

# A SHORT GUIDE TO HMS GANGES

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## PREFACE

*by the Captain, HMS Ganges*

In joining Her Majesty's Navy you have joined a service that both our own country and the whole world admire and respect.

You are wearing a uniform of which you can be extremely proud. Wherever you may be, remember that you represent the **ROYAL NAVY**, which has a reputation for efficiency, loyalty and justice. Never, by any of your actions, whether on duty or ashore, let down the trust your country puts in you.

This handbook is issued to help you in the early stages of your Naval career and gives you useful information. In addition to some notes on Naval traditions and customs it contains some of the more important orders and instructions taken from the Queen's Regulations for the Royal Navy and from HMS GANGES Standing Orders.

It is important that you read carefully and fully understand the contents of this handbook. It has been written for your benefit, and the instructions it contains should be observed at all times.

# HMS GANGES

## HISTORY

Several ships in the history of the Royal Navy have been named **GANGES** but the one with which the present shore establishment is associated was a sailing ship launched in Bombay in 1821. In 1898, after nearly 80 years service, during which she became the last sailing ship to wear an Admiral's flag, she was converted into a training ship for boy entries and stationed at Harwich.

In 1905, when the present buildings at Shotley were opened, the boys were transferred ashore, and the old **GANGES** towed away. Since then, **GANGES** has been continually employed on the training of new entries to the Navy.

**The Mast.** The dominant feature of **HMS GANGES** is the mast which towers  $143\frac{1}{4}$  feet above the parade ground. It was originally the foremast of **HMS CORDELIA**, a Corvette, which had paid off in Portsmouth in 1900. The mast was towed by sea to Shotley Pier in 1907 and then manhandled in sections to the present site by the boys.

Since then it has been used for training young men to become quickly accustomed to working at heights and also for the ceremonial custom of Manning the Mast