

*1902.—Aviation—Telegraphist Air Gunners—Disposal—REPORTS
(N.2/N. 4887/48.—11 Jun. 1948.)

Instructions will shortly be issued for the institution of a new branch, known as the Aircrewman Branch, to be employed on combined Navigation and Radio duties in the back seats of Naval aircraft. The methods of recruiting personnel and the conditions of service of the new branch have not yet been settled. In the meantime it has been decided to authorize the transfer of existing Naval Airmen (Telegraphist Air Gunners) into the new branch, subject to the following conditions.

2. All ratings of the Naval Airman Branch holding a Telegraphist Air Gunner qualification must now elect to transfer to—

- (a) the new Aircrewman Branch (subject to medical fitness), or
- (b) the Electrical Branch for Air Radio duties (subject to qualification), or
- (c) be absorbed into the Naval Airman (Aircraft Handler) category for ground duties.

Ratings who are medically unfit for transfer to the Aircrewman Branch may elect either (b) or (c) above.

3. *Transfer to Aircrewman Branch.*—Naval Airmen (Telegraphist Air Gunners) holding the rating of Petty Officer or above, who elect to transfer to the Aircrewman Branch, and who are medically fit for flying in the front line or in training or miscellaneous units will be transferred to the Aircrewman Branch with effect from the date of this Order (for those holding the qualification of T.A.G. (G.I), see paragraph 12 below).

4. Those of Leading Rate and below who are medically fit in all respects will not be transferred until they are advanced to the Petty Officer rate.

5. Transfer will be in the rating of Aircrewman (U), 1st or 2nd Class, in accordance with the following table, and at the consolidated basic rate of pay shown. (See also paragraph 10 below.)

Present Rating	Transfer to	Pay on Transfer
C.P.O. (T.A.G. I) ...	Aircrewman I (U) ...	15s. per day
C.P.O. (T.A.G. II and III) ...	} Aircrewman I (U) ...	14s. per day
P.O. (T.A.G. I) ...	} Aircrewman II (U) ...	12s. 6d. per day
P.O. (T.A.G. II and III) ...	} Aircrewman II (U) ...	12s. 6d. per day

6. After transfer and subject to the provisions of paragraph 13 below, Aircrewmen (U) will be given a Conversion Course to qualify them in Navigational duties, on the satisfactory completion of which they will be eligible to be rated Acting Aircrewmen I or II, with effect from the original date of transfer, in accordance with the following instructions.

7. The award of the rating of Acting Aircrewman I (C.P.O. rate) to ex-C.P.O. and P.O. (T.A.G. I) is subject to the completion of $7\frac{1}{2}$ years' Aircrew Service, for which purpose war service as qualified Aircrew prior to the 2nd September, 1945, will count double. Aircrewman (U) ex-C.P.O. and P.O. (T.A.G. I) without this period of Service on qualifying will be rated Acting Aircrewman II (P.O. rate) until they have completed $7\frac{1}{2}$ years' Aircrew Service calculated as shown.

8. Acting Aircrewmen I and II will be eligible for confirmation in rating after six months' experience from date of completion of the Course, and subject to recommendation. Those not recommended will revert to Aircrewman (U) and continue to serve as such.

9. Pay as Aircrewman I or II (including the acting rates) will be at the following provisional consolidated basic rates:—

Aircrewman I	16s. 6d. per day
Aircrewman II	14s. 6d. per day

10. On transfer to the new rate of pay either as Aircrewman (U) or as Acting Aircrewman, 1st or 2nd Class, the Instructor Pay of 1s. a day now payable to ratings with the T.A.G. I and T.A.G. (G.I.(1)) qualifications will cease except for the purpose of War Excess (Pay) which will need to be re-assessed in all cases of transfer. Incremental pay and Badge pay are payable in addition to the consolidated basic rates quoted above, but Flying pay is not payable concurrently.

11. Aircrewmen, and Leading Airmen and below (Telegraphist Air Gunners), awaiting transfer, will continue to be employed on flying duties, subject to medical fitness.

12. Ratings who hold the qualification of Telegraphist Air Gunner (G.I.) 1st or 2nd Class are also eligible for transfer to the Aircrewman branch with effect from the date of this Order. They will first be given a course in radio, on the satisfactory completion of which they will be transferred to Aircrewman (U), as in paragraph 5 above, being thereafter subject to the same conditions as other transfers. Those T.A.G. (G.I.), 1st or 2nd Class, who do not elect to transfer, who are medically unfit for flying or who fail the course in radio, are to be absorbed into the Naval Airman (Ordnanceman) category.

