

19th April, 1948.

Sir,

I am commanded by My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to refer to Admiralty Letter N.1/N.2373/47 of the 21st October, 1947 concerning the acceptance of ex-Borstal boys for service in the Royal Navy and to the arrangements agreed in 1943 (Home Office reference 829255/39 of 28th December, 1943) for the recruitment of boys from Approved Schools.

2. Re-consideration has now been given to the question of the regulations which should govern the entry into the Naval Service of men and boys with Borstal or Approved School records and after discussion with the War Office and Air Ministry, My Lords have decided that the following rules should be applied in future:-

(i) men called up for National Service who express a preference for the R.N. or R.M. and men and boys who volunteer to enter direct on a regular engagement may be accepted provided

(a) they measure up fully to recruiting standards.

(b) they are recommended by the Manager (in the case of Approved School boys) or by the Borstal Association (in the case of Borstal boys)

(ii) a distinction will, in general no longer be drawn between boys who have been sent to an Approved School for an offence and those who have been committed as being in need of care and protection.

(iii) where there has been an interval between the date on which an applicant leaves Borstal or an Approved School and that on which he is considered for the Naval Service, he must produce satisfactory civilian references to cover this period. Men and boys may, however, be accepted direct from these institutions without being required to make good in civil life.

3. In arriving at this decision My Lords have had regard to the assurance given by the Borstal Authorities that they will not recommend a candidate unless they have strong reason to believe that he will make good in the Navy.

4. The restrictions previously imposed on the entry from Approved Schools of boys found guilty of offences will no longer operate but My Lords assume that such boys will not be put forward for recruitment until a sufficient time has elapsed to show that having regard to their behaviour and attainments subsequent to committal, they are likely to render entirely satisfactory service in the R.N. or R.M. From past experience it has been found that the training given at the Home Office Nautical Schools has been of considerable value for potential recruits for the Navy and My Lords suggest that when considered desirable, boys from other Approved Schools who at an early stage express a desire to serve in the Navy should continue to be transferred to the Nautical Schools for a suitable period of training prior to candidature for entry into the Naval Service.

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The Under Secretary of State,
Home Office,
Whitehall, S.W. 1.

5. In all cases, while full consideration will be given to the recommendations of Approved School and Borstal authorities, the final acceptance of each entry must be subject to the approval of the Director of Naval Recruiting and I am to request that arrangements may be made for all recommendations to be forwarded to that Officer at the Admiralty, Queen Anne's Mansions, St. James' Park, S.W.1. It will be necessary that each recommendation should include a statement on the circumstances of the applicant's committal with as full a report as possible on his rehabilitation.

6. Where a candidate who presents himself for entry at a Recruiting Office under the normal arrangements, is found on investigation of his history to have an Approved School or Borstal record, the necessary enquiries of the appropriate authorities will be made by the Director of Naval Recruiting.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

(Sgd.) GEORGE DUNN.