

**DO**

Enclosure No. — in Nore Letter  
No. 2047/114/7 of 9<sup>th</sup> October 1954

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF  
22 OCT 1954  
THE NORE

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

**NOT**

21st October, 1954

No.180/9.

**ATTEMPT**

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, THE NORE.

OFFENCES OF IMPROPERLY LEAVING

Reference:- **TO** Admiralty Letter No.ML/PS.430/54 of 15.10.54.

The following report is submitted in accordance with the reference.

2. The number of boys who have run away from H.M.S. GANGES is shown below:-

	<u>1953</u>	<u>1954</u>
Quarter ending March:	13	25
"    " <b>THIS</b> June	19	63
"    "    September	22	56
"    "    December	17	-
	<u>71</u>	<u>144</u>

The number of boys born has varied between 1700 and 1900.

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3. It will be noted that the increase started in March 1954. It is primarily the result of Admiralty Letter N.L.3806/53 dated 1st March which directed that awards should no longer be awarded for the first offence of breaking out unless there is intent to desert.

**NOT**

4. The average fifteen year old boy who runs away seldom knows if he intends to desert, and it is even more difficult for the Commanding Officer to decide this. It is, however, clearly Their Lordships' wish that the cane should not be awarded in the majority of cases, and this has been marked about

**ATTEMPT**

5. The choice of alternative punishments is not easy. Long periods of No. 10A punishment may be a deterrent to others, but tend further to depress the culprit who is already unhappy or unsettled. The scale awarded has been increased this term without marked effect.

6. To a much lesser extent the increase in numbers who run away is attributed to the wider scope of "discharge by purchase" authorised in Admiralty Letter N.C.W.3/16/54 dated 29th March, 1954. Although only a few boys have been so discharged it has unsettled many others and has greatly increased correspondence between parents and the Commanding Officer. It is not suggested that the present regulations should be altered.

**TO**

**COPY**

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF  
27 OCT 1954  
THE NORE

*(Ains)*

**THIS** (Ains)  
CAPTAIN.