Enclosure No. 1 in Portsmouth's Letter
1813/A/ dated 6.7. 1953
2492/12

H.M.S. St. Vincent,
Gosport. Hants.

20th May, 1953.

No. 3/40.

The Commander-in-Chief,
Portsmouth.

INSPECTION OF H.M.S. ST. VINCENT.

With reference to Admiralty letter No.N.11/N.1766/53 dated 8th April, 1953, it is not desired to comment in detail on the report.

2. PREMISES AND EQUIPMENT. Remarks on weaknesses or defects in premises and equipment are in general agreed but they show little appreciation of the amont of money allowed to the Services.

3. STAFF. In reporting on individual officers, the Inspectors acted in a manner which is contrary to naval practice and authority. It is not clear who would benefit by these reports which are based on four days' acquaintance and represent the opinion of gentlemen who do not necessarily have a knowledge of naval standards and requirements. It is recommended that steps be taken to prevent this practice when Service Establishments are being inspected.

4. SCHOOL. The inspection took place at an unfortunate time as the staff of Instructor Officers was six short of complement, chiefly due to sickness. There is some criticism of the methods of junior officers and some of this is considered to be justified, as might be expected.

5. GENERAL. In general, the report is a comparison between H.M.S. ST. VINCENT and a modern school equipped to give a boy a general education. Little stress has been laid on Character training which is an essential feature in any Boys Training Establishment.

6. Results achieved from academic and technical instruction at H.M.S. ST. VINCENT can be best assessed from examinations which take account of naval standards and requirements.

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF 2415 22 MAY 1953 PORTSMOUTH

G.L.Farnfield

(G.L.Farnfield)
Captain, Royal Navy.