

This article was downloaded by: [Monash University Library]
On: 01 February 2015, At: 10:29
Publisher: Routledge
Informa Ltd Registered in England and Wales Registered
Number: 1072954 Registered office: Mortimer House, 37-41
Mortimer Street, London W1T 3JH, UK



Royal United Services Institution. Journal

Publication details, including
instructions for authors and
subscription information:

[http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/
rusi19](http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/rusi19)

The Naval Schools of The Chief Continental Powers

Captain W. Tenison

Published online: 11 Sep 2009.

To cite this article: Captain W. Tenison (1892) The Naval Schools
of The Chief Continental Powers, Royal United Services Institution.
Journal, 36:167, 42-48, DOI: [10.1080/03071849209418580](https://doi.org/10.1080/03071849209418580)

To link to this article: [http://
dx.doi.org/10.1080/03071849209418580](http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/03071849209418580)

PLEASE SCROLL DOWN FOR ARTICLE

Taylor & Francis makes every effort to ensure the accuracy
of all the information (the "Content") contained in the
publications on our platform. However, Taylor & Francis,
our agents, and our licensors make no representations or
warranties whatsoever as to the accuracy, completeness,
or suitability for any purpose of the Content. Any opinions
and views expressed in this publication are the opinions and
views of the authors, and are not the views of or endorsed

by Taylor & Francis. The accuracy of the Content should not be relied upon and should be independently verified with primary sources of information. Taylor and Francis shall not be liable for any losses, actions, claims, proceedings, demands, costs, expenses, damages, and other liabilities whatsoever or howsoever caused arising directly or indirectly in connection with, in relation to or arising out of the use of the Content.

This article may be used for research, teaching, and private study purposes. Any substantial or systematic reproduction, redistribution, reselling, loan, sub-licensing, systematic supply, or distribution in any form to anyone is expressly forbidden. Terms & Conditions of access and use can be found at <http://www.tandfonline.com/page/terms-and-conditions>

THE NAVAL SCHOOLS OF THE CHIEF CONTINENTAL POWERS.

Compiled by Captain W. TENISON, the Manchester Regiment, from papers in the "Rivista Marittima," by 1st class Commissary DANTE PARENTI.

France.

THE Naval School of France is established in the roads of Brest, on board the "Borda," to which are attached the corvette "Janus," and the transport "Allier," under the authority and supervision of the Maritime Prefect.

The course of instruction lasts two years, at the end of which time the students, if successful, obtain the rank of "Aspirants de 2me Classe."

Maintenance and Outfit.—A student has to pay 700 fr. per annum for his maintenance and 1,000 fr. for outfit, and if obliged to repeat a year's course, must pay a supplementary sum for outfit, fixed by the School authorities.

The fees for maintenance are paid quarterly, in advance, either to the departmental receivers, or to the treasury in Paris.

There are, however, exemptions made in certain cases, when the whole amount, or half the amount, either for maintenance or for outfit, may be remitted.

Every student must pay to the Paymaster of the School the following sums on admission:—If he has obtained no exemption from the costs of outfit, 800 fr. for the 1st year, and 200 fr. at the beginning of the 2nd year.

If he has obtained a remission of half the costs of outfit, 430 fr. for the 1st year, 130 fr. at the beginning of the 2nd year. If he has obtained entire exemption from these fees, 60 fr. for the 1st year, and 60 fr. for the 2nd year. In addition to this, every student must pay 15 fr. into a common fund (for repairs, &c.). All are forbidden to have money or valuables.

Conditions of Admission.—The candidates must send in their applications for admission between the 1st and 25th April, to the Prefecture of the Department wherein reside their family or tutor. Candidates must certify (a) that they are Frenchmen, or belong to one of the categories provided for by the Laws of 16th December, 1874, 14th February, 1882, and 28th June, 1883 (these laws refer to foreigners who have been naturalised French subjects, &c.); (b) that they are over 14 and under 18 years of age before the 1st January of the year of application. No exceptions are allowed as to age.

Candidates must send in the following documents:—

- (a.) Birth certificate, certified by a magistrate or justice of the peace.
- (b.) Certificate of French citizenship, or equivalent document, in accordance with the above-named laws.
- (c.) Certificate of recent vaccination.
- (d.) A stamped bill for the amount due in payment for fees of maintenance and outfit.
- (e.) Certified statement of previous studies.

In every instance, the reason for demanding gratuitous maintenance or outfit, either wholly or in part, together with all the pleas for the concession of this benefit, must be specified.

Entrance Examination.—The examination for admission is competitive, and takes place simultaneously in Paris and other maritime centres.

A Rear-Admiral or Captain nominated by the Minister of Marine is president of the Board, and supervises the examination. The examination is both written and oral. The Board consists of four members, two for literature, and two for sciences.

Medical Examination.—Candidates must undergo a medical examination, which takes place at each centre of examination. The Board consists of a superior marine official as president, a Lieutenant and two Medical Officers as members.

