

199 ROYAL MARINE GUNNERY SQs—FUTURE POLICY

Owing to the reduction in the requirement for Royal Marines detachments at sea, both in number and in strength, it would be uneconomical for the Corps to continue to provide gunnery rates.

It has therefore been decided that :—

- (a) No new RM gunnery SQ's will be trained.
- (b) RM manned Quarters will be retained as long as possible by making use of the existing RM Gunnery Branch, and thereafter with assistance from higher gunnery ratings of the Royal Navy.
- (c) Royal Marines will continue to undergo basic gunnery training for as long as Seamen continue to carry out basic training (i.e. qualification as SG(Q) or (C)) ashore. Thereafter detachments forming for service at sea will be trained in gunnery in the same way as the Seamen, during commissioning training.
- (d) The regular recruits' course will continue to include seamanship training so that any detachment of which they form a part will be capable of taking its share in the communal duties of the ship.