

Royal Navy Gunnery Badges worn by Royal Marines (Version 5.2)

By Mark Phillips

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this paper is to describe and list Royal Naval Gunnery badges that were worn by the Royal Marines from the period from 1890 to 1974, when Gunnery badges ceased to be officially issued for wear by Royal Marines.

In the process of describing and listing the Royal Marine Gunnery badges it has been necessary to described and list the Royal Naval Gunnery badges, because Royal Marines Gunnery badges are very close to and in most cases the same as the Royal Navy Gunnery badges.

The primary focus of the paper has been to provide images of Gunnery badges, when a badge was introduced (with references and dates), when a badge was discontinued (with references and dates) and the stock/vocabulary number of a badge.

All the information in this paper comes from official Royal Navy and Royal Marines documents; General Orders (GO), Admiralty Fleet Orders (AFO), Admiralty Uniform and Clothing Committee Minutes (AUCC), Royal Marine Routine Orders (RMRO) and Dress Regulations (BR).

It should be understood that Royal Marine Gunnery badges were worn long after an official document ordered the cessation of a Gunnery rate or badge, as a Royal Marine would continue to wear a Gunnery badge for the duration of his career.

DESCRIPTION

1890-1899

First mention, in official documents of RMA and RMLI Gunnery badges was in the Clothing Price List of the General Orders April 1890. The following three gunnery badges were described. There is no indication whether the Gunnery was for land or ship based guns:

- Crossed Guns Crown & Grenade – Gold on Blue (RMA First Sergeant Instructor)
- Crossed Guns & Grenade – Gold on Scarlet (RMA Second Sergeant Instructor)
- Crossed Guns & Crown - Gold on Scarlet (RMLI First & Second Sergeant Instructor)

GO 22 of May 1891 introduced another badge for all other RMA and RMLI instructors:

- Crossed Guns – Gold on Blue, Gold on Scarlet (RMA & RMLI All other Instructors)

The same badges are mentioned in GO 41 August 1892 and GO 79 1892, until GO32 May 1893 when Crossed Guns Gold and Worsted was introduced.

GO 40 in May 1894 saw the introduction of Crossed Guns & Grenade (RMA Second Sergeant Instructor) and the Crossed Guns & Crown (RMLI First & Second Sergeant Instructor) in Gold on Blue consistent with the other Gunnery Instructor badges.

RMA First Sergeant Instructor



RMA Second Sergeant Instructor



RMLI First & Second Sergeant Instructor



RMA & RMLI All Other Gunnery Instructors



In 1897 GO 27 saw the removal of the Crossed Guns & Grenade (RMA Second Sergeant Instructor) badge, and in July of the same year GO 63 described the introduction of a new pattern, size and design change for the Gunnery Instructor badges.

In August 1899 GO 51 stated that First Sergeant Instructors to be termed Quartermaster-Sergeant Instructor of Gunnery.

1900-1919

GO 27 of March 1905 stated that the RMA and RMLI Gunnery distinguishing badges (for ship based gunnery) would be similar in pattern to those worn by Seaman RN. These would be:

- Gunnery Instructors
- Turret Sightsetter
- Gunlayer
- Sightsetter

The next General Order 28 also of March 1905 described the new Gunnery badges to be worn for RMA and RMLI Marines qualified in RN ship based Gunnery.

Qualification	Badge	Type
Gunnery Instructor if also Turret Gunlayer (From 1909 Gunner's Mate, if also Gunlayer 1 st Class)	Crossed Guns Crown and Star Above and Star Below	Gold on Blue, Red on Blue, Blue on White
Gunnery Instructor if not Turret Gunlayer (From 1909 Gunner's Mate, if not Gunlayer 1 st Class)	Crossed Guns Crown and Star Above	Gold on Scarlet, Gold on Blue, Red on Blue, Blue on White
Gunlayer (From 1909 Gunlayer 2 nd Class)	Crossed Guns Star Above	Gold on Scarlet, Gold on Blue, Red on Blue, Blue on White
Turret Sightsetter	Gun Star Above and Star Below (Replaced in 1909 by Crossed Guns badge)	Gold on Scarlet, Gold on Blue, Red on Blue, Blue on White
Gunner	Gun Star Above	Gold on Scarlet, Gold on Blue, Red on Blue, Blue on White

GO 24 in 1906 introduced the following badge:

Qualification	Badge	Type
Turret Gunlayer (From 1909 Gunlayer 1 st Class)	Crossed Guns Star Above and Star Below	Gold on Scarlet, Gold on Blue, Red on Blue, Blue on White

Gunnery Instructor
if also Gunlayer



Gunnery Instructor
if not Gunlayer



Turret Gunlayer
(from 1909 Gunlayer 1st Class)



Gunlayer
(from 1909 Gunlayer 2nd Class)



Turret Sightsetter
(Obsolete in 1909) (replacement)



Gunner



GO 23 in 1909, replaced the Turret Sightsetter badge (Gun Star Above and Star Below Badge) with the Crossed Guns badge, which had versions in Gold on Scarlet, Gold on Blue, Red on Blue, Blue on White.

In 1916 GO 20 stated that Quartermaster-Sergeant Instructors of Gunnery were to become Warrant Officers Class II.

GO 201 in September 1918 introduced Rangetakers badges for wear by qualified ship based Rangetakers.

In February 1919 GO 28 introduced new badges to be worn by Warrant Class II (Quartermaster Sergeant Instructor of Gunnery).

