

# New Entry Divisional Notes

## TRAINING STAFF.

Lieut.-Commander H. Brown, D.S.C., R.N.  
Commissioned Gunner E. W. Scovell, R.N. Instr.-  
Lieut.-Commander F. M. Cooper, B.S.C., R.N.  
Instr.-Lieut. R. J. Keyworth, B.S.C., R.N. Instr.-  
Lieut. J. D. Paulson, R.N.

C.P.O. D. J. Geering

P.O. G. E. Belson

P.O. W. D. Hughes

Yeoman of Signals A. N. Howard

C.P.O. W. P. Foulger, D.S.M.

P.O. G. E. Wedd

P.O. C. E. Brumpton.

P.O. Tel. W. Taylor

P.O. M. L. Fawcett.

## INSTRUCTOR BOYS-

L. Smith

T. J. Smy

C. A. Robertson

R. Robinson G.

A. Anderson I.

B. MacKay



New Entry Divisional Staff.

## GOING TO SEA.

It was a reasonably cold day in October of 1926, with a gentle easterly wind blowing in from the North Sea. All Shotleyites were either moving around smartly in the fresh air attempting to keep warm, or waiting hopefully, in the Messes and praying for a slight softening of the Commander's heart which would allow fires to be lighted. All Messes relied entirely upon combustion in the two fireplaces for any warmth. Steam heating then was a thing of the distant future and airing rooms had still to be invented; the space which the latter luxuries now occupy was then a long wash house with leaden slabs and taps through which only cold water flowed.

This particular day for the two Classes of boys in 20 Mess, 1st Division, was a red letter one. Having completed a year in the Royal Navy's "Nursery," they were

Squadron, at Portsmouth. This squadron, consisting of the battleships "Iron Duke," "Emperor of India," "Benbow" and "Marlborough," was very mobile and moved with the Home Fleet (or Atlantic Fleet as it was then called) when and wherever it cruised.

The boys concerned felt highly elated and considered themselves a cut above the remaining nineteen hundred-odd boys who had yet to complete their training, particularly that crowd of "nozzers" who had just doubled past, the Mess down the Long Covered Way on their way to some instruction or other, who cares? The self styled "sailors" felt that their training days were behind them and that the future might hold nothing like it again. Arrival on board the "Benbow" however, brought a slightly different outlook on life when it was realised how very "green" one was to ship life. A great amount of training still lay ahead in learning how to be real sailors and putting into practice many things that had been learned in theory at "Ganges."

All told, four hundred boys joined the "Benbow" in the space of four days, and they all came from "Ganges" and "Impregnable," the latter being a Boys' Training Skip at Devonport, one of the old "wooden walls." Messes were situated forward on the main deck just abaft the cable locker flat, and in the case-mates of the six-inch gun battery. It came rather strange having to sling one's hammock over the Mess tables when turning in at night, but it was something that one soon got used to. The first few days on board were quite a novelty, exploring new surroundings and getting many a rebuff for entering compartments which were out of bounds to boys. A rather rude awakening came at 0530 every morning when all the boys were prevailed upon to "heave-o, heave-o, heave-o, lash up and stow," followed, fifteen minutes later, by "cocoa and wash.". The two bathrooms available for the use of boys, one of which was a converted coal bunker, had a maximum capacity for about thirty persons at any one time; hence the early morning wash had to be carried out as an evolution, and boys were assisted in making it so by well intentioned Instructors. 0600 through the pipe for boys to fall in on the upper deck according to their parts of ship, i.e., Foc'sle, Foretop, Maintop and Quarterdeck. The rig was Night Clothing with bare feet and the trousers rolled up to just above the knee (that is what bell bottoms are for), and inspection by the Officer of the Watch followed to ensure that all boys were similarly arrayed: Then with all boys to their own part of ship, each in possession of a deck scrubber and fountains of water from many hoses, the decks were scrubbed until 0640 when drying down commenced. Squeegees were few and far between and quite a luxury, so the faithful companion of many boys was the "deck swab" made from an approximately three foot length of four inch tarred hemp which had been "teased" out for four-fifths of its length. The job of swabbing down was given to those boys who showed the least inclination to work. On becoming saturated with water the swab had to be wrung out at the scuppers; this entailed holding one end to the deck with bare feet whilst twisting the other end around with the hands. During the winter months the thought of this spurred boys on to greater efforts with the scrubber. "Quarters Clean Guns" followed at 0700, with breakfast at 0730 and Divisions at 0830. The remainder of the day was spent either working part of ship or being instructed at Gunnery, Seamanship or School.

