

82. *Trevol*.—Land was purchased at Trevol by the Admiralty as a site for the Gunnery School. It was, however, subsequently decided to establish the Gunnery School at the Royal Naval Barracks, Devonport. The area of the land owned by the Admiralty is now 126 acres, part of which is used as a Rifle Range. The purchase price was 50,000*l*. The remaining portion was formerly used as recreation ground for the "Cambridge" Gunnery Establishment. A narrow channel about 5 feet deep was dredged in order to give boat access to the pier. In 1908 it was proposed that the present "Impregnable" Establishment should be moved from its position off Cremyll, and moored in a position off the West Mud about 400 yards further to the southward of the position formerly occupied by the "Cambridge" and "Calcutta" (now occupied by No. 3 Mooring, since laid down). It was contemplated at the time that the change would enable part of the ground at Trevol to be utilised as recreation fields for boys in place of the more restricted area available at the Obelisk field at Cremyll. The proposal was abandoned for various reasons, those which are pertinent to this report being dealt with later.

83. The following detailed notes on the suitability of this site for the purposes of a Shore Establishment for Boys are prepared on the lines of the general requirements above:—

- (1) The site is in convenient proximity to the Naval Port.
- (2) It is close to open water, but a substantial pier is required and a considerable amount of dredging would be necessary in order to give access for boats at all states of the tide. The channel is now 30 feet wide at the bottom and 5 feet deep below low water at ordinary spring tides. Extensive deepening of the channel might involve a considerable outlay, as it might be necessary to remove rock in places. The extent of the dredging allowed for in the estimate of cost is indicated in paragraph 109.
- (3) Communication with the Naval Hospital can be established by water.
- (4) Subject to the requirements of clause (2) being met, communication by water with either the Great Western or the London and South Western Railway Stations is practicable.
- (5) The soil is a pervious shillet, and the contour of the ground admits of good natural drainage. The buildings could be erected with a southerly aspect, and would stand some 80 feet above high water level on ground gently sloping towards the south. A few pockets of soft ground due to springs may necessitate drainage of a simple superficial nature. There is a strong probability of the town of Torpoint which is less than a mile away, extending its suburbs towards Trevol if barracks are erected there, especially when the main water supply (to which reference is made below) is improved.

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- (6) In addition to the land taken up by the Rifle Range (which would require to be fenced off), one field is at present occupied by the "Forth" Submarine Depôt. There are also some farm buildings on the land. It is considered that a sufficient area can be allotted to the Rifle Range, leaving about 97 acres available for a Boys' Training Establishment. The pasture land and shooting rights are let on a seven years' lease expiring on the 25th March 1916, but could be terminated by the Admiralty at any time ~~on demand~~, reasonable compensation being given to the tenant. The land is undulating and would require some levelling to prepare it for recreation purposes.
- (7) The provision of an adequate water supply constitutes one of the most serious obstacles to this site. This question is discussed below.
- (8) The erection of an Establishment at Trevol to replace "Impregnable" would preserve the advantage of retaining Devonport as a recruiting centre to which there is convenient access from all surrounding Recruiting Districts.
- (9) The climate has the reputation of being moist and relaxing, but on the whole it is considered healthy, the health statistics comparing favourably with other parts of the United Kingdom.

84. The provision of a fresh water supply presents difficulties, which are not, however, considered insuperable. When the question of establishing the Gunnery School at Trevol was considered in 1904, the Admiralty lent its support to the promotion of a Bill in Parliament by the Torpoint Council to introduce a water scheme, the Admiralty undertaking to receive a certain quantity of water on terms which were arranged at the time. On the decision being taken to place the Gunnery School in the R.N. Barracks, Admiralty support was withdrawn and the scheme was abandoned by the Council, the sum of 5,000*l.* being granted to the local authority from public funds as a contribution towards the cost of promoting the Bill. In 1909 the Torpoint Council formulated another scheme for augmenting the existing public water supply from Liskeard Reservoir, the Admiralty being asked to give a definite assurance that sufficient water would be taken for Naval purposes. As this undertaking could not be given, the scheme lapsed. Some local inquiries have been made by the Director of Works, and it appears that the Torpoint Urban District Council would be prepared to promote a Bill in Parliament to increase the present water supply if the Admiralty decided to build Barracks at Trevol; but it is probable that a Bill could not be presented until early in 1913.

85. It would be practicable for the fresh water supply to be supplemented by salt water to provide for fire and sanitary services, and the swimming bath. In view of the experience gained at Shotley, however, it is considered essential that before any buildings are erected an adequate supply of fresh water for all these services should be assured. Salt water, especially when derived from an estuary in which a certain amount of sewage is discharged, cannot be regarded as satisfactory.

cap | 86. Many of the objections raised in 1908 against utilising the grounds at Trevol as recreation grounds for boys in connection with the "Impregnable" Establishment afloat do not apply to an Establishment placed on shore, and the force of other objections is considerably weakened. It was pointed out at the time that disciplinary and moral control would be difficult, and that the "Give" Ship—the old adjunct to a Training Ship—might spring up at Torpoint, facilitating desertion from the Establishment. With a self-contained Establishment, enclosed by fences and under adequate supervision, these dangers would necessarily be minimised, and we do not consider that they are sufficiently grave to render the site unsuitable.

87. With the Rifle Range enclosed by a strong fence and the area placed out of bounds for Boys, sufficient protection should be afforded against any danger of accident. Some inconvenience may be caused, however, by the constant firing at the Range being audible from the Establishment.

88. The report of the Director of Works on the proposal for placing a Shore Establishment at Trevol is given in Appendix No. 10. The estimate of cost is stated to be approximately 220,000*l.* for an Establishment capable of accommodating 1,600 Boys besides Staff. It is considered that the preparation of an Establishment on

this site would occupy a period of about $2\frac{1}{2}$ years, not allowing for the negotiations connected with the water supply.