Quartermaster Sergeant Instructor of Gunnery



Example of a Gunnery Instructor who is not a Gunlayer



Example of a Turret Sightsetter



Example of a Turret Gunlayer or after 1909 Gunlayer 1st Class



1920-1929

GO 133 of the 6th September 1921 described the land based Artillery badges worn by the RMA. There were, Layers Badge, Rangetakers Badge and Field Survey Badges.

Artillery Gunlayer



Artillery Rangetaker



Artillery Surveyor 2nd Class



Artillery Surveyor 1st Class



GO 21 of February 1923 listed the current Gunnery qualification badges for the ship-based gunnery:

Qualification	Badge	Type
Gunner's Mate if also Gunlayer 1 st Class	Crossed Guns Crown and Star Above and Star Below	Gold on Scarlet, Gold on Blue, Red on Blue, Blue on White, Khaki on Khaki
Gunner's Mate if not Gunlayer 1 st Class	Crossed Guns Crown and Star Above	Gold on Scarlet, Gold on Blue, Red on Blue, Blue on White, Khaki on Khaki
Gunlayer 1 st Class	Crossed Guns Star Above and Below	Gold on Scarlet, Gold on Blue, Red on Blue, Blue on White, Khaki on Khaki
Gunlayer 2 nd Class	Crossed Guns Star Above	Gold on Scarlet, Gold on Blue, Red on Blue, Blue on White, Khaki on Khaki
Gunlayer 3 rd Class	Crossed Guns	Gold on Scarlet, Gold on Blue, Red on Blue, Blue on White, Khaki on Khaki
Rangetaker 1 st Class	Rangefinder Star Above and Star Below	Gold on Blue, Scarlet on Blue, Khaki on Khaki
Rangetaker 2 nd Class	Rangefinder Star Above	Gold on Blue, Scarlet on Blue, Khaki on Khaki
Rangetaker 3 rd Class	Rangefinder	Gold on Blue, Scarlet on Blue, Khaki on Khaki

**Gunner's Mate
if also Gunlayer 1st Class**



**Gunner's Mate
if not Gunlayer 1st Class**



Gunlayer 1st Class



Gunlayer 2nd Class



Gunlayer 3rd Class



Rangetaker 1st Class



Rangetaker 2nd Class



Rangetaker 3rd Class



GO 24 in 1927 introduced Khaki on Khaki Drill versions for the Gunnery badges except Rangetakers, however in 1928 GO18 described that Khaki on Khaki Drill versions for Rangetakers were also introduced.

In 1926 the RN Clothing etc and Issuing Prices, AFO 1342/26 14/5/1926, listed the Gunner's Mates, Gunlayers 1st and 2nd Class, Seaman Gunners, Rangetakers 1st, 2nd and 3rd Class as active RN Gunnery Rates with gold, red and blue versions of the badges.

On 11/3/1927, AFO 643/27 described that Captain of Gun 1st and 2nd Class replaced Gunlayers 1st and 2nd Class at the turret guns of battleships and battle cruisers. Captain of Gun 1st and 2nd Class were open to Leading Seaman and higher rates, and RM Corporals and Sergeants. The Turret Director Layer and Light Director Layer were replaced by Director Layer 1st and 2nd Class respectively.

AFO 2738/27 4/11/1927 described the new badges for Captain of Gun 1st Class, single gun, with a star above and two stars below and Captain of Gun 2nd Class single gun with a star above and a star below.

Captain of Gun 1st Class



Captain of Gun 2nd Class



Examples of a Gunlayer 1st Class and a Captain of Gun 2nd Class



Example of a Gunner's Mate who is not a Gunlayer



1930-1941

On 14/3/1930 AFO 456/30 introduced the non-substantive rating of Q.G. (Qualified in Gunnery) to the Royal Marines, for Royal Marines ranks below Corporal, which was equivalent of the Royal Navy Seaman Gunner rate. The designation "Q.M." was no longer to be used.

AFO 445/32 19/2/1932, describes the badges of Captains of Gun 1st and 2nd Class, as having three variations; Khaki on Khaki, Khaki on Khaki Drill and Scarlet on Blue. However the Gunlayers 1st and 2nd Class, Gunner's Mates and Rangetakers 1st, 2nd and 3rd Class as only having two variations, Khaki on Khaki, and Khaki on Khaki Drill.

On 20/5/1932 AFO 1217/32 the Gunner's mate badge was changed from crossed guns crown and star above and star below to crossed guns, crown above and star below.

Old Gunner's Mate Badge



New Gunner's Mate Badge



AFO 826/35 4/4/1935 announced a simplification of the Gunnery ratings. The Gunlayer 1st Class rate was to be allowed to die out and there would only be one class for Gunlayers. There was to be an increase in Director Layers to handle the demise of the Gunlayers 1st Class. Also the Rangetaker 3rd Class rate would be abolished. Therefore as result of the simplification AFO 1595/35 4/7/1935 describes the badges worn as the following: Director Layer crossed guns star above and star below, Gunlayer, Crossed guns with star above, Rangetaker 1st Class, rangefinder with star above and star below, and Rangetaker 2nd Class, rangefinder with star above.

Director Layer



Gunlayer



Rangetaker 1st Class



Rangetaker 2nd Class



AFO 1219/38 of 19/5/1938 described the RN Gunnery rates as Captain of Gun 1st and 2nd Class, Gunner's Mate, Director Layer (old Gunlayer 1st Class), Gunlayer, Seaman Gunner (RM Qualified in Gunnery), and Rangetaker 1st and 2nd Class.

