

The enclosed letter from the Central Youth Employment Executive and a copy of my reply, which was seen by the Second Sea Lord, are circulated for information.

G. Brown

Director of Naval Recruiting
12th October, 1950.

GNB/PMB

Noted with interest.

2. If the recruiting authorities are to give 'objective' talks and show films, close co-operation between the Schools Liaison Organisation and Naval Recruiting authorities will be more than ever essential; it will not only be necessary in the Admiralty but in each area covered by the Schools Liaison Officers and the Recruiting Officers. D.N.T. can promise full co-operation from the S.L.Os.

3. Perhaps the time is ripe for obtaining Ministry of Education recognition for GANGES and ST. VINCENT. Would D.E.D. comment.

G. W. Kendrick

DIRECTOR OF NAVAL TRAINING.
26th October, 1950.

GWM/KS
(CCB.23)

D.E.D. notes that it will not be necessary to obtain Ministry of Education recognition for Ganges & St Vincent, as it was for the R.M. School of Music, until the school leaving age is raised to 16.

2. Nevertheless, if there is any recruiting value in such recognition, D.E.D. has no objection to investigating the matter & has already made a tentative approach to the Ministry.

A. V. Ramsey

*for Director of Education Dept
24. 11. 50*

CENTRAL YOUTH EMPLOYMENT EXECUTIVE

Ministry of Labour and National Service

Any further communication should
be addressed to

THE SECRETARY,

And the following letter and number
should be quoted:—

J.V. 112/5/50

Tel. No. MUSaum 1577 Exn.....

Your Reference: DNRL/10/80

Cumberland Terrace,

Regent's Park,

London, N.W.1.



19th October, 1950.

Dear Capt. Brewer,

I am writing on behalf of Mr. Card to acknowledge your letter of 12th October and to thank you very cordially for the most helpful information you have been good enough to provide concerning the present recruitment position of young men to the Royal Navy.

Yours sincerely,

Capt. G.N. Brewer, R.N.,
Department of Naval Recruiting,
Queen Anne's Mansions,
St. James' Park,
London, S.W.1.

Department of Naval Recruiting,
Queen Anne's Mansions,
St. James' Park,
LONDON, S.W. 1.

D.N.R. 4/10/80

12th October, 1950.

Sir,

In reply to your letter J.V. 114/5/50 of 9th October, 1950 assistance of the Ministry of Labour in regard to the vital problem of voluntary recruitment for the armed forces is both appreciated and

Table 1 (enclosed with this letter) gives the details re (a) and (b) of your letter. I have also added Tables 2 and 3 which give an indication of the serious position in regard to the recruitment of Seaman Boys. From the Seaman Boys emanate the Gunnery, Torpedo, Artillery, Minesweeping and Communication branches of the Navy. The Electrical and Engineering Branches maintain and move the ships; the Seaman Boys provide the backbone. The two former may be regarded as the limbs of the Naval body and the latter as the backbone. The majority of the Electrical and Engineering branches are entered as Adults (aged 17½ - 25) and the reasons do not present such a serious problem.

The decline in number of applicants for Seaman Boy is a cause of some concern. Approximately one third of the applicants fail to be accepted, one third medically, one third being accepted. The educational standard is not high and should be well within the grasp of the average boy of a Modern Secondary school. The complexities of the modern ship do not allow us to lower the standard.

In regard to (c) of your letter, the principal sources of recruitment for all four categories are the Modern Secondary school and the Modern school.

It may also be of interest to give my impressions, which are emphasized as personal impressions, obtained as a result of my visits to the country during the past two years, during which I have discussed recruiting problems with many educational authorities, schoolmasters, Youth Employment Officers, Youth Club leaders, etc.:-

- (a) The main obstacles to recruiting are submission to physical training and having to leave home. No great improvement has been noted for from the recent pay increases. While bringing the recruit up to civil standards, they do not mind the pay increases have not perceptibly affected the recruitment of Seaman Boys.
- (b) Parents and Schoolmasters are coming more and more to rely on the Youth Employment Service to find jobs for their boys at the cost of no effort to themselves or the boys, which may be bad for character. In inland towns particularly, the Youth Employment Service is subject to considerable and constant pressure from local industry which the Forces are in no position to counter. I wish to state, however, that in those areas where there are Naval recruiting stations, the liaison between the Youth Employment Officers and my staff is invariably excellent.
- (c) The Youth Employment Officer has access to all schools. Some Education Committees allow Officers of the Forces to give objective lectures to schools on Service life; the majority do not. I certainly do not wish my staff to give recruiting talks but if they were allowed to show films, benefit would accrue. It may be unscientific but a boy is attracted to the Forces by the glamour of the uniform and/or the adventure offered. In my opinion a woman, and

Employment Officers are women, is not the right individual to advise a boy about careers in the Forces. Several women to whom I have spoken balk at the idea that a boy who joins the Forces may one day have to fight.

- (d) Some education authorities take the view that the Seaman Boy entry is unworthy of the standard expected of a boy selected for extended Secondary education and that these boys should aim at entry as Artificer Apprentices or Cadets if they want a Service career. They may not realise that the Seaman Boy entry is one of the avenues for promotion to Commissioned Officer and that there is every justification for a boy to join the Service with this aim.
- (e) Some education authorities may not be in possession of information regarding the education in Boys Training Establishments where a boy has his education not only continued but extended for a year in the best possible way with an academic standard at least up to that of a Secondary school. The Royal Marine School of Music is recognised by the Ministry of Education as an educational establishment. The Boys Training Establishments (H.M.S. ST. VINCENT and H.M.S. GANGES) are not.

I trust that some of the above remarks may be of assistance in drafting the paper and that any implied criticism may be excused.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

Director of Naval Recruiting

(Enclosure to D.N.R. 4/10/80)

1.

	<u>Requirements</u> Oct. 49 - Sept. 50	<u>Actual Entries</u> Oct. 49 - Sept. 50
Seaman Boys (Age 15 - 16)	2,286	2,007
Artificer Apprentices (Age 15 - 16.8)	609	608
Band Boys (Age 14 - 17)	40	28
Boy Buglers (Age 15 - 15½)	40	34

2. Current Trend (Seaman Boy)

	<u>Requirements</u>	<u>Actual Entries</u>
July entry	274	191
September entry	274	274
October entry	274	163
November entry	274	130 - 169 (anticipated)

3. Trend of Applications (Seaman Boy)

<u>Financial year</u>	<u>Number of Applicants</u>
1946 - 1947	11,820
1947 - 1948	9,520
1948 - 1949	7,716
1949 - 1950	5,946

To the current year the decline continues.

annual requirement over these years has been in the 2 - 3,000 region.