After having had Christmas leave from the ship, a very busy period commenced in preparing for the Spring Cruise which would take the ship to North and Western Spanish ports finishing up at Gibraltar. One very important item was the question of coaling ship which entailed taking on board two thousand, eight hundred tons of coal. The job was always carried out as an evolution and with very few exceptions, embraced all hands from the Commander to the youngest boy.

One evening later, on arrival at Sheerness from Portsmouth, two large coal lighters came alongside, one to starboard and one to port. The remaining time

- for that evening was spent on board in preparing for an early start on the following morning. The doors of all kit lockers and mess shelves, lids of all bread barges and food containers were packed tightly **around** the edges with newspaper to prevent the ingress of coal dust. Parties were detailed for the lighter holds, bag filling, winches, derrick guys, deck transport and bunker trimming; the Royal Marine band polished up their instruments in preparation for playing both stirring and soothing music throughout the day. After a final briefing on the main responsibilities of each particular party, everybody turned in early in preparation for the morrow.

0345 on the following morning brought the sweet strains of 'Charlie' throughout the ship with the raucous voices of energetic Instructors exhorting all boys to make a tight lash up on this day of all days. 0400 saw the issue of cocoa and biscuits with a full muster of all hands at 0415. It being early in the morning, the Commander had but a few short sharp words to say; having given his opinion as to what a good Ship's Company he had, plus what excellent coal lay alongside, he stated that both elements should get on very well together throughout the day. With the final order of "Coal Ship," all hands moved smartly to their respective stations and the job began. Short spells throughout the day provided time for meals and with breaking down into two watches at 2200, the work carried on until 0200 the following morning. A faint and weary cheer accompanied the last bags of coal as they swung inboard on the derrick, and very soon afterwards everybody wended their way towards the bathroom in order to get the worst of the coaldust of before 'cracking it down.' The next day was occupied in hosing down the upper works, deck and ship's side, removing all the dust and generally making the ship spick and span for rendezvousing with the Fleet at Portland prior to sailing for the Spring Cruise.

The Bay of Biscay is well known to most British sailors, and during February of any year this part of the Atlantic Ocean can be very active. For the Spring Cruise of 1927 this activity was most apparent to the boys on board the "Benbow," many of whom were experiencing their first long sea trip. In spite of many lost meals en route, the warmer climate of the more temperate south, brought pleasant and interesting visits to all the boys, the majority of whom had never left England before.

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## The Nozzers' Concert

Nestling coily in the heart of the last week's routine of the Great Lie, the Annexe Syllabus, are the words "Boys and Instructors. Concert."

When I was stumbling cautiously through my first experience of the syllabus and finding the unmarked milestones of "Vaccination," "Dentist," "D.O.'s Interviews," "B.C.G.'s," "Chaplain's Talk," etc., making a mockery of my carefully made plans to work for the Syllabus, I consulted our Oldest Inhabitant about the "Boys and Instructors. Concert." The conversation went something like this:—

Me: "What's this Concert, Alf?"

O.I.: "That's like the whatsname in the first week—don't take any notice." Me: "What whatsname?"

O.I.: "Friday. Complete Marking Kit. That has to be done by Thursday."

Me: "Oh."

O.I.: "You'll soon get the hang of it—now take that part there, "Instructors v. Boys Soccer." you don't.

Me: "Don't play?"

O.I.: "That's right—It's too dark this term."

Me: "Oh."