On 14/7/1938 AFO 1678/38, the Royal Navy re-organized the Gunnery Ratings. Except for Gunner's Mates and Gunnery Instructors, RM) the following four sections were created:

1. Quarters section – Gun numbers and in charge of guns (except close range A.A. guns), magazines and shell rooms.
2. Layer Section – Gun and director laying and training (except at close-range A.A. equipment)
3. Control Section – Range finding and Control of Fire (except A.A.)
4. Anti-Aircraft Section (Seaman only) – A.A. lookout, loading, laying and training at close-range A.A. equipment, control of A.A. fire.

Each section was divided into three "grades" or classes. The lowest was 3rd Class; the 2nd Class corresponded to Gunlayer and Rangetaker 2nd Class. The 1st Class, Gunner's Mate and Gunnery Instructor RM all had the same grade.

The 1st Class rates, Gunner's Mate, Gunnery Instructors RM, were allowed to be held by Chief and Petty Officers, colour Sergeants and Sergeants, Leading Seaman passed for Petty Officer and Corporals passed for Sergeants. The 2nd Class rates in the Quarters and A.A. Sections may only be held by Able Seaman provided they have passed for Leading Seaman, and in the Quarters Section by Marines provided they have passed for Corporal.

Applicability	New Gunnery Non-Substantive Rates
RN & RM	Quarter Rating 1 st Class (QR1)
RN & RM	Quarter Rating 2 nd Class (QR2)
RN & RM	Quarter Rating 3 rd Class (QR3)
RN & RM	Layer Rating 1 st Class (LR1)
RN & RM	Layer Rating 2 nd Class (LR2)
RN & RM	Layer Rating 3 rd Class (LR3)
RN & RM	Control Rating 1 st Class (CR1)
RN & RM	Control Rating 2 nd Class (CR2)
RN & RM	Control Rating 3 rd Class (CR3)
RN Only	Anti-Aircraft Rating 1 st Class (AA1)
RN Only	Anti-Aircraft Rating 2 nd Class (AA2)
RN Only	Anti-Aircraft Rating 3 rd Class (AA3)

Substantive Rank	Present Gunnery rate	New Gunnery rate
Marine	Qualified in Gunnery	Quarter rating 3 rd Class
	Gunlayer	Provisional Layer rating 2 nd Class
	Rangetaker 2 nd Class	Control Rating 2 nd Class
Marine (Passed for Corporal)	Qualified in Gunnery	Quarters rating 2 nd or 3 rd Class
	Gunlayer	Provisional Layer rating 2 nd Class
	Rangetaker 2 nd Class	Control Rating 2 nd Class
Corporal	Qualified in gunnery	Quarters rating 2 nd or 3 rd Class
	Gunlayer	Provisional Layer rating 2 nd Class
	Gunlayer 1 st Class	-
	Rangetaker 2 nd Class	Control Rating 2 nd Class
	Director Layer	-
	Captain of Gun 2 nd Class	Quarters rating 2 nd Class
Sergeant	Gunlayer	Provisional Layer rating 2 nd Class
	Gunlayer 1 st Class	-
	Rangetaker 1 st class	-
	Rangetaker 2 nd Class	Control Rating 2 nd Class
	Director Layer	-
	Captain of Gun 1st Class	Quarters rating 1st Class
	Captain of Gun 2 nd Class	Quarters rating 2 nd Class
Colour Sergeant	Gunlayer	Provisional Layer rating 2 nd Class
	Gunlayer 1 st Class	-
	Rangetaker 2 nd class	Control Rating 2 nd Class

As a result of AFO 1678/38 and RM Circular 367/38.Q of the 6th January 1939, describes the three main categories (Quarter, Layer and Control Rating) of RN gunnery badges to be worn by Royal Marines. Even though AFO 1678/38 defines that a Layer Rating 1st Class is a qualification for Royal Marines RM Circular 376/38.Q does not mention a badge being issued for wear by the Royal Marines.

The badges described in the RM Circular are:

Quarter Rating:



QR1



QR2



QR3

Layer Rating:



No LR1 Rating



LR2



LR3

Control Rating:



CR1



CR2



CR3

RM Circular 367/38.Q also states that Gunnery Instructors would continue to wear their existing badges, but there doesn't appear to be any references as to the description of the badge. Typically Gunnery Instructors were shore based, as the title suggests performed instruction on various RN gunnery specializations.

AFO 876/39 30/3/1939 describes that the Quarters Rating, Layer Ratings, Control rating and Anti-Aircraft Ratings have Gold, Red and Blue variations.

AFO 2227/41 22/5/1941 Clothing Allowance continues to describe Royal Navy badges for Director Layer (old Gunlayer 1st Class) and Rangefinder 1st Class.

AFO 3297/41 31/7/1941 defines that the Gunlayer badge (Crossed guns with star above) is now obsolete.

1943-1950

On 15 July 1943, AFO 3210/43, described the Quarters Rating 2nd Class and 3rd Class badges were to be incorporated with the letters D.E.M.S. (Defensively Equipped Merchant Ships) for wear by D.E.M.S. rating qualified as Acting Gunlayers and Acting Seaman gunners respectively. The Acting Gunlayer D.E.M.S. badge was Crossed guns with star above with letter Q and latter DEMS below, and the Acting Seaman Gunner D.E.M.S Single Gun with star above and letter Q and letters DEMS below. Both badges were issues in Red and blue, AFO 5523/43, 18/11/1943.