The sight tests are particularly severe, and are as follows:—

1. To read at a distance of 2 metres with either eye letters No. 15, black on white, Snellen's scale, lighted by a light placed at 50 centimetres' distance from the letters.
2. A repetition of the first test, with the atmosphere partially illuminated by means of a special apparatus.
3. Selection of colours.

Written and Oral Examinations.—The written examinations take place simultaneously in the named localities during the first three days of June. The candidates must assemble at the locality they have selected, without further intimation. They are called up in alphabetical order and placed at a distance of $1\frac{1}{2}$ metres from each other, and in such a manner that no communication may pass between them.

The examination papers are sent out from the Ministry, and must be opened on the days indicated:—

- 1st day.—7 A.M. Arithmetic and Algebra, $3\frac{1}{2}$ hours.
- 2 P.M. Drawing, 1 hour. English Composition (without dictionary), 1 hour.
- 2nd day.—In the morning, French Composition, $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours.
- 2 P.M. Descriptive Geometry, $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours. Half hour's rest. Trigonometry, 1 hour.
- 3rd day.—Plane and Solid Geometry, and Analytical Geometry, $3\frac{1}{2}$ hours.

The written papers are corrected by the Board in Paris. The Board select the candidates who have qualified, and who may present themselves for oral examination.

These oral examinations are divided as follows:—

- (a.) English, History and Geography.
- (b.) French and Latin.
- (c.) Plane and Solid Geometry, Descriptive and Analytical Geometry, Physics and Chemistry.
- (d.) Arithmetic, Algebra and Trigonometry; and they begin in Paris on the 1st or 2nd July, and in the other centres in succession, wherever candidates present themselves in sufficient numbers. (Should the number be insufficient in any locality, the examination does not take place there, but the candidates are directed to present themselves at some other centre.)

The examinations are public.

The course of instruction begins on the 1st October, and the candidates who have been declared successful must present themselves at Brest on the 30th September, where they have to undergo a second medical examination under the presidency of the Commandant of the Naval School.

Schedule of Studies for Final Examination.

Arithmetic in its entirety, Algebra, and Elementary Geometry. Descriptive Geometry, as far as the plane section of a cone and cylinder; Analytical Geometry, and Rectilinear Trigonometry.

The use of the Tables and Solution of Triangles.

Physics.

Organic Chemistry.

Greek and Roman History; Mediæval and Modern History.

Geography (special knowledge of Central Europe, and particularly French Geography).

French, English, Italian, Latin.

A knowledge of German gives a claim for preference, and so also does a certificate of higher education, such as a diploma in Literature, &c.

The candidates are classified according to the points obtained in the written examination, to which are added the points obtained in the oral examination after multiplication by the following coefficients:—

French 6, Latin 7, English 5, History 6, Geography 4, Arithmetic 6, Algebra 10, Trigonometry 5, Geometry 8, Physics 7, Chemistry 6.

About 90 students are annually admitted into the Naval School.

The Staff of the School consists of:—

- 1 Post-Captain—Commandant,
- 1 Captain—Second in Command,
- 9 Lieutenants—Professors,
- 2 Chief Engineers—Professors,
- 1 Administrative Official—Treasurer,
- 1 Chief Medical Officer,
- 2 Medical Officers of 2nd Class,

- 1 Purser,
- 10 Civilian Professors,
- 112 Mates, Quartermasters, &c.—Instructors,
- 31 Servants, cooks, barbers, &c.,

and a complement of 110 sailors.

The Professors.—The military Professors of Sciences receive a salary of 5,000 fr., which is increased to 6,000 after 3 years', and to 7,000 after 6 years' service.

Those who have charge of the practical work receive 814 fr. per annum in addition to their ordinary pay.

All the officials hold their appointment for 4 years, which term can, however, be extended. The civilian Professors are divided into three classes, their salary varying according to the class to which they belong, the maximum being 6,745 fr. after 20 years' service, the minimum 3,675 fr.

The Commandant is the Chief Director of Studies; he is President of the Council of Instruction, and of the Council of Administration in the absence of the Maritime Prefect.

The Second in Command takes the place of the Commandant during his absence, and has authority not only over the Officers of the Staff, but also over the Professors and civilians attached to the School. He is a member of the Councils of Instruction and Administration.

Each Lieutenant has charge of one subject of instruction, the senior taking the place of the Second in Command during his absence.

Four Lieutenants discharge the duties of Captains of companies; whilst all the Lieutenants, with the exception of the senior, take their turn as Officers of the watch.

The Principal Medical Officer with his two assistants has charge of all sanitary measures. A dentist attends on board every Wednesday.

There are four distinct Councils:—

1. The Council of Instruction.
2. The Council of Administration.
3. The Council of Promotion.
4. The Council "De Perfectionnement."

The first, examines all questions relative to instruction, supervises the studies, examines the instruments, the journals, the publications, &c., in fact everything that relates to the studies of the pupils.

The second, has charge of everything relating to the administration and finances of the School.

