

*1094.—Ratings—Seaman Branch—Introduction of New Structure of Gunnery Specialist Qualifications

(N.C.W./G.D. 65/55.—27 Apr. 1956.)

This Order explains the new structure of Gunnery Specialist Qualifications and the arrangements for its introduction into the Royal Navy.

General

2. The new Structure announced in this Order aims to :—

- (a) Recognize the fact that with more complex gunnery equipment there is a need for including a more technical background in the training of all gunnery ratings to enable them to assist in maintenance and to carry out their user duties with more understanding. This is reflected in the inclusion of "Armourer" in the new titles and of workshop and maintenance training in syllabuses.
- (b) Improve the ratio between the lower and higher Gunnery S.Qs. within individual categories.
- (c) Simplify the existing structure by reducing the number of categories and thus making training and drafting easier and more economical.
- (d) Provide the new Gunnery S.Qs. with descriptive titles which will be readily understood and appreciated.

3. This Order should be read in conjunction with A.F.O. 472/56 (*Ratings—Seaman Branch—Training in Basic Specialist Qualification immediately after New Entry Training*).

New Structure

4. The new S.Qs. will be :—

Specialist Qualification

Seaman Gunner

Short Title

Duties

Seaman Gunner (Quarters)	S.G.(Q)	Replaces present Q.R.3 and Seaman "Other" at weapons and lower quarters operated by the Quarters Armourer as below.
Seaman Gunner (Quarters) Star	S.G.(Q) Star	
Seaman Gunner (Control)	S.G.(C)	Replaces present 3rd Class S.Qs. and Seaman "Other" at equipment operated by the Gunlayer Armourer and Fire Control Armourer.
Seaman Gunner (Control) (Star)	S.G.(C) Star	

Quarters Armourer

Quarters Armourer, 2nd Class	Q.A.2	The operation and mechanical maintenance of guns and mountings 3-in. and above, i.e. the present Q.R. and Q.A. categories combined, but with the 3rd Class S.Q. eliminated and all duties with close range weapons removed.
Quarters Armourer, 1st Class	Q.A.1	

Fire Control Armourer

Fire Control Armourer, 2nd Class	F.C.2	The operation and mechanical maintenance of fire control equipment and its routine testing in conjunction with the Ordnance and Electrical Branches, i.e. the present R.C., and C.A. categories combined, but with the 3rd Class S.Q. eliminated.
Fire Control Armourer, 1st Class	F.C.1	

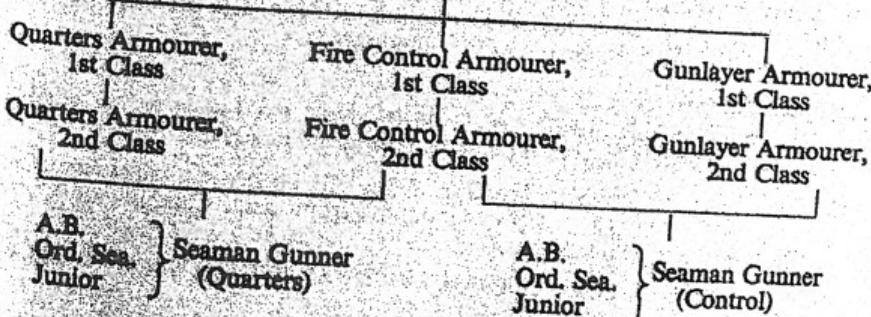
Gunlayer Armourer

Gunlayer Armourer, 2nd Class	G.A.2	The operation and mechanical maintenance of guns and mountings below 3-in. and all directors, i.e. the present G.L. S.Q. absorbing the maintenance of the quarters which he operates, but with the 3rd Class S.Q. eliminated.
Gunlayer Armourer, 1st Class	G.A.1	

Note.—For simplicity the above S.Qs. for Seaman Gunners have been related to the revised nomenclature announced in paragraph 32 of A.F.O. 472/56.

The following diagram illustrates the revised structure of the Gunnery Branch consequent upon the introduction of the new S.Qs. :—

Gunnery Instructor



*Introduction of New Structure.**Timing*

5. The new structure will be introduced on 1st May, 1956, to enable training of the new S.Qs. to start at the beginning of the Gunnery Schools' Summer Term.

Method

6. On 1st May, 1956, all men holding Gunnery S.Qs. (except G.I., Q.A.1. and Q.A.2.) will abandon their previous S.Qs. and assume new ones in accordance with the following table :—

<i>Present S.Q.</i>	<i>New S.Q.</i>
G.I	..
Q.A.1	..
Q.A.2	..
Q.A.3	..
Q.R.1	..
Q.R.2	..
Q.R.3	..
G.L.1	..
G.L.2	..
G.L.3	..
C.A.1	..
C.A.2	..
C.A.3	..
R.C.1	..
R.C.2	..
R.C.3	..