Acting Gunlayer D.E.M.S.



Acting Seaman Gunner D.E.M.S.



On 21/10/1943, AFO 4936/43 Anti-Aircraft Non-Substantive rates were introduced for Royal Marines. AFO 3815/44, 20/7/1944 confirmed the Royal Marines rates were for AA1 and AA2.

Anti-Aircraft



AA1



AA2



AFO 7155/46, 13/12/1946 indicated that as the new Gunnery rates are in place Royal Marine Rangetaker rate is to die out and be replaced by Royal Marine Control Ratings.

On 9/1/1948, AFO 120/48 the Quarters Armourer specialisation was introduced for the Seaman Branch and Royal Marines. The role of the Quarter Armourer's was specially trained in the maintenance of gunnery equipment. The badge for Quarter's Armourer was that same other Gunnery ratings, but with the letters "QA" beneath. Also the Quarters Armourer's have the classed 1st, 2nd and 3rd.

Quarter Armourer:



QA1



QA2



QA3

RMRO 48/49 of 28th January 1949 mentions the urgent need for volunteers for gunnery courses; Quarters Rating 1 and 2, Layer Rating 2 and 3, Quarters Armourer 2 and 3 and Anti-Aircraft 1, 2 and 3. This confirms the announcement of the Anti-Aircraft non-substantive rate (AFO 4936/43) and Quarters Armourer rate (AFO

120/48) being available to Royal Marines. However, it also indicates that the Anti-Aircraft 3rd Class rate was now available to Royal Marines which it was not as of AFO 4936/43.

Anti-Aircraft 3rd Class



AA3

1950-1960

On 28/9/1950, AFO 2847/50 and on 6/7/1951, AFO 2303/51 the Royal Navy instituted the specialist qualification of Control Armourer and the amalgamation of the Anti-Aircraft and Layer Rating specialist qualifications. The Control Armourer qualification had three classes 1st (CA1), 2nd (CA2) and 3rd (CA3). The role of a Control Armourer was instituted in order to meet their requirements for the maintenance of modern fire control equipment.

Also the Anti-Aircraft and Layer Rating specialist qualifications were amalgamated to become the Gunlayer (GL) specialist qualification.

The AFO 3012/51 31/8/1951 indicated that the distinguishing letters on badges for Gunlayer and Control Armourer would be "L" and "CA" respectively, and the normal crossed guns and Crown and star to denote class of specialization.

The AFO 2573/51 27/7/1951 listed the naval gunnery ratings. This was the introduction of classifying badges by the five-digit vocabulary (Vocab.) number rather than the Pattern number (N.nn). The first two digits of the vocab number indicate colour: 31-gold, 32-red, 33-Blue, and 34-Gold for wear by CPO's on cuff of white uniform.

The following examples illustrate the arrangement of the complete vocabulary numbers: -

Gunnery Instructors:

• C.P.O.	Gold in pairs for blue uniform	31012
• C.P.O.	Red in pairs for blue uniform	32012
• C.P.O.	Blue in pairs for blue uniform	33012
• C.P.O.	Gold, single for white uniform	34012
• P.O. or Leading Rate	Gold, single for white uniform	31013
• P.O. or Leading Rate	Red, single for white uniform	32013
• P.O. or Leading Rate	Blue, single for white uniform	33013

The last three digits indicate the rating from which the badge is for.

Rank	Last three digits of Vocab Number
Gunnery Instructor-CPO	012
Gunnery Instructor-PO or Leading Rate	013
Quarter Rating 1 st Class-CPO	014
Quarter Rating 2 nd Class-CPO	015
Quarter Rating 1 st Class-PO or LR	016
Quarter Rating 2 nd Class	017
Quarter Rating 3 rd Class	018
Gun Layer Rating 1 st Class-CPO	019
Gun Layer Rating 2 nd Class-CPO	020
Gun Layer Rating 1 st Class-PO or LR	021
Gun Layer Rating 2 nd Class	022
Gun layer Rating 3 rd Class	023
Control Rating 1 st Class-CPO	024
Control Rating 2 nd Class-CPO	025
Control Rating 1 st Class-PO or LR	026
Control Rating 2 nd Class	027
Control Rating 3 rd Class	028
Anti-Aircraft Rating 1 st Class-CPO	029
Anti-Aircraft Rating 2 nd Class-CPO	030
Anti-Aircraft Rating 1 st Class-PO or LR	031

Anti-Aircraft Rating 2 nd Class	032
Anti-Aircraft Rating 3 rd Class	033
Radar Control Rating 1 st Class-CPO	034
Radar Control Rating 2 nd Class-CPO	035
Radar Control Rating 1 st Class-PO or LR	036
Radar Control Rating 2 nd Class	037
Radar Control Rating 3 rd Class	038
Control Armourer Rating 1 st Class-CPO	039
Control Armourer Rating 2 nd Class-CPO	040
Control Armourer Rating 1 st Class-PO or LR	041
Control Armourer Rating 2 nd Class	042
Control Armourer Rating 3 rd Class	043
Quarters Armourer Rating 1 st Class-CPO	044
Quarters Armourer Rating 2 nd Class-CPO	045
Quarters Armourer Rating 1 st Class-PO or LR	046
Quarters Armourer Rating 2 nd Class	047
Quarters Armourer Rating 3 rd Class	048

Gunnery badges only worn by the Royal Navy:

**Radar Control Rating 1st Class
(CPO with 2nd Class Qualification)**

Gunnery Instructor



The Admiralty Uniform and Clothing Minutes (AUCC 43/54) of June 1954, Appendix "Comprehensive List of Specialist Qualification Badges etc necessary for Royal Marines" listed the following RN gunnery badges worn by the Royal Marines. Also this document lists there were Khaki and Khaki Drill versions of the RN Gunnery badges.

