

In *The Sheet Anchor* Vol XXXII No 1 (pp 39 et seq) there was an article by Russell Jones on the subject of the University intake courses. This has provoked members' memories of wartime entry into the Corps under the 'Y' Scheme.

## The RN "Y" Entry Scheme (RNYE)

by Colonel John Cantrell

Russell Jones, who wrote the fascinating article, was a member of U2, the majority of which ultimately decanted into HO33 Officers Course, from whence a fair number gained HO commissions. However there were a few odds and sods such as myself who were, *inter alia*, advanced into U2 from Y-entry squads and other corners of the RM world.

Of the Y-scheme itself (of which I was one) for selecting potential officer material, it was a pretty wide-sweeping uptake! As far as I can recall one volunteered armed with Certificate "A" from a cadet formation and in due course was called in front of an Admiralty Interview Board sitting in Cockspur Street, London. If successful one was duly called forward to the Depot at Deal for initial training. At a later stage in the sifting process one was called to a WOSB (War Office Selection Board). If this went well one progressed to RM Military School at Thurlestone, and so on.

There was quite often a fairly wide time interval between selection and start of initial training. My old Service Certificate (S 1241) shows that I was enlisted on 17 February 1944 and released to Reserves on the same day. 202 days later came my 18<sup>th</sup> birthday and on 4<sup>th</sup> October life began for Y5 squad at Deal. In the interval one was given a woven shoulder badge to wear on one's battledress, or whatever, to indicate the *status quo*! A photo of that badge is produced right. There was also, I think, a small enamelled metal badge one could wear in the lapel buttonhole in plain clothes; this was a replica of the RN officers cap badge under which was the legend "RNYE".



I think Y5 was possibly the last such squad.

This badge, red on blue, was worn on the cadet battledress until he joined up