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PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

I.N.S. "VALSURA"

The Indian Navy's Electrical Engineering School

On the windswept Rozi Island, bounded by the Gulf of Cutch in the north and the Salt pans on the other three sides in Saurashtra State, is situated one of the Indian Navy's most important shore training establishments - I.N.S. "VALSURA". This Establishment, which is the Naval Electrical School, takes care of the "eyes and ears" of the Navy by imparting specialised training to officers and men in subjects like Wireless, Radar, Anti-submarine etc., apart from Heavy Electrical Engineering.

Adjacent to the establishment, which is about six miles from Jamnagar, is the famous game preserve of the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanagar from whom the present site of the establishment was acquired by the Government of India in 1942.

Originally, the establishment was "commissioned" in December 1942 as the Navy's Torpedo Training School. Hence, it was given the significant and appropriate name "Valsura", meaning a kind of sword fish found around this Kathiavar coast.

During wartime "Valsura" continued to train officers and men for torpedo duties; which also included some electrical duties. The war, however, fostered a rapid expansion of the volume and variety of electrical equipment in the Navy.

Electricity was employed in moving heavy gun turrets, firing guns and torpedoes, detecting the enemy by Radar if he was on the surface or in the air and by Asdic if he was under water, sending and receiving messages by wireless, calculating ships'

speed and distance, indicating directions etc. It provided power to numerous machines in the Engine and Boiler Rooms, ventilated, heated and cooled the compartments of a ship, calculated the exact position of a ship at sea and undertook a variety of other jobs. It was soon realized that the electrical duties could no longer be combined with other duties and as such in keeping with the other modern navies of the world, a separate branch for Naval Electrical Engineering was formed in the Indian Navy. Thus the present school of Naval Electrical Engineering was founded in 1948 and the torpedo school shifted away.

Since its establishment the school has been fast developing with more and more training facilities being made available to impart both the initial and advanced training in Radar and Wireless. In view of the declared policy of the Navy to become self-sufficient and self-supporting in the matter of training - technical and non-technical - and to ultimately stop the present practice of sending naval personnel for advanced training to U.K. by providing such training facilities in India itself, a great responsibility is cast upon this establishment at Jamnagar.

Commanded at present by an Executive Officer, the establishment is divided into two sections - Administrative and Training - both of which are staffed by experienced and highly trained officers. Besides the Commanding Officer, the two others that ensure proper co-ordination and efficient running of the school, are the Training Commander who controls all training carried out at the School and the First Lieutenant who is responsible for the general administration, discipline, welfare of personnel, etc.

Life at Indian Naval Ship "Valsura" consists of learning and training, work and play etc., in the usual pattern of the Naval cycle. To a "land-lubber" the naval practice of calling a shore establishment a "ship" and naming the different parts of such an



establishment after the different parts of a ship is often a source of both amusement and confusion. But this naval practice is still being followed so that everyone in the Navy whose real home is on the sea is kept reminded of it, particularly when he first joins the Navy. To him this practice is useful because it helps him to get used to correct nautical terms and cultivate in speech and conduct the habits of a sea-faring life which are so essential for a naval career. Yet another reason for the continuance of this practice is that most of the rules and regulations of the Navy are drafted so as to apply to conditions of life on ships at sea. Thus it makes for administrative convenience if a shore establishment is treated as far as possible as a ship.

A normal day at "Valsura" starts at about 6 a.m. and from 6-30 to 8 the time is devoted to either physical training or field training and for "clean ship" - duties of cleaning and tidying up barracks etc. A "sick parade" is also held when those needing medical aid are sent to the doctor. Great importance is attached to the trainees' physical well-being. Then comes the simple naval ceremony of great importance, namely "colours" when the Indian Naval Ensign is hoisted on the "quarter deck" (flag staff area) after which the ships' company have their breakfast.

From 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. the time is spent in theoretical and practical training for officers and men ~~xxx~~ with some interval in between for mid-day meal and rest. Sports being an important part of the naval routine, the evenings are usually spent in playing games like hockey, football, cricket or tennis. The football team of the school has a proud record of winning the "All Saurashtra Football Shield" for the past three years in succession. The school has also been holding annual athletic meets and some variety shows which form an important feature of Jamnagar's social activities.



The "sunset" ceremony marks the end of the day when the Naval Ensign is lowered and men disperse for supper. Meanwhile batches of trainees on rotation can go and enjoy a film or other forms of recreation "ashore" i.e. outside the Establishment. In the Establishment itself there is a pleasantly decorated recreation room and a movie theatre. There is also a well-maintained and fully equipped information room containing newspapers, magazines and books of general and special interest. Various indoor games include billiards, table tennis, etc.

The Maharaja, Jamsaheb of Nawanagar, Rajpramukh of Saurashtra, who laid the foundation stone of the school, has always shown a keen interest in its welfare and development. Recently he has presented a complete set of musical instruments to help form the "ship's" own band, which has already made its mark in Jamnagar.

True to the naval tradition, perfect communal harmony marks the life at "Valsura" where people of different communities, observing varied customs and conventions, live, learn and work as a team. In other words, it is a triumph of naval training which has forged a unity of purpose, aim and outlook among people of diverse castes and callings.

Engaged as it is today with the task of providing the "eyes and ears" to the Navy, the country can rightly be proud of this "ship". A bright future lies before "Valsura" when its projected expansion and the change of existing temporary buildings to permanent ones comes about. The expansion of the school, which is spread over a number of years owing to reasons, economic and other, is expected to transform "Valsura" into a naval township. The school is also expected to be equipped with the most modern equipment and instruments which are being introduced in the Service from time to time with the advance of scientific research so that the officers and men of all branches of the Navy in general and the Electrical Branch in particular could be efficiently trained for their task ahead.

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