AFO 2550/55, published in 1955 provided Vocab numbers of all the RN gunnery badges worn by the Royal Marines.

Gunnery Instructor:



Vocab No. 32013



Vocab No. 87013



Vocab No. 86013



Vocab No. 31013

Quarter Rating:



1st Class Vocab No. 32016
Khaki – Vocab No. 86016
Khaki drill – Vocab No. 87016



Vocab No. 31016



2nd Class Vocab No. 32017
Khaki – Vocab No. 86017
Khaki drill – Vocab No. 87017



Vocab No. 31017



3rd Class Vocab No. 32018
Gold – Vocab No. 31018



Vocab No. 86018



Vocab No. 87018

GunLayer:



1st Class Vocab No. 32021
Gold – Vocab No. 31021
Khaki – Vocab No. 86021
Khaki drill – Vocab No. 87021



2nd Class Vocab No. 32022
Gold – Vocab No. 31022
Khaki – Vocab No. 86022
Khaki drill – Vocab No. 87022



3rd Class Vocab No. 32023



Vocab No. 86023

Gold – Vocab No. 31023

Khaki drill – Vocab No. 87023

Quarters Armourer 1st Class



Vocab No. 32046



Vocab No. 31046



Vocab No. 86046

Quarters Armourer 2nd Class



Vocab No. 32047



Vocab No. 87047



Vocab No. 31047

Quarters Armourer 3rd Class



Vocab No. 32048

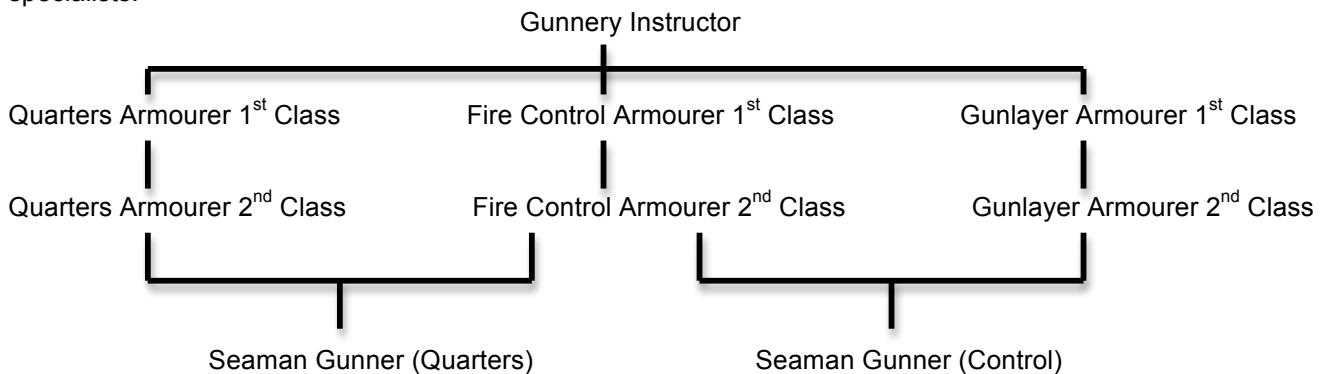


Vocab No. 87048

Gold – Vocab No. 31048

Khaki – Vocab No. 86048

AFO 1094/56, 27/4/1956 introduced a new structure of qualifications and badges for Royal Navy Gunnery specialists:



The following qualifications were changed:

Original Rating	New Rating
Gunnery Instructor (GI),	Remained the same
Quarters Armourer 1 st Class (QA1)	Remained the same
Quarters Armourer 2 nd Class (QA2)	Remained the same
Quarters Armourer 3 rd Class (QA3)	Quarters Armourer 2 nd Class (QA2)
Quarters Rating 1 st Class (QR1)	Quarters Armourer 1 st Class (QA1)
Quarters Rating 2 nd Class (QR2)	Quarters Armourer 2 nd Class (QA2)
Quarters Rating 3 rd Class (QR3)	Seaman Gunner (Quarters) Star
Gunlayer 1 st Class (GL1)	Quarters Armourer 1 st Class (QA1)
Gunlayer 2 nd Class (GL2)	Quarters Armourer 2 nd Class (QA2)
Gunlayer 3 rd Class (GL3)	Seaman Gunner (Control) Star
Control Armourer 1 st Class (CA1)	Fire Control Armourer 1 st Class (FC1)
Control Armourer 2 nd Class (CA2)	Fire Control Armourer 2 nd Class (FC2)
Control Armourer 3 rd Class (CA3)	Fire Control Armourer 2 nd Class (FC2)
Radar Control 1 st Class (RC1)	Fire Control Armourer 1 st Class (FC1)
Radar Control 2 nd Class (RC2)	Fire Control Armourer 2 nd Class (FC2)
Radar Control 3 rd Class (RC3)	Seaman Gunner (Control) Star
Layer Rating 1 st Class (LR1)	Gunlayer Armourer 1 st Class (GA1)
Layer Rating 2 nd Class (LR2)	Gunlayer Armourer 2 nd Class (GA2)
Layer Rating 3 rd Class (LR3)	Seaman Gunner (Control) Star
Anti-Aircraft 1 st Class (AA1)	Gunlayer Armourer 1 st Class (GA1)
Anti-Aircraft 2 nd Class (AA2)	Gunlayer Armourer 2 nd Class (GA2)
Anti-Aircraft 3 rd Class (AA3)	Seaman Gunner (Control) Star
Control Rating 1 st Class (CR1)	Fire Control 1 st Class (FC1)
Control Rating 2 nd Class (CR2)	Fire Control 2 nd Class (FC2)
Control Rating 3 rd Class (CR3)	Seaman Gunner (Control) Star

