

1679.—Control Rating, 1st Class—Selection of Candidates— REPORT

(N./T.S.D. 5/38/G.—14.7.1938.)

With reference to A.F.O. 1678/38 notifying the changes in the organisation of Gunnery personnel, an early step in the reorganisation is the selection and training of candidates for the non-substantive rate of Control Rating, 1st Class (C.R.1). Those ratings will be required to carry out the duties of spotter and ratekeeper, and Their Lordships attach great importance to their successful selection and employment.

Qualified C.R.1.s will be eligible to become Gunners' Mates.

2. Candidates must possess the following qualifications:—

- (i) Chief or Petty Officer or Leading Seaman passed for P.O.
- (ii) Present non-substantive rate of Rangetaker, Gunlayer or Director Layer.
- (iii) More than three years still to serve before completing time for pension.
- (iv) Eyesight standard as for gunlayers on re-qualifying.

3. For the early courses the most convenient field of selection is from Petty Officers holding the non-substantive rate of R.T.1, R.T.2, G.L., G.L.1 or G.L.2. All Petty Officers with these non-substantive rates who have the necessary time and eyesight qualifications are to be reported on as indicated in paragraph 7 below.

4. In addition, Director Layers, whether Chief or Petty Officers, and Chief Petty Officers holding the rates of Gunlayer or Rangetaker, if volunteering and eligible and recommended may also be included in the report referred to in paragraph 7 below.

5. Petty Officers (G) and Leading Seamen (passed for Petty Officer), Seaman Gunners, who still have more than two years of their first engagement to serve, may be recommended if they volunteer and have the necessary eyesight qualification.

6. Leading Seamen without a non-substantive rate who are otherwise eligible and who volunteer may also be included in this report if *highly* recommended.

7. A special return on men referred to in paragraphs 3, 4, 5 and 6 above is to be rendered on Form S.1303 by all ships and establishments on receipt of this order, which should be quoted on the form.

Candidates are to be classified as—

- (a) Highly recommended.
- (b) Recommended.
- (c) Not assessed (*see note*).

It is to be stated whether or not men are volunteers.

Note.—"Not assessed" applies to Petty Officers under paragraph 3 above. It carries no reflection on the man's ability, as the reason he is not recommended may be that he is considered more suitable for another 1st class rate.

8. The qualifying course is of 37 days' duration.

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9. Sergeants and Corporals (passed for Sergeant) are eligible for C.R.1 if qualified under paragraph 2 (ii), (iii) and (iv) above, and a special report on Form S.1303 is to be rendered on the lines of paragraph 7 above.

10. Sergeants and Corporals (passed for Sergeant), holding no higher gunnery non-substantive rate, who still have more than two years of their first engagement to serve, may be recommended if they volunteer and have the necessary eyesight qualification.

11. Colour Sergeants are not eligible to qualify for C.R.1.