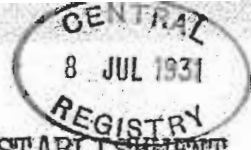


PLEASE

2164



TREATMENT OF BOYS IN H.M. TRAINING ESTABLISHMENT,
SHOTLEY - NEWSPAPER ARTICLE.

DO ("Ganges" Submission No. 78 dated 3rd July 1931).

II.

NO. 694/149.R/31.
THE SECRETARY OF THE ADMIRALTY.
NOT

THE PAGE THIS FILE IS ASSOCIATED WITH IS NO LONGER AVAILABLE. IT HAS BEEN ARCHIVED TO DISC.

Forwarded, with reference to Nore Submission No. 318/M.14Z/29 of 3rd March 1929 and Admiralty Letter N.L.706/29 of 17th April 1929.

ATTEMPT

TO *[Handwritten Signature]*

The Nore,
6th July 1931.

A D M I R A L ✓

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EXTRACT FROM

BOARD MINUTES.

Monday, 6th July,

1931 **NOT**

ATTEMPT

ing in the Royal Navy.

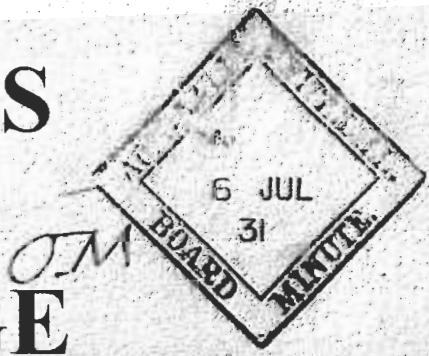
2835. The First Lord informed the Board that he viewed with considerable concern the amount of caning of boys that took place in the Navy, and that it appeared from a paper which had been prepared, that the extent to which this punishment was resorted to varied very considerably as between ship and ship and between the two Training Establishments. He therefore wished the Board to consider the whole question, and for this purpose a memorandum would be circulated prior to a fuller discussion by the Board.

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W. Walton (to see)



D-51. (Revised—September, 1922.)

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[2184]
[931]

2899/31

FROM WHOM
Cinc, The Nore.
6944-49. R/31.

DATE
6/27/31.

MARKINGS TO BOARD.

SUBJECT.
Treatment of boys in H.M.T.E
NOT
Shorley - Article in "John Bull"
27/6/31.
ATTEMPT
Case of Edward Bennett.

FORMER.
N.L.: 706/1929.
8954/29 - P.S. 5.5.31

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Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date
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NOTATION ONLY.	
Referred to	Date

N.L.

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DO

Case of EDWARD BENNETT, late Boy, 2nd Class.

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Bennett joined the Navy in October, 1925

at the age of 15 years and 8 months and served in
H.M.S. "GANGES" until 23rd April, 1926 when he was sent

ATTEMPT

to the R. N. Hospital, Chatham. He was invalided on

the 2nd June, 1926 on account of Mental Inefficiency

certified by the Medical Board of Survey to be not

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attributable to the Service. As he was discharged prior

to attaining the age of 18 years, and had therefore no

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service counting for pension he was ineligible for any
award under the Disability Pensions, etc. Regulations in

respect of his invaliding.

If it had been possible to regard the

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invaliding as attributable the Boy would have been eligible

for an award, either temporary or permanent, up to a

maximum of 32s.6d. a week, according to the degree of

PAGE

disablement/

DO

disablement. see Section III, paragraph 2, page 174,
Navy List Appendix.

NOT

It has been claimed by the relatives that he
was entirely fit in mind and body when he joined, that he
was a physical wreck on discharge and that this condition
was due to his service in the Navy. It is stated that
the Boy had no inherited tendency to disease and it is
suggested that he suffered from ill-treatment at Shotley.