Gunnery badges only worn by the Royal Navy:

File Control Armourer 1st Class
(CPO with 1st Class Qualification)

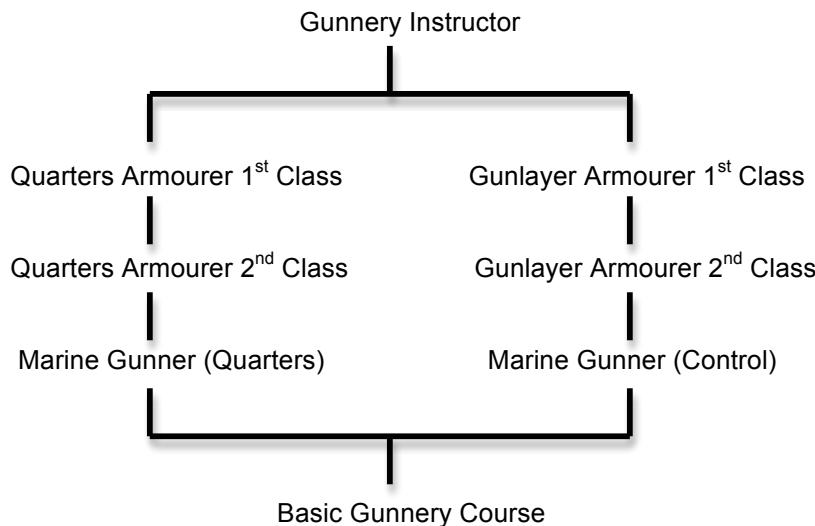


Fire Control Armourer 2nd Class



AFO 1231/56, 11/5/1956, AFO 530 1/3/1957 and RMRO 330/56 describes the new Royal Marine Gunnery badges.

The revised structure for Royal Marines Gunnery specialization was as follows:



The Marine Gunner (Quarters) M.G.(Q) and (Control) M.G.(C) was the equivalent of the Royal Navy specializations Seaman Gunner (Quarters) and (Control). The 'star' was added in same manner as Seaman Gunners, described in AFO 472/56, 24/2/1956. On successfully completing the Basic S.Q. Course at the Specialist School the New Entry trainee was awarded the appropriate S.Q. badge consisting of the basic badge of the Branch only. The Marine at this stage will have little if any experience of their S.Q. duties, and will usually less skilled than the present marine with a 3rd Class S.Q. Accordingly, nine months after completing the Basic S.Q. Course, the basic trained Marine will be examined by the ship's or squadron's Officers in the specialist proficiency and, if the Commanding Officer is then satisfied that the Marine is competent to carry out the duties of the S.Q., the Marine will be awarded a star to the Basic S.Q. badge. This event was known as "starring".

Royal Marines could not be qualified or employed as Fire Control Armourers.

Quarters Armourer's and Marine Gunner (Quarters) were responsible for the operation and mechanical maintenance of guns and mountings 3 inch and above.

Gunlayer Armourer's and Marine Gunner (Control) were responsible for the operation and mechanical maintenance of guns and mountings below 3 inch and all gun directors.

AFO 530/57, 1/3/1957 details that the Gunlayer Armourer (1st & 2nd Class) and Marine Gunner (Q & star and C & star) badges are available.

Gunnery Instructor:



Vocab No. 32013

Gold – Vocab No. 31013

Khaki – Vocab No. 86013

Khaki drill – Vocab No. 87013

Marine Gunner (C) Star



Vocab No. 32028 Vocab No. 31028 Vocab No. 87028
Khaki – Vocab No. 86028



Marine Gunner (C) Basic



Vocab No. 32052 Vocab No. 86052
Gold – Vocab No. 31052
Khaki drill – Vocab No. 87052



Marine Gunner (Q) Star



Vocab No. 32018 Vocab No. 31018 Vocab No. 86018
Khaki drill – Vocab No. 87018



Marine Gunner (Q) Basic



Vocab No. 32055 Vocab No. 31055
Khaki – Vocab No. 86055
Khaki drill – Vocab No. 87055



Gunlayer Armourer 1st Class



Vocab No. 32392 Vocab No. 87392
Gold – Vocab No. 31392
Khaki – Vocab No. 86392



Gunlayer Armourer 2nd Class



Vocab No. 32393 Vocab No. 31393
Khaki – Vocab No. 86393
Khaki drill – Vocab No. 87393



Quarters Armourer 1st Class



Vocab No. 32046 Vocab No. 31046 Vocab No. 86046
Khaki drill – Vocab No. 87046



Quarters Armourer 2nd Class



Vocab No. 32047 Vocab No. 87047 Vocab No. 31047
Khaki – Vocab No. 86047



RMRO 199/58 and RMRO 200/58, 16/6/1958 and AFO 1506/58, 20/6/1958 detailed that "No new RM Gunnery SQ's will be trained". Also, "RM manned Quarters will be retained as long as possible by making use of the existing RM Gunnery Branch".

