumes or parts are inapplicable, and also in some instances it has been found convenient to combine certain volumes and/or parts within one cover, for example A.P. 2173B, Volume 1 and Volume 6 Part 1 (Water-Cooled Gasoline Engines for Ground Equipment).

Amendments

4. Some Air Publications are manufacturers manuals that have been given an A.P. number and suitably amended for Service use, but the majority are made up of loose leaves contained in suitable binder covers, which make them ideally suitable for amendment. Amendment ensures that publications can be kept

correct, up-to-date subject matter can be added or deleted, and corrections made by amendment lists issued with the authority of the Ministry of Defence (Air). No alteration is to be made to the subject matter in an A.P. without the authority of an amendment list, which will be issued as required, numbered consecutively and normally issued in sequence.

5. **Form of an A.L.** An amendment list may consist of:

- (a) Correction of subject matter or added information to be written in by hand. In these instances, the application does not normally exceed a few words.
- (b) Deletion of subject matter which may extend to the removal of a page or pages of the text.
- (c) Insertion of new pages.
- (d) Leaflets to be added to or replace previously published leaflets.
- (e) Part pages for insertion by pasting.

6. **Incorporation of A.L.s.** The official holder is normally responsible for the amendment of a publication, and for ensuring that all amendment lists are obtained for that purpose. Before amendments are incorporated, the amendment sheet at the front of the book should be examined to ensure that all previous amendments have been embodied. If any A.L.s are missing, they should be obtained and embodied before a new amendment is added, unless the publication is subject to "out of sequence" issues. After an amendment list has been embodied, the amendment record sheet must be completed.

Identification of Publications

7. **Publication Numbers.** There is no significance attached to the particular number allocated to an air publication; for example, A.P. 1181 is entitled "Starting Systems for Aero-Engines", while A.P. 1182 is the "Safety Equipment Manual".

8. **Suffix Letters.** An air publication issued under a numerical identification only, e.g. A.P. 9876, is generally an omnibus manual covering all equipments under the scope of the title, but a letter after the numerical identification indicates that the publication relates only to a specific range, type or mark of equipment. Thus A.P. 4343 is the general Electrical Manual which contains information of a general nature on all aircraft electrical equipment and associated ground equipment, while A.P. 4343A contains detailed information relating to aircraft generators and batteries.

9. **Location of Information.** A.P. 113 (Catalogue of Publications and Forms) is a numerical catalogue of all air publications, diagrams, posters, pamphlets and forms, Part 3 of which is concerned with publications. Part 3 is sub-divided into sections, each section relating to a particular sub-specialization, e.g. Section 3A—Engineering—General. Each publication within the sub-specialization is shown in numerical sequence under the relevant section. All volumes (or parts, where these are issued separately) are included with their appropriate titles, so that any required air publication can be identified either by its number or its title. The application of the various volumes and/or parts to any air publication is given in the layout tree included in the Vol. 1 of all technical air publications. A.P. 113 is normally only held in a station's publication section, and is itself brought up-to-date by the issue of monthly amendment lists. Regulations for the supply and maintenance of publications and forms are contained in A.P. 113A. Advance information of new, revised or obsolete publications, the issue of amendment lists, leaflets and other relevant information is given in a "Publications Supplement" to Defence Council Instructions (RAF)(T), issued weekly.

Code Referencing System

10. To overcome the disadvantages of the present system of cataloguing technical

publications where A.P. numbers for example have no meaning, it has been decided to introduce a system where numbers and letters used in combination have some definite meaning. The system will also allow small units of information to be printed and distributed to those who actually need it to carry out the work for which they are responsible.

Application

11. The system is being applied firstly to aircraft and associated equipment commencing with the Belfast and Andover aircraft. Eventually it will be applied to all technical publications. The information, no matter how small, will be issued as a coded publication complete with title page, amendment record sheet and so forth and the first alteration to the contents will be A.L. No. 1.

Code Structure

12. The reference of all coded publications will consist of three elements. The first element is broken into two parts consisting of three digits and a suffix letter. The three digits identify the group e.g. A.P. 101 indicates Aircraft. The suffix letter denotes the subgroup e.g. AP 101B indicates Aircraft Fixed Wing. Group 119 has been allocated to "Aircraft Ground Servicing and General Engineering Equipment".

13. The second element consists of two pairs of digits. The first pair of digits denotes the equipment class or type e.g. AP 101B-01 is the Belfast C; the second pair of digits will denote the item in the class of equipment e.g. AP 101B-0101 is the Belfast C Mk 1. There is no rigid definition for the term "item of equipment". It can be a complex item such as a complete aircraft or an ejection seat or a comparatively simple item such as a hydraulic valve or a fuel filter. Exceptions will occur in the structure of the second element, as an example, propellers do not need a class indicator and therefore only two digits will be used to identify a specific propeller.

14. The third element consists of digits and suffix letters followed, if necessary, by further digits. The code will indicate the Topic, i.e. the kind of information in the A.P. such as modifications, repair schemes and servicing schedules. The volume numbers and subjects of the existing Six-Volume Scheme for Technical Publications are retained so that the first digit would indicate the volume num-

ber, the suffix letter the book number, and a further digit the part number, for example AP 101B-0101-1A2 would identify Belfast C Mk 1 Volume 1 Book 1 Part 2.

System of Filing Information

15. All coded publications will be printed on a standard size paper and standard size binders will be made available; RED coloured binders for material classified "Confidential" and above and BLUE coloured binders for material classified "Restricted" and below. Replaceable spine cards will identify the contents of a binder. No standard system for compiling the contents of a binder will be laid down, the S.T.O. of a station will evolve the method most suitable to the station task.