The third, of all matters concerning the promotion of the personnel on board the "Borda" and the "Janus" and "Allier."

The fourth, of all matters of greater importance, as the modification of the courses of study; and regulates the distribution of the studies, and arranges the programmes of the entrance examinations.

The students are divided into two sections, the senior division con-

sisting of those in their second year, the junior of those in their first year. Each division is subdivided into two squads or companies. The students who are distinguished for good conduct and have obtained the first ten places in their studies obtain the title of "Brigadier" or "Sous-Brigadier."

The instruction is divided into three distinct groups: The first comprises Literature, History, English, and German; the second the Special Sciences, Mechanics, Astronomy, Navigation, Physics, Chemistry, &c.; the third is reserved for professional attainments such as Seamanship, Engines, Artillery, Naval Construction, Torpedoes, &c.

All lectures take place on board ship, with the sole exception of the course of Physics and Chemistry, which is held in the Central Laboratory of the Arsenal of Brest.

Carbine exercises on dry land.

Practical Seamanship on the ships attached to the School.

At the termination of the yearly examination, one of the attached ships is commissioned for a cruise of one month, under the command of the Officer in charge of the course of instruction in Seamanship. If for a distant cruise, the Commandant of the School goes in chief command, together with the Chaplain, the Chief Medical Officer, and three Officials or Professors. This takes place usually about the 20th July.

The examinations are directed by a Board presided over by the Maritime Prefect, and composed of the Commandant, and Examiners nominated by the Ministry. The opening day of the examination is fixed by the Minister, so that the examinations may end by the 31st July at latest. They are held on board the School ship; the practical work and infantry exercises on dry land.

The procedure is as follows:—

1. Questions in English, Analysis and Mechanics, Astronomy and Navigation, Physics and Chemistry, Naval Architecture, Machinery, and Torpedoes.

2. French Composition, and questions on Literature and History.

3. The Judging of the Drawings done during the year.

4. Nautical Calculations and Observations.

5. Questions on Seamanship, Artillery, and Infantry.

The students in each division are divided into 7 groups each of 13 or 15; they undergo the same examinations on the same day, only one trial being allowed.

The examinations last 7 days for all divisions, except that in Seamanship, which, being theoretical and practical, lasts 14 days. The Examiner sets the questions and marks the papers, and the Professor of the subject under examination, although present, cannot interfere in any way either as regards the questions or the marks adjudged.

Prizes.—Since the foundation of the School, the three students at the top of the list in the final classification have received the following prizes, viz.: a gold watch, a sextant, and a telescope; whilst those of the senior division who distinguish themselves in practical

work receive prizes consisting of revolvers, binoculars, &c. At the end of the final examination the students go on leave whilst awaiting their appointment as "Aspirants de 2^{me} Classe." As soon as they obtain their commission they have to embark on the training ship "Iphigénie" for a ten months' cruise.

Interior Economy of the "Borda."—All cases of sickness are treated in the infirmary on board.

Very serious cases, however, are removed to the Naval Hospital, notification being sent to the parents.

The students are permitted to smoke during the hours of recreation.

The code of punishments is as follows:—

1. Reprimand.
2. Punishment drill during recreation hours.
3. Confinement in the guard room (up to 10 days).
4. Imprisonment (5 days).
5. Cells.
6. Dismissal or expulsion.

Each of these punishments carries a certain number of bad marks, which, when they amount to 200 in a quarter, may lead to dismissal. The bad marks are—

For reprimand, 2.

For reprimand from Second in Command, 3.

For punishment drill, 3, with an additional 2 for each successive day of punishment.

For guard room, 8, with an additional 3 for each successive day.

For simple imprisonment, 24, with an additional 6 for each successive day.

For close imprisonment, 56, with an additional 10 for each successive day.

In addition to these punishments, 24 bad marks deprive a student of the privilege of leave of absence.

"Brigadiers" and other selected students punished with imprisonment lose their distinguishing badges for three months.

Other Schools.—"École d'Application du Génie Maritime" in Paris: Students are selected from youths who have passed at least two years in the "École Polytechnique," which is a military school under the control of the Minister for War. The number admitted is determined by the Minister according to requirements. Besides the actual pupils, a certain number of French and foreign youths are permitted, with the Minister's sanction, to attend the technical lectures only; but cannot have access to the documents and archives of the School. The examination takes place yearly in Paris, on 1st October, before a Board presided over by the Director of the School. The course lasts two years, beginning on 1st November and ending on 30th June.

The hours are from 8.30 to 10.30 A.M., and 12 noon to 5 P.M.; the students must attend all lectures, &c.; the subjects of study are Naval Construction, Resistance of Materials, Naval Architecture, Machinery, Technology, Naval Artillery, Processes in use for obviating the Errors of the Compass, Accounts, English, &c., &c.

There is also a Torpedo School and a School of Gunnery at Toulon, a School for Machinists at Brest, a School of Medicine, and a School of Pilotage.

(To be continued.)