

**NAVAL PUNISHMENTS – KINGS REGULATION AND ADMIRALTY INSTRUCTIONS  
BR 31/1939 and BR 31/1943**

<b>Punishment No</b>	<b>Warrant Punishments</b>	<b>Appropriate Offence</b>	<b>Other Punishments that can be added to the Warrant</b>
1	Death	Suspended Indefinitely	
2	Corporal Punishment Max - 25 lashes	Suspended Indefinitely	
3	Imprisonment. (Civilian Prison) Max – 3 calendar months	Violent Assault, Fraud or Cheating	5,6,7,8,12,13,14 & 21
4	Detention Max – 3 calendar months	Absence, breaking out of ship, Desertion, making false charges, giving false evidence, Drunkenness at sea or on duty, neglect of duty, skulking, smuggling liquor on board, selling or making away with medals or clasps, selling clothing or bedding, wilful disobedience, Riotous behaviour, using provoking language, tending to create bad feeling or disturbance, Wilfully breaking, wasting or injuring public stores, Wilfully destroying or injuring the clothes or effects of persons of the RN or others, Maliciously throwing anything from aloft down hatchways into engineroom etc. Striking or interrupting a Sentry, Negligently using fires or lights.	5,6,7,8,12,13,14 & 21
5	Dismissal from HM Service	As part of any, or separate from the above offences	5,6,7,8, 12,13,14 & 21
6	Disrating or reduction in Rank	Drunkenness, Trafficking in wine, beer, spirits, Gambling, Lending money at interest, Cursing, Swearing, using obscene language, Disrespect towards superiors, Injury to or wasting stores.	6,7, 8 10 only
7	Deprivation of Good Conduct Badges and Good Conduct Medal	Intent to deceive, Leave under false pretences, Committing a nuisance; Skulking, neglect of duty	8,10,11, 12 & 13

8	Reduction to 2 <sup>nd</sup> Class for Conduct (max 6 months)	Examining another man's locker or bag, Sleeping in another man's hammock or bedding, Fighting, Quarrelling, Assaulting, Culminating offences or a series of small offences, Not obeying the lawful orders of a Sentry	8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 & 16
9	Spare		
10*	Solitary confinement in a cell or under a canvas screen (max 14 days)	For any of the offences listed under Punishment Nos 6, 7 & 8	12, 13, 14, 15, 16 & 21
11	Extra work or drill (mas 14 days)		14, 15 & 17
12	Stoppage of Leave (max 3 months)		14, 15, & 17
13	Reduction to 2 <sup>nd</sup> Class of Conduct (max 3 months)		14, 15, & 17
14	Deductions from pay for improper absence or unfitness for duty through drink.		15 & 17
15	Stoppage of Grog (max 30 days)	For habitual drunkenness longer stoppage, payment for non issue	17
16	Extra work no exceeding 2 hours per day		
17	Reprimand by Captain		
18	For Marines – extra guard duty		
19**	For Boys only. Birching on the bare breech	Max 24 cuts	12, 14
20**	For all Boys, (including band boys, RM's under 18 years) Caning	Caning on the breech Max 12 cuts	12, 14

**Note. Punishments 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 & 18 are summary punishments that do not require warrants**

- **\* No 10. Cells or under canvas punishment afloat.** Low diet (bread and water) for the first three days. No bedding for the first four days, thence only on alternative days. (Without bedding the offender sleeps on a board shelf with a wood block pillow and is dressed in a canvas suit). Exercise after the first three days, one hour per day. Reading, the

bible or instructional material

- **\*\* No 19 and 20. Birching and Caning of Boys**
- **Birching.** The punishment of birching is to be confined to boys rated as such, and to boy buglers and band boys when embarked and is to be inflicted with the birch as issued by the dockyard, and is never to exceed 24 cuts or blows; it is to be inflicted by the ships's police in the presence of the Executive Officer, a Medical Officer, two or more Petty Officers, and all the boys. The punishment is to be awarded by warrant, and in ships not carrying the Flag or Broad Pendant, the approval of the Flag Officer or Commodore is necessary.
- **Caning.** Caning on the breech, duck trousers and pants being worn, is limited to boys rated as such and boy buglers and band boys when embarked and is to be inflicted with a light and ordinary cane. The number of cuts or blows is not to exceed 12, and the punishment is not to be carried out in public. Unless he attempts to break away, the boy to be caned should not be secured but should stand and bend down to grasp a chair or firm object. Caning is intended for the serious offences of theft, immorality, drunkenness, desertion (in special cases as an act of leniency) insubordination, or gross and continued disobedience of orders. In the absence of the Captain, the Commanding Officer is not to order caning to be inflicted, unless the Captain shall be absent from duty by permission of superiord authority for more than 48 hours