

1068.—Rangetakers.

(N. 60813/18.—28.3.1918.)

The following grades of Rangetakers have been instituted with the non-substantive rates of pay shewn:—

Rangetaker, 1st class	—	—	—	—	—	—	8d. a day.
Rangetaker, 2nd class	—	—	—	—	—	—	6d. a day.
Rangetaker, 3rd class	—	—	—	—	—	—	2d. a day.

2. Distribution of Rangetakers I, II and III.

- Rangetaker I.—One to every four, or part of four, Rangefinders of two metre base and above carried on board, provided that not less than four such Rangefinders are carried.
- Rangetaker II.—One to every Rangefinder of two metre base and above carried on board for which a Rangetaker I is not allowed.
- Rangetaker III.—One to every Rangefinder below two metre base carried on board.

Note.—Sextant type Rangefinders are not to be included in calculating distribution as above.

3. Ratings eligible:—

- The rating of Rangetaker, 1st class, is open to Leading Seamen and all higher ratings holding the non-substantive Gunnery rating of G.M. (other), S.G. or P.O. (G).
- The rating of Rangetaker, 2nd class, is open to A.B.'s and all higher ratings holding the non-substantive gunnery rating of S.G. or P.O. (G).
- The rating of Rangetaker, 3rd class, is open to Ordinary Seamen and all higher Seaman ratings.
- Rangetaker ratings are also open to Royal Marines of equivalent substantive rank.
- Rangetaker ratings cannot be held with the non-substantive rating of Gunlayer or any non-substantive Torpedo rating.

(The fact of a man being qualified as Rangetaker is not, however, to stand in the way of his qualifying for advancement to any of the higher Gunnery Rates.)

4. The qualifications for Rangetakers are as follows:—

- Rangetaker I.*—Three years' experience as a Rangetaker in Ships at Sea. To have a thorough knowledge of all types of instruments in the Service including the principle and use of all internal parts, and a knowledge of all errors and their effects. To be a capable instructor of Rangetakers and to be able to supervise all Rangefinder adjustments.
- Rangetaker II.*—Two years' experience as a Rangetaker or one year's experience as Rangetaker III (new) in Ships at sea. To be thoroughly efficient as a Rangetaker. To have a practical working knowledge of all Rangefinders omitting theoretical considerations. To be capable of making adjustments for "halving" and "coincidence" and of care and manipulation of Rangefinders.
- Rangetaker III.*—As for Rangetaker II applied to Rangefinders below two metre base.

5. All men selected for Rangetaker must, before being rated, pass a rigorous eyesight test, and all Rangetakers are to have their eyesight tested annually in order to see whether they are fit to retain the rating and to enable any defects to be corrected. A notation that the test has been carried out is to be inserted on their Gunnery History Sheet together with the remarks of the Medical Officer upon any abnormalities.

6. Authority to grant rating and conditions under which it may be granted.

(a) During the period of the war the acting rating of Rangetaker, 1st class, and Rangetaker, 2nd class, may be given afloat by the Commanding Officer to fill vacancies in complement to men with the qualifications laid down in paragraph 4 (a) and (b) after examination by a qualified Gunnery Officer.

The confirmed rating will be given to men with the necessary qualifications who have undergone the prescribed courses in the Gunnery School. In cases where circumstances do not permit the return of men for these courses it may be given by Flag Officers Commanding Squadrons in the Grand Fleet, Third Battle Squadron, British Adriatic Squadron and Aegean Squadron to men who have held the acting rating for 3 months to the satisfaction of their Commanding Officers and are found in all respects fit to carry out the duties of the rating.

(b) The rating of Rangetaker III may be given by C.O. as vacancies in complement occur after examination by a qualified Gunnery Officer.

7. *Transfer of Rangetakers (old).*

Subject to the conditions mentioned in paragraph 3 as to substantive and non-substantive rating, paragraph 4 as to qualifications, and class of instrument upon which they are employed.

(a) Rangetakers, 1st class (old), now afloat who have the qualifications shewn in paragraph 3 and 4 may be given the rating and pay of Acting Rangetaker, 1st class, up to the number allowed in complement under paragraph 2, as from the date of this order.

(b) Rangetakers, 1st class (old), now carrying out the duties afloat may if qualified for transfer become Acting Rangetakers, 2nd class (new), with pay as such as from the date of this Order. Rangetakers, 1st class (old), not qualified for transfer to Acting Rangetakers, 2nd class (new), under the above conditions may until further orders retain their present rating and pay pending qualification for transfer and should be shewn on Ledgers and pay documents as R.T., 1st class (O.S.), 4d.

(c) Rangetakers, 2nd class (old), now afloat are to become Rangetakers, 3rd class (new), as from the date of this Order, their service as Rangetaker being, however, allowed to reckon as from the date on which they were rated Rangetaker, 2nd class (old).

(M.O. 1062/17 is cancelled.)

(This Order will be included in the May M.O.'s.)