

1059.—Naval Observers—Specialist Duties.

(C.W. 3850/24.—25.4.1924.)

It has been decided that, in future, all air observation duties for the Fleet, including gunnery, spotting and air reconnaissance, is to be carried out by Naval Observers.

2. Naval Observer Officers will not be "attached" to the Royal Air Force, as in the case of the Naval Officers to be employed as pilots and on other Naval air work, referred to in A.F.O. 1058/24, and their pay and conditions of service will continue on the same lines as at present, with the exception that, whereas Naval Observers have hitherto been employed on air "spotting" duties only and air reconnaissance duties have been performed by R.A.F. Officers, in future, there will be only one type of observer who will be a Naval Officer trained in both gunnery, spotting and air reconnaissance work, either of which duties he will be qualified to perform and may be called upon to carry out as he may be directed.

3. These arrangements will probably necessitate some slight modification and possibly extension of the Observers' Course as laid down in A.F.O. 3182/23, the details of which are now under consideration. The question of what further training, if any, will be required to be given to the existing Naval Observers, in order fully to qualify them for the combined duties referred to, is also under consideration.

(A.F.O.s 3182/23 and 1058/24.)