O.I.: "Now take the Preliminary Boxing down on the Syllabus for last Thursday afternoon—we had it Friday evening, didn't we?"

Me: "That's right."

O.I.: "Now do you see how it works?"

" Me: "Er--Yes."

After that lucid explanation I went serenely along. How simply the Syllabus really worked! When it said Thursday—Friday was the day. A concert wasn't a concert, and in any case, most of the things really accomplished were not on it at all!

But—like a bolt from the blue—an insistent whisper moved through the Annexe, gaining in strength, until it almost clamoured—"We *will* have a concert!"

Inside information stated that our Mighty Potentate during his interview with a certain 2nd Class Boy who hailed from Little Cowslip-in-the-Meadow had been informed with suitable dignity that, the aforesaid Boy was an accomplished virtuoso on the mouth organ and had a diploma for his rendering of "Slapsy Dappsy Mamma" in G without drawing a breath. Be that as it may, very soon the whisper became Official.

First and foremost we had to decide a day because obviously where the Syllabus stated "Boys and Instructors. Concert," someone would be giving a lecture to prove that, although on paper a boy receives payment for being a sailor, once his deductions for cinema, haircut, slops, etc., have been made he is darned lucky to draw anything at all!

This was arranged easily. We shifted four lectures from the second to the third week, stepped up Nutty's output of haircuts from ten per hour to fifteen by gagging him, mass produced the D.O.'s interviews, cut down the check paces when changing from quick march to slow to one pace, vaccinated the boys in bunches of ten and awarded the Efficiency Cup to Beatty One two weeks before the recruitment joined to avoid loss of time in fiddling the points during the last week. This saved two hours 3 point 5 minutes exactly and the concert could go on!

Next, the auditions.

These began in sensational manner. A 'learned looking boy walked calmly to the piano (two notes missing) and asked if it was in "G Major." He nodded understandingly when we showed him the Permanent Loan List and proved it was simply a "Piano Upright, one in nos, keys missing, two in nos." He then announced to a sorrowing company that in any case, he could not play without music, and walked calmly away (come to think of it, I haven't seen him since).

Our next entry proved to be a mouth organist, but again the question of a mouth organ in the right key reared its ugly head. This was produced by R.P.O. Charlton and we settled back to hear the young virtuoso. Sadly enough we had to banish him from our midst after hearing the first four bars of "Peaceful Night" twenty-six times.

A determined youth then walked to the piano and settled down to a learned discussion with our pianist. Twenty-five minutes later, he cleared his throat and the song went as follows:—

They try to tell us—no that won't do Harry, it's too high.

They try to tell us we're—look, try it in "C"—that's right, the black ones.

They try to tell us we're too—Here, let me show you the part of the piano to play it on. See? Right—try again. it

They try to tell us we're too young—No, No, Harry; that's not how the tune goes—

By this time we were far too old to care.

Yet, notwithstanding the difficulties, our Concert did take shape. Whether it was a success or not we leave to one, Joe Murgatroyd, of the last Recruitment to decide. The following testimonial was unsolicited and entirely in his own words:— Dere Compear,

Since seaing yore concurt before we went over to the mane I can't stop laffing. I laff at Instrushuns, I laff at our Instrucktor (that is wih I am standing up to rite this), I laff awl the tyme. It was funny and klene and I have laffed ever since. If you have a concurt for the nexct Nossers can I come and see it (I hope so Ha! Ha!)

Yores Sins Fathefully,

**J. (JOE) MURGATROYD,**

2nd Class Boy, G.C.

P.S.—I hope I spellt Instrushuns rite!

C.P.O. W. Jowitt



# Anson Divisional Notes

Divisional Officer: Lieutenant Commander J. T. Mitchelmore.

2nd Divisional Officer: Mr. A. C. Arnold, Senior Commissioned Boatswain.