1961-1974

AFO 1363/61, 23/6/1961 indicated the Marine Gunner (C) and Marine Gunner (Q) have been combined into a single course giving the specialist qualification of Marine Gunner (MG). Marines qualifying in the future as Marine Gunner's are to wear the badge worn by present Marine Gunners (Q), the letter indicating "Qualified" instead of "Quarters".

RMRO 121/61, 21/4/1961, discontinued the Marine Gunner MG(C) and MG(Q) qualifications and introduced the Marine Gunner (MG) qualification. AFO 2316/62, 30/11/1962, describes the two new Gunnery badges which were introduced, with letters 'C' and 'Q" removed.

Marine Gunner, Star



Vocab No. 32109
Gold – Vocab No. 31019
Khaki – Vocab No. 86019
Khaki drill – Vocab No. 87019

Marine Gunner



Vocab No.32053 Vocab No. 31053 Vocab No. 86053
Khaki drill – Vocab No. 87053



AFO 595/63, 29/3/1963 new pattern of RN Gunnery badges:

CPO	Gold Vocab No.	Red Vocab No.	Blue Printed Vocab No.	Blue Embroidered Vocab No.
Quarters Rating 1 st Class (QR1)	31029	32029	33029	30029
Quarters Rating 2 nd Class (QR2)	31030	32030	33030	30030
Gunlayer 1 st Class (GL1)	31034	32034	33034	30034
Gunlayer 2 nd Class (GL2)	31035	32035	33035	30035
PO				
Quarters Rating 1 st Class (QR1)	31031	32031	33031	30031
Quarters Rating 2 nd Class (QR2)	31032	32032	33032	30032
Gunlayer 1 st Class (GL1)	31036	32036	33036	30036
Gunlayer 2 nd Class (GL2)	31037	32037	33037	30037

With the introduction of Lovat Uniform BR 1246 of 1971, described the Gold on Green versions of the RN Gunnery badges to be worn by Royal Marines. The Khaki and Khaki Drill versions were discontinued.

Rating	Gold on Green Vocab No.	Red Vocab No.
Gunnery Instructor	39013	32013
Gunlayer Armourer 1 st Class	39392	32392
Gunlayer Armourer 2 nd Class	39393	32393
Marine Gunner Star	39019	32019
Marine Gunner Basic	39053	32053
Quarters Armourer 1 st Class	39046	32046
Quarters Armourer 2nd Class	39047	32047

Gunnery Instructor



Vocab No. 39013

It is unclear when the RM Gunnery badges were discontinued in official documentation, but they were not mentioned in the 1976 RM Dress regulations amendment.

Gunnery badges introduced in 1962 but only worn by the Royal Navy:

Gunlayer 1st Class
(CPO with 1st Class Qualification)



Quarter Rating 1st Class
(CPO without 1st Class Qualification)



Quarter Rating 2nd Class



REFERENCES IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER

- GO 30, April 1890 – Clothing Prices
- GO 22, May 1891 – Clothing Prices
- GO 41, August 1892 – Clothing Prices
- GO 79, 1892 – Clothing Prices
- GO 32, May 1893 – Clothing Prices
- GO 40, May 1894 – Clothing Prices
- GO 56, 1895 – Clothing Prices
- GO 39, 1896 – Clothing Prices
- GO 27, 1897 – Clothing Prices
- GO 63, July 1897 - Arm Badges for Gunnery Instructors
- GO 31, 1898 – Clothing Prices
- GO 19, 1899 – Clothing Prices
- GO 51 August 1899 - 1st Sergeant Instructors to be Termed Quartermaster-Sergeant Instructors
- GO 40, 1900 – Clothing Prices
- GO 47, March 1901 – Clothing Prices
- GO 39, 1902 – Clothing Prices
- GO 29, 1903 – Clothing Prices
- GO 28, 1904 – Clothing Prices
- GO 27, March 1905 - Issue, &c., Distinguishing Badges, Gunnery and Gymnastic, to Royal Marines
- GO 28, March 1905 – Clothing Prices
- GO 24, 1906 – Clothing Prices
- GO 33, 1907 – Clothing Prices
- GO 24, March 1908 – Clothing Prices
- GO 23, 1909 – Clothing Prices
- GO 28, March 1910 – Clothing Prices
- GO 31, 1911 – Clothing Prices
- GO 35, 1912 – Clothing Prices
- GO 27, 1913 – Clothing Prices
- GO 22, 1914 – Clothing Prices
- GO 20, 1915 – Clothing Prices
- GO 20, 1916 - Warrant Officers, Classes I & II Royal Marines
- GO 43, 1916 – Clothing Prices
- GO 59, March 1917 – Clothing Prices
- GO 67, March 1918 – Clothing Prices
- GO 201, September 1918 - Badges for wear by Qualified Rangetakers
- GO 28, February 1919 - Badges to be Worn by Warrant Officers
- GO 58, March 1919 – Clothing Prices
- GO 54, March 1920 – Clothing Prices
- GO 133, 6/9/1921 - Artillery Badges
- GO 29, March 1922 – Clothing Prices
- GO 21, February 1923 – Clothing Prices
- GO 19, 1924 – Clothing Prices
- GO 20, February 1925 – Clothing Prices
- GO 26, 1926 – Clothing Prices
- AFO 1342/26, 14/5/1926 - RN Clothing etc and Issuing Prices, Kit Upkeep, Allowances and Clothing Gratuities-Revision
- GO 24, 1927 – Clothing Prices
- AFO 643/27, 11/3/1927 – Gunnery Non-substantive Ratings-Revised Arrangements
- AFO 2738/27, 4/11/1927 – Badges for New Gunnery Non-substantive Ratings
- GO18 ,1928 – Clothing Prices
- AFO 456/30, 14/3/1930 – Royal Marines-Institution of New Gunnery Non-Substantive Rating “Q.G.” (Qualified in Gunnery)