13. *Navigation Conversion Course.*—The Navigation Conversion Course (see paragraph 6 above) will be given only to those ratings who have already re-engaged to complete time for pension or have at least two years' service to complete their current engagement. Those within two years of completion of their first C.S. engagement will be eligible provided they re-engage to complete time for pension.

14. Each course will be arranged for up to sixteen Aircrewmen (U) every nine weeks, and will last eighteen weeks (excluding leave periods). It will be divided as follows:—

Section I.—At the Naval Air Signal School, Seafield Park, Hillhead, Hampshire

Air Communications and Airborne Radar	... 6 weeks
Basic Air Navigation (Ground Training Only)	... 2 weeks
Instructional Technique	... 1 week
Total	9 weeks

Section II.—At the Aircrewmen's School, R.N. Air Station, St. Merryn, Cornwall

Air Navigation and Reconnaissance (40 hours flying per pupil)	... 9 weeks
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15. Examination results obtained at the Naval Air Signal School are to be pasted on page 2 of Form 1246P, (History Sheet). The notation "Qualified to Aircrewman I Standard" is to be inserted in the space for "Special Qualifications" on page 4 of the History Sheet upon successful completion of Section II of the Examination at the Aircrewmen's School.

16. Should a rating fail to reach the required standard in Section I, he will not be allowed to take Section II and will not be eligible to be placed on the roster for a subsequent course until a period of six months has elapsed from the date of commencement of the course failed. Those who fail in Section II will similarly wait six months before being eligible to take it again. Those who fail in either section I or II and subsequently qualify will be rated Acting Aircrewman I or II as in paragraph 7 above with effect from date of passing.

17. Navigation Conversion Courses will at first be confined to ex-Chief and Petty Officer Airmen T.A.G.I. and T.A.G.II who are medically fit for front line flying.

18. *Transfer to the Electrical Branch.*—Telegraphist Air Gunners who desire to transfer to the Electrical Branch for Air Radio duties may elect to do so only if they have at least two years of their current engagement still to serve. Those within two years of completion of their first C.S. engagement will be eligible provided they re-engage to complete time for pension.

Those who are eligible and elect to transfer to the Electrical Branch will be given courses as necessary to enable them to qualify for transfer in their equivalent rating and seniority. The courses will be given at the Air Electrical School, H.M.S. "Ariel," and will last about nine months. Transfer will be conditional upon successful completion of the course, and will take effect from the date of passing.

Those who fail the conversion course or who at any time during the course show no promise of being able to complete it successfully, will be absorbed in the Naval Airman (Aircraft Handler) category.

19. While awaiting draft to H.M.S. "Ariel" for conversion course, T.A.Gs. are to work with the Electrical Branch under the orders of the Electrical Officer.

20. *Absorption into the Naval Airman (Aircraft Handler) and (Ordnanceman) categories.*—Those concerned will be given courses as necessary to enable them to qualify for the retention of their existing rating and seniority. They will be absorbed into their new category with effect from the date of qualification.

21. *Flying and Instructor Pay of those transferred to ground duties.*—Those fit for flying duties who do not elect transfer to Aircrewman are to relinquish their flying pay forthwith.

22. Those whose transfer to ground duties is due to medical unfitness for flying will retain their flying pay on a mark time basis for six months from date of being found medically unfit.

23. All ratings in receipt of Instructor Pay on transfer to ground duties will retain it on a mark time basis until overtaken by subsequent increase in pay.

24. *Drafting Arrangements.*—If not already done, ships and establishments concerned are to forward a nominal list of all ratings borne holding T.A.G. and T.A.G. (G.I.) qualifications, stating medical category, duties on which they are at present employed and the branch selected in each case, to the Commodore, Royal Naval Barracks, Lee-on-Solent, who will arrange for drafting to courses as detailed above.

25. Medical re-categorization for this purpose should be arranged locally.

26. Those ratings who elect to transfer to Aircrewman and are eligible under the foregoing conditions will be called in as required, with or without relief.

27. Ratings selected to undergo the qualifying course for Aircrewman are to be discharged to H.M.S. "Daedalus" for Naval Air Signal School and are to arrive at the R.N. Barracks, Lee-on-Solent, not later than p.m. on the Thursday before the course commences.

28. Those electing to transfer to the Electrical Branch will be called in as required, with or without relief, to undergo the appropriate conversion course in H.M.S. "Ariel."

29. *Uniform.*—Ratings transferred to the Aircrewman Branch under these arrangements are to continue for the present to wear their existing uniform and badges. Those awaiting transfer to the Electrical Branch or absorption into a new category of the Naval Airman Branch are to do likewise until transfer or absorption is finally effected.