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CENTRAL
17 JAN 1953
MAY 1940
REGISTRY

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

CURZON STREET, LONDON, W.1

PT
N.2/N8812/51 N 13/8

16 JAN 1953

Please quote in reply
(addressing to THE SECRETARY):

1. Ipswich
2. H.M.S. "Ganges"
T.86P(1)/2

Sir,

I am directed by the Minister of Education to enclose for your information 25 copies of the Report by H.M. Inspectors on the above-named Establishment and to state that, after considering the Report, she has decided to recognise the Establishment as efficient under paragraph 5 of Rules 16 as from 1st September, 1951.

It will be understood that this recognition does not entitle the Establishment to receive grants from the Ministry under the Further Education Grant Regulations, 1946.

For the purpose of Inspection the Establishment has been assigned to H.M. Inspector Mr. J. A. Edgar whose address is 37, Chaldon Common Road, Caterham, Surrey.

A copy of the Report has been sent to the Commanding Officer.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

J. N. Archer

The Secretary,
Admiralty,
S.W.1.

Enclosure No. (i) in Nore Letter
No. 934/171/9 of 1st MAY 1953.

H.M.S. GANGES,
Ipswich,
Suffolk.

17th April, 1953

No. 194/1

COMMANDER - IN - CHIEF
THE NORE.

REPORT BY H.M. INSPECTORS ON H.M.S. GANGES.

References: (a) A.L. No. NII/N 329/53 of 3.2.53.
(b) A.L. No. NII/N 329/53 of 1.4.53.

The following remarks on the report by H.M. Inspectors are submitted.

SCHOOL.

2. As far as the school side is concerned this is a fair and helpful report and it is satisfactory to know that, compared with civilian school standards, GANGES is regarded as efficient.
3. Many of the recommendations and suggestions for improving the quality are impracticable with present staff and equipment and in the special conditions obtaining in an establishment of this nature.
4. Each suggestion and criticism has been noted and action taken where possible. A senior member of the staff has been nominated to act as supervising head of each subject and steps have already been taken to co-ordinate and integrate the syllabuses.
5. It is agreed that a two year appointment is too short to allow an Officer to make a real impression or to develop his own individual techniques. It should be remembered, however, that 78% of school staff are Short Service Officers. Most of them possess Science qualifications and join GANGES without previous teaching experience. Only a few are specialists in English and History and it is therefore necessary to provide detailed syllabuses and notes to help them in the variety of subjects they are called upon to take.

6. The remark that too much emphasis was being laid on Arithmetic for Classification at the end of five weeks New Entry Training is not strictly correct. In fact, the results of the Recruiting Test and T 2 objective test, set by the Psychologist, are also taken into account. On the whole these results agree fairly well and experience has shown that when there is any doubt the Arithmetic result is the more reliable guide. In any case, A.C. and G.C.(U) classes work to the same syllabus for the first seven weeks and any errors in classification are rectified after the eighth week examination.

(Page two of the Commanding Officer, H.M.S. GANGES' letter No. 194/1 dated 17th April, 1953.)

7. The need for more textbooks, apparatus and specialist rooms for History, Geography etc. is noted. These can only be provided at increased expense.

8. Instructional Technique courses recommended have already been started and it is intended that all Instructors shall complete the course.

9. The course in GANGES is of 35 weeks' duration during which time a boy spends $\frac{1}{2}$ time, i.e. $17\frac{1}{2}$ weeks, in school. The main objects of school course are to build a foundation for specialist courses and promotion examinations later on, and to train citizens as well as sailors. The extent of specialisation recommended by the H.M. Inspectors would entail a large permanent school staff, and it is doubtful whether significant improvement would be achieved in so short a school course.

COMMUNICATIONS.

10. Page 17 - Extra copy typing for wireless boys. Boys who have not reached the required standard at the end of the copy typing course (25th week) are usually back classed to go over the ground again. But even though a boy has mastered touch typing by the 25th week he tends to look at his keys when starting to morse type and must be carefully watched. Instructors are encouraged to arrange for boys who need extra copy typing to do it during any afternoons they can be spared from divisional activities.

11. Page 17 - Instructors duties.

The advantages of having one instructor entirely responsible for the training of a particular class of boys greatly outweighs the disadvantage of any increased strain imposed by his general duties. The attempt in 1950 to run GANGES on public school lines was a failure.

12. Page 17 - Instructional Technique Courses. All instructors now do an Instructional Technique course after they have been here a few weeks.

13. Page 17 - Provision of instructors. Through the co-operation of drafting authorities it is now nearly always possible to arrange for an instructor to take his class right through. There are no reservists instructing at the moment, though there were at the time of the inspection.

14. Exercise correcting. Although the provision of a small Exercise Correcting Party was authorised in Admiralty Letter No. NI/N 751/52 of 1st July, 1952, the subsequent 15% cut in instructors ordered by Admiralty Letter NI/N 583/52 of 2nd October, 1952, entailed abolishing the party almost as soon as it had started work. Thus the preparation and correcting of practical exercises is still to be done on an ad hoc basis and there is no doubt that efficiency of training is suffering.