Catalogue of Coded Publications

16. A new-style catalogue is being introduced for coded publications and will contain a more detailed Index than A.P. 113. The catalogue will also contain **Muster Lists**, that is lists of coded publications available and relevant to specific aircraft types/marks or other major equipments. These lists will be required by the users of the equipment who will need the fullest information for such subjects.

Defence Council Instructions (R.A.F.)

17. These instructions are issued by the Ministry of Defence for compliance by the

Royal Air Force and published weekly. They are general orders including administration, flying, training, equipment, technical and servicing orders. D.C.Is (RAF) are issued in two parts, **Standing (S)** and **Temporary (T)**.

18. The life of D.C.Is(RAF)(S) is limited to three years from the date of issue and D.C.Is (RAF)(T) one year from date of issue. A D.C.I. will lapse automatically at the end of these terms if it has not been previously cancelled. The terms "Standing" and "Temporary" are used to denote the life of a D.C.I., there being no difference in their importance. Current Air Ministry Orders will continue to be valid until they are time expired, cancelled or replaced by D.C.Is.

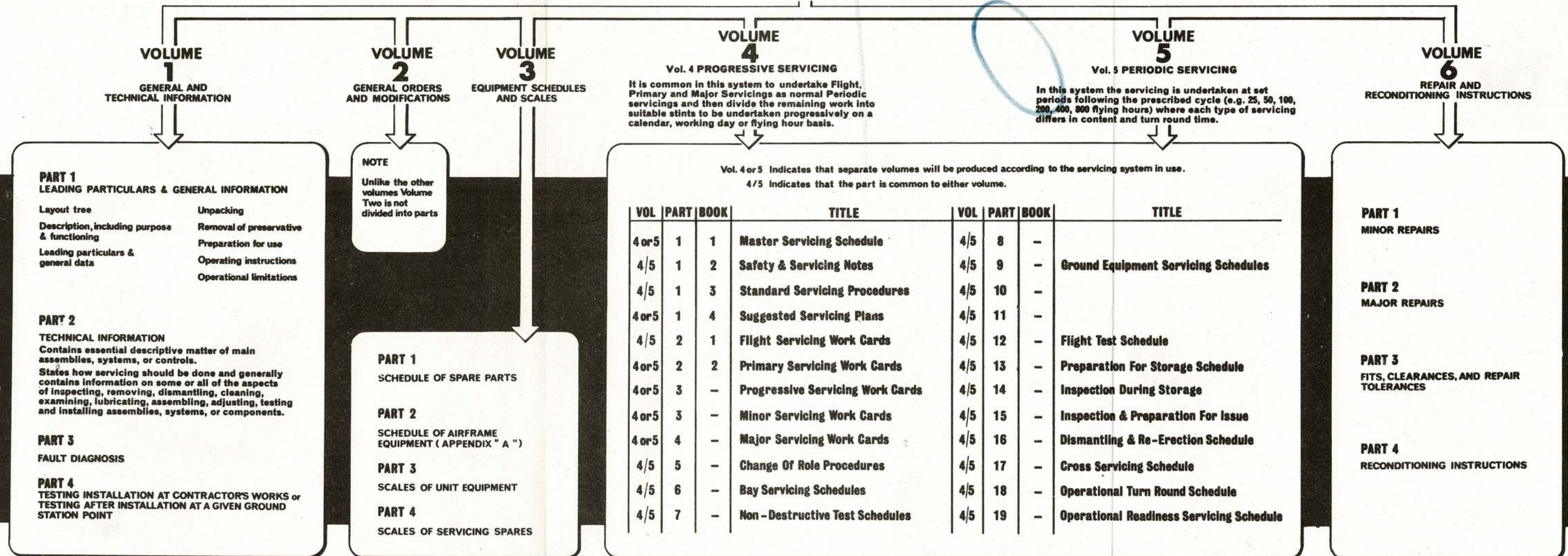
Command Technical Staff Instructions (C.T.S.Is.)

19. C.T.S.Is are issued to Groups and Units by the technical branch of their Command Headquarters. The purpose of C.T.S.Is is to provide a means of promulgating Command technical orders, special instructions, modifications and such like to personnel within the Command. Such instructions are preceded by two or three letters, for example B.C. = Bomber Command, F.C. = Fighter Command, T.T.C. = Technical Training Command.

6 VOLUME SCHEME Introduced 1948

AIR PUBLICATIONS PREPARED AFTER 1948 AND RELATING TO SPECIFIC ITEMS OF TECHNICAL EQUIPMENT ARE PREPARED WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK ILLUSTRATED BELOW

A.P. 9999A



1 Information appropriate to each Volume or Part is not necessarily issued for every item of technical equipment, as the need for the information depends upon the nature of the equipment. The application of Volumes and Parts is shown in the Layout Tree, in the relevant Volume 1.

2 The information appropriate to two or more Volumes and/or Parts may be issued in a single cover, and may be separated or combined within the cover. When warranted, any Volume or Part may be issued in a separate cover. An Air Publication may consist, therefore, of a single book or a number of books, the division adopted being shown in the Layout Tree in the Volume 1.

3 The scheme does not include Ground Handling Notes, Pilot's Notes, User Handbooks or Modification List publications; these bear the appropriate Air Publication number followed by "G.H.N.", "P.N.", "U.H." or "M.L." and are not allotted Volume or Part numbers.

4 Information appropriate to Volumes 2 and 5 for M.T. equipments is published in the A.P.4545 series and A.P.3260 respectively.

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