- AFO 445/32, 19/2/1932 – R.M. Clothing, , Appointments, etc- Issuing Prices
- AFO 1217/32, 20/5/1932 – Kits and Uniform of Naval Ratings
- AFO 361/33, 10/2/1933 – R.M. Clothing, Appointments, etc-Issuing Prices
- AFO 826/35, 4/4/1935 – Gunnery Ratings-Simplification
- AFO 1595/35, 4/7/1935 – Badges-Gunnery Ratings
- AFO 1219/38, 19/5/1938 – Clothing, Soap and Tobacco, Issuing Prices, Kit Upkeep Allowances. Clothing and Allowances-Annual Revision
- AFO 1678/38, 14/7/1938 – Gunnery Ratings – Reorganization- Revised Rates of Pay-Report
- RM Circular 367/38.Q, 6/1/1939 - Re-organization of Gunnery non-Substantive Ratings – Approved New Badges
- RM Circular 367/38.Q, 28/7/1939 – New Gunnery Badges – Sealed Patterns
- AFO 876/39, 30/3/1939 – Badges for Gunnery Ratings
- AFO 2227/41, 22/5/1941 – Clothing, Soap and Tobacco, Issuing Prices, Kit Upkeep Allowances. Clothing and Allowances-Annual Revision
- AFO 3297/41, 31/7/1941 – Gunnery Badges
- AFO 3210/43, 15/7/1943 – D.E.M.S Gunnery Ratings-Badges
- AFO 4936/43, 21/10/1943 – Royal Marines-Institution of A.A. Non-Substantive Rates
- AFO 5523/43, 18/11/1943 – Badges-D.E.M.S. Gunnery Ratings
- AFO 3815/44, 20/7/1944 – Royal Marine-Qualification for A.A. Non-substantive Ratings
- AFO 7155/46, 13/12/1946 – Royal Marine Rangetakers
- AFO 120/48, 9/1/1948 – Quarters Armourers-Institution as a Specialization in the Seaman Branch and Royal Marines
- RMRO 48/49, 28/1/1949 - Royal Marine Ranks Qualifying for Part II Gunnery Specialist Qualifications
- AFO 2847/50, 28/9/1950 – Ratings-Institution of the Specialist Qualification of Control Armourer and Amalgamation of the Anti-Aircraft and Layer Rating Specialist Qualification
- AFO 2303/51, 6/7/1951 – Ratings-Specialist Qualification-Control Armourer
- AFO 2573/51, 27/7/1951 – Uniform-Badges-Naval Ratings
- AFO 3012/51, 31/8/1951 – Uniform-Badges-Changes in Gunnery Branch
- AFO 3645/52, 5/12/1952 – Uniform-Gold Badges
- Admiralty Uniform and Clothing Committee Minutes (AUCC 43/54), June 1954 - Appendix "Comprehensive List of Specialist Qualification Badges etc
- AFO 2550/55, 23/9/1955 – Uniform-Royal Marines-Badges
- AFO 472/56, 24/2/1956 – Ratings – Seaman Branch – Training in Basic Specialist Qualifications Immediately after New Entry Training
- AFO 1094/56, 27/4/1956 – Ratings – Seaman Branch – Introduction of New Structure of Gunnery Specialist Qualifications
- AFO 1231/56, 11/5/1956 – Royal Marines – Introduction of New Structure of Gunnery Specialist Qualification
- RMRO 330/56 - Introduction of New Structure of Gunnery Specialist Qualifications
- RMRO 428/56 – Revised System of Gunnery Training
- AFO 530/57, 1/3/1957 - Uniform-Badges-Royal Marines-Gunnery Specialist Qualifications
- AFO 531/57 ,1/3/1957 - Uniform- Badges- Seaman Branch Ratings, Gunnery, T.A.S. and R.P. Specialist Qualifications
- RMRO 199/58, 14/6/1958 - Royal Marine Gunnery SQs – Future Policy
- RMRO 200/58, 14/6/1958 - Gunnery SQ's – Re-Training in Other Branches
- AFO 1506/58, 20/6/1958 - Royal Marines Gunnery SQs-Future Policy
- AFO 1363/61, 23/6/1961 - Uniform-Badges-Royal Marine-Gunnery Specialist Qualifications
- RMRO 121/61, 21/4/1961 – Gunnery Specialist Qualification
- AFO 2316/62, 30/11/1962 - Uniform-Badges-Ratings and Royal Marines – Gunnery Specializations
- AFO 595/63, 29/3/1963 – Uniform-Ratings-Gunnery and T.A.S. Seaman Rating-Badges
- BR 1246, 1971 – RM Dress regulations
- "Badges and Insignia of the British Armed Services" by W.E. May