REPORT BY H.M. INSPECTORS ON H.M.S. GANGES

(Page three of the Commanding Officer, H.M.S. GANGES' letter No. 194/1 dated 17th April, 1953.)

15. Page 18 - Radio Theory. The syllabus has been further reduced and since there is now a requirement to raise the passing out speed of morse typing from 22 to 25 words per minute it may be necessary to abolish radio theory altogether, relying on the instructor to give the boy a basic idea of how a wireless set works and a wireless wave behaves.

16. Page 18 - Re grouping of wireless classes. The idea of having an Advanced Class and a General Class wireless class certainly seems sound in principle but it is thought to be unfair on the instructor who has to cope with the General Class - and also the Divisional Officer. By spreading the load of duller boys between the two instructors they are likely to get more individual attention. Besides the most important target to be achieved by a wireless boy is the practical passing out standard - and that must remain the same for all boys.

SEAMANSHIP.

17. Efforts are being made to increase the practical content of instruction in the following ways :-

(a) by the provision of a fully equipped forecastle on the waste ground in the vicinity of the New Seaman's Block. This will give boys experience of working cables and wires and of spreading and furling awnings.

(b) by fitting a lower boom on the pier in order that boys may see and experience the correct way of manning and securing boats.

(c) by using lecture periods or portions of them for performing practical evolutions such as rigging sheerlegs, laying out kedge anchors, lowering a seabat, putting out a fire etc.

18. It is to be regretted that it was not found possible to allow the use of a Reserve Fleet destroyer, frigate or minesweeper for instructional purposes. As noted in the report, it is only through practical experience under working conditions that much of the instruction can be impressed on most boys.

19. I am not convinced of the need for more whalers, nor do I think that any instructors could handle a cutter and two attendant whalers in the waters around Shotley except under ideal conditions of wind and tide.

20. The Officer in charge of the pier has a steamboat at his disposal.

21. The need for an additional Officer on the seamanship staff, though certainly easing the burden to some extent, is not considered essential. As it now stands the Senior Commissioned Boatswain is responsible for assisting and advising instructors and for co-ordinating their work; for assessing the value of the instruction and the amount that classes are absorbing.

REPORT BY H.M. INSPECTORS ON H.M.S. GANGES.

(Page four of the Commanding Officer, H.M.S. GANGES' letter No. 194/1 dated 17th April, 1953.)

He is assisted in the day to day administrative work of the department by one senior Chief Petty Officer and in the handling of equipment by two Chief Petty Officers.

22. The system of examination is under review at present, since it seems to provide a number of loopholes and a number of unnecessary obstacles. As an instance, no practical examination in bends and bitches is carried out after the 20th week and I have found that by the final examination many boys - General Class in particular, have forgotten most of them.

PHYSICAL TRAINING DEPARTMENT.

Gymnasia.

23. The application of non-slip sealing oil in the gymnasia in the past has proved a failure as the traffic and consequent dirt and dust in the gymnasia is too great.

24. It is true that by consulting the time table and syllabus one can state with certainty the precise activities at which any class will be carrying out. It is also true, however, that there is a degree of flexibility in this system. In performing P.T. tables the classes will receive that type of instruction which suits the progress that the boys are making. A bright class will be made to think for themselves more, whereas a less advanced class will need more detailed instruction. In other activities, the degree of difficulty of the vaults and exercises employed is always varied to suit the ability of the class under instruction even though on the syllabus the bare statements "vaulting" or "agility" are used. Where possible a class is split according to merit and instructed by two P.T.I.s; the better boys being instructed by the assistant instructor whilst the less able class mates are given more careful instruction by their divisional P.T.I.

I consider that if, in our gymnasia, under normal working conditions, we were to split classes into small groups for individual practice, a shambles would ensue and very little benefit would be gained by any boy. It is desirable, I know, to develop self-reliance, initiative, and leadership in a boy. The main object of physical training, however, is to develop speed of thought and co-ordination of mind over muscle. Whereas we do to a certain extent develop self-reliance in the gymnasia, the development of initiative and leadership must be left to other fields of instruction.

Instructors.

25. As far as is possible the Command P.T. Officer and Drafting Authorities do send to H.M.S. GANGES instructors who are most suited to boys' training. All P.T.I.s in the Navy are recommended or not for boys' training on leaving an appointment.

The remarks regarding the size of the instructional staff in relation to the amount of work that must be done are entirely true. Were the staff to be larger the standard of instruction could not fail to be higher.

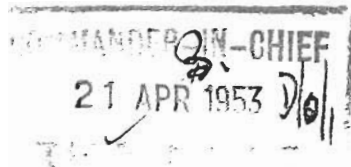
REPORT BY H.M. INSPECTORS ON H.M.S. GANGES.

(Page five of the Commanding Officer, H.M.S. GANGES' letter No. 194/1 dated 17th April, 1953.)

Fatigue through over - exercise.

26. At all times instructors are on the look-out for the ill - effects of physical and mental fatigue particularly in backward swimming and P.T. classes.

27. The report of H.M. Inspectors is a helpful and useful document and contains considerable food for thought in all aspects of the training here. I am gratified by their decision to recognise H.M.S. GANGES as an efficient educational establishment.



John Whitfield
(John Whitfield)
CAPTAIN