

*826.—Gunnery Ratings—Simplification

(N. 716/35.—4.4.1935.)

Their Lordships have had under review the regulations governing the award of Gunnery ratings and the employment of men holding those ratings. They have approved of the following changes with a view to—

- (a) Improving the conditions of service of the ratings concerned.
- (b) Effecting an improvement in drafting and, therefore, in the proportions of home and foreign service.

Gunner's Mate

2. The non-substantive rate of Gunner's Mate will be open to Leading Seamen passed for Petty Officer with at least one year's sea-going service as Leading Seaman and to all higher substantive ratings. Candidates must be of V.G. character and hold the non-substantive rate of S.G. or above.

Director Layer

3. Director Layers, instead of Gunlayers, 2nd Class, as at present, will be allowed as trainers of the low angle and high angle directors in battleships, battle cruisers, cruisers, and aircraft carriers, but will not be stationed at local director sights.

Gunlayers

4. In consequence of this reorganisation it will in due course be unnecessary to employ Gunlayers, 1st Class; the non-substantive rating of Gunlayer, 1st Class, will accordingly be allowed to die out. There will, however, be a corresponding increase in the numbers of Director Layers. Men now holding the rate of Gunlayer, 1st Class, will continue to receive their present extra pay of 1s. per diem so long as they remain efficient.

5. Eventually there will be only one class of Gunlayer, carrying extra pay of 6d. per diem, the general regulations applicable to Gunlayer, 2nd Class (K.R. & A.I., Appendix XVII, Part 3, No. 36), governing the award of the new rate. All men qualifying as Gunlayers after the date of this Order will be given a revised course, and will be designated Gunlayer.

6. Existing Gunlayers, 2nd Class, will undergo the revised course when requalifying, a notation that the revised course has been taken being made on their Gunnery History Sheets.

7. While old system Gunlayers, 1st Class, and Gunlayers, 2nd Class, remain, the use of the 1st and 2nd Class designations will be continued, except in schemes of complement and in Quarter Bills.

8. Gunlayers will be allowed as layers of all local director sights, of all gunsights and as trainers of director sights where only one director layer is allowed.

9. The exchanges between director layers and gunlayers involved by the revised allocation set out in paragraphs 3 and 8 above will be effected as each ship concerned commissions or re-commissions after 1st July, 1935. Schemes of complement and Quarter Bills should be amended forthwith to show G.Ls. in lieu of G.Ls. 1 and G.Ls. 2. In the future, care should be taken in drafting to capital ships mounting 15 in. guns that G.Ls. who have taken the revised course, or G.Ls. 1, are borne in sufficient numbers to fill the billets hitherto held by G.Ls. 1. Subject to the latter requirement, G.Ls. 1 may, in the interest of equitable drafting, be drafted to any class of ship and may be employed as necessary in billets which would normally be filled by G.Ls. who have taken the revised course.

Rangetakers

10. The rate of Rangetaker, 3rd Class, will be abolished. Rangetakers, 2nd Class, will be allowed in lieu of the Rangetakers, 3rd Class, at present shown in schemes of complement and Quarter Bills, except that S.Gs. will be allowed, in future, as operators of P.I.L. Rangefinders and no Rangetaker will be authorised for certain special ships, e.g., surveying vessels. Ratings and Royal Marines trained afloat as rangefinding operators will be designated Acting Rangetaker, 2nd Class, and, subject to the conditions laid down in K.R. & A.I., Appendix XVII, Part 3, No. 40, will be paid for the acting rating when filling vacancies in the complement, at the rate of pay at present authorised for Rangetaker, 2nd Class, viz., 6d. per diem.

11. All existing Acting Rangetakers, 3rd Class, and Rangetakers, 3rd Class, other than those referred to in the following paragraphs, are to be rated Acting Rangetaker, 2nd Class, and Rangetaker, 2nd Class, respectively, and paid at the higher rate as from 1st April, 1935, payment for the acting rating being subject to the conditions laid down in the regulation quoted in the preceding paragraph. Temporary adjustments of complement are authorised in Appendix I of this Order to allow of all men in receipt of pay as Acting Rangetaker, 3rd Class, on 31st March, 1935, except those employed in submarines, being paid as Acting Rangetaker, 2nd Class, from 1st April, 1935.

12. Rangetakers, 3rd Class, rated under pre-existing regulations, who did not volunteer to undergo the course and test for Rangetaker, 2nd Class (see K.R. & A.I., Appendix XVII, Part 3, No. 39), may be rated Acting Rangetaker, 2nd Class, as from 1st April, 1935, provided they are now willing to undergo the course and test. If they do not so volunteer, it will be necessary for them to relinquish the non-substantive rate of Rangetaker, 3rd Class, as from 1st April, 1935.

13. *Rangefinding Allowance in Submarines.*—In submarines in commission with a full crew, Seaman Gunners, Seaman Torpedomen, and Signal and Telegraphist ratings may be paid submarine rangefinding allowance at the rate of 2d. per diem, when employed in vacancies in complement.

14. The amendments to Schemes of Complement and Quarter Bills are shown in the attached appendices. K.R. & A.I. and the Gunnery Training Manual will be amended.

(K.R. & A.I., Appendix XVII, Part 3, Nos. 29 and 35-40, and Gunnery Training Manual.)

(This Order, with the exception of the Appendices, will be reprinted for posting on Notice Boards.)

APPENDIX I

SCHEMES OF COMPLEMENT—AMENDMENTS

Note.—The following amendments to complements of non-substantive ratings, with one exception, *vide Note **, do not involve any change in substantive numbers.

(i) *To come into force as from 1st April, 1935, except as provided below for Rangetakers.*

Gunlayers

All Ships

For "Gunlayer, 2nd class" read "Gunlayer" in both Seaman and R.M. complements.

15 in. *Capital Ships and H.M. Ships* "Iron Duke" and "Terror"; also *H.M.S. "Afrikander"* (War Complement for St. Helena).

Reduce: All Gunlayers, 1st class, Seaman and R.M.

Add: Numbers of Gunlayers, Seaman and R.M., respectively, equal to the numbers of Gunlayers, 1st class, reduced.

Rangetakers

Note.—Where the following amendments would result in a rating in receipt of pay as Acting Rangetaker, 3rd class, on 31st March, 1935, being ineligible for pay as Acting Rangetaker, 2nd class, from 1st April, 1935, a Rangetaker, 2nd class, will be allowed either temporarily additional or (if a S.G. has been substituted for a R.T., 3rd class) in lieu of the S.G., until the rating concerned leaves the ship or is absorbed in the amended complement.

H.M. Ships "Nelson" and "Rodney"—War Complement

Reduce: 4 Rangetaker, 3rd class.

Add: 2 Rangetaker, 2nd class.
2 S.G.

Approximate 4/5ths Complement

Reduce: 2 Rangetaker, 3rd class.

Add: 2 Rangetaker, 2nd class.