

77. As regards (a) there is convincing evidence that a general extension of the Barracks at Shotley is impracticable. There is no room for extension on the present site and more land would be required for the purpose. It is thought that this would not readily be secured in a position contiguous to the present establishment. Considerable difficulty has already been experienced in securing land for recreation purposes. Probably the only additional ground available lies in the direction of Shotley Gate, around which a village has already sprung up since the Barracks were opened. The difficulty of securing an adequate supply of fresh water for the present Establishment is already serious and would be accentuated if the supply had to be doubled. The provision of sufficient additional covered accommodation, day-rooms and recreation rooms at Shotley might enable some 250 more boys to be received there. It is understood, however, that this question is already under consideration. Any additional numbers provided for at Shotley will correspondingly reduce the accommodation to be found elsewhere. Apart from this limited extension, however, we are of opinion that it is inadvisable for administrative reasons to build additional Barracks at Shotley.

78. We strongly recommend that in no case should Barracks intended for Boys be prepared for the accommodation of more than 1,600 as a maximum. The difficulties arising from the administration, maintenance of discipline and morals, and the conservation of health of such a number of boys are already great, and ~~the evidence on the subject convinces us that it would be unwise to provide larger establishments.~~

79. For these reasons we recommend that two Establishments should be provided, neither of which should be required to accommodate more than 1,600 Boys. The best interests of the service would be consulted by placing these Establishments in the most convenient centres for attracting recruits. A well-found Establishment in a good position geographically ~~reacts favourably on~~ recruiting, the Boys themselves acting as unconscious recruiters.

80. *General Requirements.*—In proceeding to the detailed examination of the various sites which have been suggested for the purposes in view, we have had in mind the desirability of a Shore Establishment for Boys satisfying most, if not all, of the following general requirements, which, in our opinion, make for the efficiency of the Establishment :—

- (1) That the Establishment should, if practicable, be at or near one of the Naval Ports in order that the supply of stores, the passage of the Boys for sea-draft and communication generally, may be facilitated.
- (2) That it should be close to open water with good facilities for boat-pulling and sailing, and, in summer, for bathing.
- (3) That it should be reasonably near a Naval Hospital in order to avoid the necessity for erecting too extensive Sick Quarters.
- (4) That the Establishment should be readily accessible, either by rail or by water.
- (5) That the site selected should be on good pervious soil (e.g., gravel, chalk, shillet, rock, sandstone, slate, &c.), lending itself to easy drainage. Buildings erected on a clay subsoil are apt to be cold and damp. The site should be so situated that the Barracks can be erected with a southerly or a south-westerly aspect. It is considered desirable that, so far as is practicable, the situation should be such as to minimise the possibility of other buildings, over which the Admiralty has no control, springing up round the Establishment.
- (6) That at least 80 acres of land should be provided for an Establishment which is to cater for 1,200 to 1,600 Boys. The ground intended for recreation purposes should be reasonably level or should be capable of economical levelling.

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we are of opinion that

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- (7) That a good and plentiful supply of fresh water should be available at all times of the year sufficient for use in the swimming bath as well as for all ordinary purposes.
- (8) That the Establishment should be placed where it is likely to attract recruits from the surrounding districts. The position should also be convenient of access by rail or rail and water from all the Recruiting Districts from which recruits are intended to be drawn.
- (9) That the climate of the locality should be satisfactory, preference being given where practicable, to a locality with a dry bracing atmosphere.

Sites Inspected.

81. We have personally inspected sites at the following places :—

Trevol (Plymouth)
Ernesettle (Plymouth)
Beaulieu River (Solent)
Rosyth

and we have also made close enquiries as to the practicability of securing suitable sites at :—

Portland
Falmouth
Pembroke Dock
South Queensferry.

A detailed report on each site is appended.

Rough outline plans of establishments on the first four sites have been prepared by the Director of Works and are available. It is thought unnecessary to reproduce the plans as appendices to this Report.