Obsolescent S.Qs.

L.R.1	G.A.1(P)
A.A.1	..	..
LR.2	..	..
A.A.2	G.A.2(P)
CR.1	..	..
CR.2	..	..
CR.3	F.C.1(P)
L.R.3	..	..
A.A.3	..	..

7. The suffix (P) after the new S.Q. will indicate that it is provisional, but regarded as a full S.Q. for the purpose of pay. It will be removed after the holder has successfully completed either the appropriate conversion course in a Gunnery School or a course in a Gunnery School for the 1st Class S.Q.

8. The suffix (U) after the new S.Q. will denote that the rating has not yet qualified for a 2nd Class S.Q. and that the S.Q.(U) must therefore count as the equivalent of an existing 3rd Class S.Q. for pay purposes. It will be removed after the holder has successfully completed the appropriate course in a Gunnery School for the 2nd Class S.Q.

9. Conversion courses for 1st Class S.Qs. (i.e. courses under paragraph 7 but not paragraph 8 above) will be arranged as and when the drafting situation permits and when men have enough of their engagement still to serve to justify a further course.

10. A rating with one of the new provisional (P) 2nd Class S.Qs. who subsequently fails to qualify for the 1st Class rate of his S.Q. will be permitted to change to another new Gunnery S.Q. in the 2nd Class rate without a further course provided he achieves a certain standard. Further details will be announced.

Qualifications for Courses in New S.Qs.

11. The rules in B.R. 1066, Article 0620, about the lowest rating eligible to qualify for any particular class of S.Q. will apply to the new S.Qs.

12. Candidates for 2nd and 1st Class S.Qs. will be selected substantially as at present. They will require a recommendation from sea. Captains of Gunnery Schools will award the qualifications.

13. Arrangements for qualifying in the Basic S.Q. and S.Q. Star are contained in A.F.O. 472/56.

Drafting.

14. Until there are sufficient ratings fully qualified in the new S.Qs. to meet requirements for manning the Fleet, it will be necessary to ensure that:—

- (a) Ships receive sufficient ratings fully qualified in the new S.Qs. to meet the maintenance requirements of their armaments.
- (b) In selecting men not fully qualified in their new S.Q. for drafting to ships, the requirements for operating the gunnery equipment are taken into account; such ratings will therefore need to be drafted on the basis of their former S.Qs.

15. Detailed instructions for drafting in accordance with the foregoing paragraph will be incorporated in schemes of complement in due course.

Badges.

16. Badges for the new S.Qs. will be as follows:—

S.Q.	Badge
S.G.(Q)	Crossed Guns with letter Q below.
S.G.(Q) Star	Crossed Guns with star and letter Q below.
S.G.(C)	Crossed Guns with letter C below.
S.G.(C) Star	Crossed Guns with star and letter C below.
Q.A.2	As at present.
Q.A.1	
F.C.2	As for present 2nd Class S.Q. but with letters F.C.
F.C.1	As for present 1st Class S.Q. but with letters F.C.
G.A.2	As for present 2nd Class S.Q. but with letters G.A.
G.A.1	As for present 1st Class S.Q. but with letters G.A.

Supply of Badges.

17. Stocks of the new badges required in accordance with paragraph 16 above are not expected to be available until August/September, 1956, and until these stocks become available, with the exception of those who may, in the interim period qualify in the 1st and 2nd Class Q.A. specialist qualifications, all ratings are to retain their existing badges. As soon as stocks become available an Admiralty Fleet Order will be issued giving further information about the new range of badges and authorizing gratuitous issues to ratings who are entitled to wear them.

Royal Marines.

18. The foregoing arrangements will be applied to the Royal Marines in accordance with instructions to be issued by R.M. authorities.

Reserves.

19. These provisions will apply generally to R.N.R. (G.S.) and R.N.V.R. ratings. Ratings will still be ineligible to qualify direct for 1st Class S.Qs. in peacetime, although those ratings already holding 1st Class S.Qs. will be allowed to take conversion courses (paragraph 7 refers). The recommendation from sea will not be required by candidates for 2nd Class S.Qs. (paragraph 12 refers). Details concerning courses are under consideration and B.R. 65, Appendix 3, will be amended in due course.

Miscellaneous.

20. B.Rs. and schemes of complement will be amended in due course.

21. The changes in S.Q. should be carried into men's Service records, etc. with effect from 1st May, 1956, and entries made as soon after the receipt of this Order as administratively convenient.

(B.Rs. 65 and 1066.)

(A.F.O. 472/56.)