*1231.—Royal Marines—Introduction of New Structure of Gunnery Specialist Qualifications

(N.C.W. 4705/56.—11 May 1956.)

This Order sets out the variations in the new structure of Gunnery Specialist qualifications announced in A.F.O. 1094/56 (*Ratings—Seamen Branch—Introduction of New Structure of Gunnery Specialist Qualifications*) which are applicable to the Royal Marines.

2. The new structure will apply with the following exceptions :—

(*a*) All Royal Marines on first being nominated for sea service will carry out a Basic Gunnery Course. Suitable men subsequently will do an additional course to qualify as Marine Gunner (Quarters) or (Control). (Paragraph (*b*) below.)

(*b*) The equivalent S.Q.'s to Seaman Gunner (Quarters) and Seaman Gunner (Control) will bear the titles :—

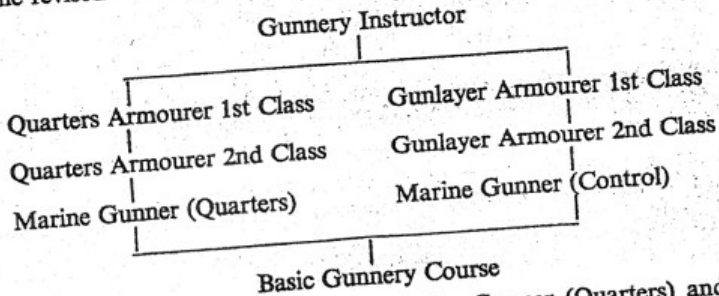Marine Gunner (Quarters) and Marine Gunner (Control) (short titles M.G.(Q) and M.G.(C) respectively).

They will " star " in the same manner as Seaman Gunners (paragraphs 11–15 of A.F.O. 472/56—*Ratings—Seaman Branch—Training in Basic Specialist Qualification Immediately after New Entry Training*—refer.)

(*c*) Royal Marines will not be qualified or employed as Fire Control Armourers.

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3. The revised structure for Royal Marines gunnery specialization will therefore be :—

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                    Gunnery Instructor
                            |
      ┌─────────────────────┴─────────────────────┐
                                    Gunlayer Armourer 1st Class
                                            |
 Quarters Armourer 1st Class       Gunlayer Armourer 2nd Class
            |                               |
 Quarters Armourer 2nd Class       Marine Gunner (Control)
            |                               |
 Marine Gunner (Quarters)                   |
      └─────────────────────┬─────────────────────┘
                            |
                    Basic Gunnery Course
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4. Normally Basic gunnery training, Marine Gunner (Quarters) and (Control) and QA2 training will be carried out at Gunnery School, Royal Marines. The present arrangement whereby certain Gunnery training is carried out in H.M.S. " Excellent ", and at the R.N. Gunnery Schools, Chatham and Devonport, will be continued.

5. As in the case of Naval ratings the new structure will be effective from 1st May, 1956, and men are to be awarded their appropriate S.Q. in accordance with the table given in paragraph 6 of A.F.O. 1094/56 from that date.

6. A separate Admiralty Fleet Order will be issued when the badges denoting the new specialist qualifications become available for issue. In the interim period R.M. other ranks will continue to wear badges in the existing range.

(*A.F.Os. 472/56 and 1094/56.*)