## Instructors:

261.	Chief Yeo.	Pattison.	1	P.O. Delves.	
271.	Yeo.	Stevens.	2	P.O. Paul.	
1651	C.P.O.	Town.	173	P.O. Gooding.	
3	0	1	90i	P.O. Murton.	
3	0	2		Yeo. Hubbard.	
				20	P.O. Tel. Murphy.
					C.P.O. Thompson.
					C.P.O. Friend.

This term has seen the Division increase its numbers by over one hundred and we have been forced to expand as far up the Long Covered Way as 10 Mess in

Blake Division. We might well have moved into a Rodney Mess but were somehow talked out of it; perhaps they thought we would sully their polished Mess square.



Anson 1st XI. Soccer team\_ Winners of Inter-Divisional Trophy.

With the increased numbers, and the seniority of the Classes, has come a revival in the fortunes of the Division and we have so far won four trophies this term: Added to these may be the Rugger Cup which will be contested after these notes have been written.

Immediately after leave we shall be losing 261, 165 and 90 Classes. Their main claim to fame has been in providing rugger players, though we must not forget that 261 Class brought the Senior V/S Efficiency with them when they joined us from Collingwood. They only just failed to retain it this term.

Anson has excelled herself at Soccer this term and has marched off with three of the four trophies. In the Finals of the Divisional First and Second XI's competition we met Collingwood and defeated her 4-1 and 9-0 respectively, this despite much trumpeting, flag-wagging and drum beating on our opponents' part, Our well drilled (?) 'Guard of Honour' was sufficient to give the teams the necessary

moral support. The teams were:-1st XI—Packham, Woof, Lauder, 'Wainwright, Topliss, P., Young, Morrison, McGowen, Cousins, Simpson, Reddin.

2nd XI—Thorpe, Humphries, Brown, R. W., Price; -Fernley, Webster, Topliss, R., Stanford, Darlow, Yarwood, Robinson.

The other trophy, the Junior Inter-Class Shield, was won by 1 and 2 Classes who beat 172/7 of Collingwood, by 2 goals to 1, in the second replay. The team was: Packham, Hardcastle, Palmer, Woof, Topliss, Theobald, Bloom, Perry, Milligan, Scott.

It is interesting to note that not one of Anson Divisional players is in the "Ganges" side, though we must confess that they beat us 3-1 in a challenge match.

#### WATER POLO.

In spite of having several good swimmers in the Division we have been unable to field a really good Water Polo team and we finished up fifth with eleven points. Thornton was the mainstay of the team and was responsible for nearly all our goals.



Anson 2nd XI. Soccer Team. Winners of Inter-Divisional Cup.

#### SWIMMING GALA.

We set out with high hopes of doing well in this competition and would have done so but for disqualifications in three events. All were for the same offence, that of touching with one hand only on turning round when swimming breast stroke. As it was we finished 7th, a very lowly position indeed.

#### STYLECUTTER.

In this event the crews from the Division were well spaced out and top marks went to 165 Class who finished 5th out of an entry of 37 crews. Their nearest rivals from the Division were 173 Class who were 12th and bottom of our list came 90 Class who were 34th, the wrong end of the stick for a senior Class.

#### .22 AND .303 SHOOTING.

In the .22 competition the Anson team did well to score 1,022 points out of possible 1,200 and so won the trophy. Second was Drake Division with 984 points so the margin was decisive. In the .303 we were not so successful and finished 6th.

#### **FIELD GUN.**

Training the Field Gun's crew must have been a very difficult job as C.P.O. Town never had the same crew on which to practice, on any two successive days, and he did well to produce what he did. In each run of the competition the crew improved upon its previous time, through sheer enthusiasm and guts, and they are to be congratulated on finishing 4th.

#### **HOCKEY.**

Our defeat at the hands of Drake put paid to any hopes of winning this cup though we did win our other two games. Nightingale, Hunter, Hallett and Griffiths have found places in the "Ganges" team, but none have yet been awarded colours.

#### **BOXING.**

The Division did reasonably well here and had six finalists, but unfortunately only two Boys won their weight. They were Lane (Junior Light Middle), and Baker, F. H. (Senior Light Welter). Other finalists were Smallbone, Spence, Tunneck, and Perry.