TO

The case has already been very carefully
investigated in connection with repeated appeals from
Mr. Longden, but it has been decided by the Board that
there are no grounds for regarding the invaliding
disability as attributable to Service causes and the
suggestion of ill-treatment is entirely repudiated. -

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Papers N.L.706/29., N.L.284/29. and C.L.26/29.

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From the medical point of view the Admiralty
case is as follows:-

PAGE

During the period of six months that Bennett

was/

DO

was receiving instruction in H.M.S. "GANGES" he was under medical observation both in Hospital and on the attending

list practically the whole time. He frequented the Sick Bay with minor or imaginary complaints almost daily. His

Divisional Officer reported that he considered him (Bennett) to be of subnormal mental development, his

manner being peculiar and his natural state one of extreme dirtiness. At instruction he was extremely dense and

dull-witted and only obtained 28% of marks in a very low class, and showed no signs of progress. He was reported

during the period for several disciplinary offences. As it appeared that he was unlikely to make an efficient

Seaman he was, in April, 1926, discharged to the R. N.

Hospital, Chatham, for observation and treatment. Whilst

in Hospital it was noted that "his expression is dull and "heavy. He is mentally slow and contradictory in

"answering questions and is below the average intelligence".

PAGE

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In a letter written to his mother he stated "if I am
"lucky I may get my ticket as I am trying to work it".

'Ticket' signifies discharge from H.M. Navy. After a
period of observation in Hospital it was decided that he
was mentally inefficient and below the standard required
for H.M. Navy. **NOT** As stated above he was surveyed and

invalided on the 2nd June, 1926, the findings of the
Board being that this condition existed prior to entry
and that it was not attributable to his short period of
Naval training. No actual physical defects were noted,

except that there was slight weakness of one group of
muscles of the left foot. When Bennett, in accordance
with the usual procedure, was given the opportunity of
stating his own case on invaliding, he did not claim that
his condition was a sequel of any injury received at
Shotley, but simply stated "Toe hurts when walking.

"Born with it". Since his discharge from H.M. Navy there
is no official information as to his progress, but

medical/

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medical evidence furnished with an appeal in 1929 showed that he had suffered from Nervous Debility, Aphonia (loss of voice) - probably hysterical - Boils and Neurasthenia.

A further certificate in 1930 confirmed that the loss of voice was hysterical and this stated that he had had weakness of one arm. Previous appeals have stated that the Boy arrived home a physical wreck. When he left the

R. N. Hospital, Chatham, he had no physical defects, except the slight leg weakness previously mentioned, and his subsequent history, so far as it is known, suggests that certain disabilities from which he has since suffered are of functional origin, that is, they arise from his nervous condition, for which the Service is in no way responsible.

His letter to his mother showed that he wished to leave the Navy. Mr. Longden's letter of 15th August, 1929, states that Bennett was then "very much "mentally alive". If so, it can only be surmised that

his/

PAGE

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his previous dullness and stupidity were deliberately assumed. His Officers and Schoolmasters had reported that he was making no progress, he failed his examination, and was not likely to become a useful member of H.M. Navy.

NOT

The inference that because there was no evidence of nervous inheritance such disabilities as he suffers from now are necessarily attributable to his Naval service is not accepted. Physical examination on entry can give but

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a limited idea of mental capacity, particularly in a youth. This is judged mainly by his results when doing some simple sums and dictation. A more prolonged period of observation after entry showed that his mental equipment was not sufficient to benefit by further instruction and on these grounds he was discharged.

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It is possible that the question of Appeal Tribunals will again be raised in the course of the discussion.

PAGE

The views of the Admiralty (and of the other

Service/

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Service Departments) in this matter are shown in the accompanying papers:-

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(a) Note of proceedings on the occasion of a Deputation from the British Legion received by the Parliamentary Secretary on the 21st July, 1927;

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(b). Copy of formal reply to the Deputation - Admiralty Letter of 18th August, 1927; and

(c) Note of proceedings of Deputation from the British Legion to the War Office - 8th November, 1929.

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19th May, 1931.

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