Anson .22 Shooting Team. Winners of Inter-Divisional Competition.

#### **SAILING.**

Leading Boy Forsyth and Boy Flemming have been our leading lights in the Sailing races and have placed us, up to the time of writing, in 3rd position. Both have sailed extremely well and we shall certainly miss them next term. Boy Gall has been our third string and has met with a fair amount of success. Another Boy Coxswain of the Division, who shall be nameless, has only one claim to fame, that of putting his boat aground in the early afternoon and not getting it off again until 2140, thereby missing rounds much to the pleasure of all concerned.

For the first time, we are about to get three weeks Christmas leave, a very liberal amount indeed and I trust you will all take full advantage of it, especially those of you who are going to sea immediately after. You will never get so much again.

Mr. Arnold joins me in wishing you all, Instructors and Boys, a very happy Christmas and a good leave.



## Benbow Divisional Notes

Divisional Officer: Lieutenant G. L. B. Gossage, R.N.

2nd Divisional Officer: Mr. W. T. McNeill, Commissioned Gunner, R.N.

34 Mess P.O. Garnham	171 Class	Ldg Boy Brown; Ldg Boy Harvey.
P.O. Cannon	4 Class	A/Ldg Boy Penney.
33 Mess C.P.O. Tel Cottam	352 Class	P.O. Boy Barnes; Ldg Boy Taylor.
P.O. Tel. Briggs	353 Class	Ldg Boy Williamson.
32 Mess Yeo. Slaughter	331 Class	Ldg Boy Cole; Ldg Goy Norton.
P.O. Tel. Munson	Draftees	A/Ldg Boy Purvis.
31 Mess C.P.O. Baker	91 Class	Ldg Boy Castledine.
P.O. 'Salmon	164 Class	Ldg Boy Thompson.
30 Mess C.P.O. Boddy	11 Class	P.O. Boy McMahon.
P.O. Blizzard	10 Class	A/Ldg Boy Witts.
29 Mess Floater		Ldg Boy Russell.

### "GANGES" PLAYERS-

Rugger—Paddick.

Soccer—McMahon, Storr, Lunness, Cole, Mayoh.

Hockey—White, McGeown, Furlong, Lambert.

Basketball—M. J. Ferguson.

McMahon, Barnes, Wallis, Taylor, Godden.

### COMINGS AND GOINGS.

IN-	OUT.
352/353 Classes	242/243 Classes
	253 Class.
2 P.T.I.'s	164/91 Classes (Early next term:)
	2 P.T.I.'s.

(Please P.T. & W. Officer may we keep our P.T.I. for more than five minutes).

### SPORTS AND COMPETITIONS NOTES.

The term's 'competitions opened with the Inter-Class Soccer. Neither 164/91 or 253 survived the first round in the Senior League. Our very junior and solitary 331 produced both hopes and flutterings by forcing a replay on 9/12, but eventually lost gallantly in the second round. 17/14 lived to play in the second round, but could manage no more. 10/11 just lost!

Training for the Field Gun started, and as it progressed even Hollywood could have learned some lessons in 'Ballyhoo'. We turned out to compete fairly confident of at least not disgracing ourselves. The first run was a clean and promising one of 3 minutes second. Runs 2 and 3 were steady but not of 'Champion Stuff.' After rub 3 it was obvious that we had to do something or Grenville would 'beat us to the punch.' The last run was excellent. Spirit, guts and team work saved the day to give us the fastest run by 11 seconds, and the fastest aggregate time by 7.8 seconds.

Basketball saw us fielding last term's winning team for five out of the seven games. They ran true to form by winning each one, though not spectacularly. Time to train a completely new team was short, but undaunted we pressed on and approached the last two games with fingers crossed, and it is a credit to the old team that the new came up to scratch by winning, therefore giving us the .cup for the second term running.

Six crews were entered from Benbow for the Style Cutter. 91 Class were second to an extremely good Hawke crew, and four of our six crews were in the first



