

In order to meet the requirements for the maintenance of modern fire control equipment it has been decided, as announced in A.F.O. 2847/50 (*Ratings—Institution of the Specialist Qualification of Control Armourer and Amalgamation of the Anti-Aircraft and Layer Rating Specialist Qualifications*), to introduce a new specialist qualification applicable to seamen to be known as the "Control Armourer"—(C.A.).

2. The following paragraphs, which are designed to replace paragraphs 3 to 9 of A.F.O. 2847/50, give further details of the duties and qualifications of, and transfers to, this new category of Seamen,

3. Besides fulfilling the duties in action of Radar Control and certain Quarters Armourer ratings the Control Armourer will be trained to acquire the additional knowledge necessary to carry out operational tests of equipment that would otherwise have to be done by more skilled ratings.

4. There will be three classes—C.A.1, C.A.2 and C.A.3. Advancement from C.A.2 and C.A.3 may be either to C.A.1 and C.A.2 respectively or to R.C.1 and R.C.2 respectively, depending on the requirements of the Service and technical abilities of the ratings concerned.

5. C.A. ratings will be eligible to qualify for Gunnery Instructor. Opportunity for promotion to Branch and Commissioned rank will be under the same conditions as for other seamen.

6. *Duties.*—The duties to be carried out by the Control Armourer will, as regards the mechanical part of fire control equipment, be similar to those of a Quarters Armourer as regards guns and mountings. In addition they will necessitate a basic electrical knowledge and may be summarized as follows:—

- (a) Assistance to artificers employed in fire control duties in care and maintenance, both at gunnery quarters and in the workshop. Preparation and replacement of equipment which does not require a high degree of skill.
- (b) Carrying out routine performance checks of equipment from an operational point of view.
- (c) Locating and making good simple defects. Adjustment of certain fire control instruments.
- (d) Assisting the officer responsible in the custody, accounting and maintenance of fire control stores and spare gear.
- (e) Cleanliness of equipment in associated quarters.

7. By undertaking these duties the Control Armourer will replace those Quarters Armourers who have hitherto been employed on Fire Control duties, together with a number of R.C. Ratings.

8. At Action Stations Control Armourers will be stationed, as far as circumstances permit, at Fire Control installations and Gunnery Radar sets. Their action duties will be laid down in B.R. 632A/45 (*Gunnery Training Manual, Vol. I*) and they will replace a number of Q.A. and R.C. ratings on the Quarter Bill.

9. *Complements.*—Full details of the amendments to Schemes of Complement resulting from the introduction of the Control Armourer will be promulgated in due course.

10. *Badges.*—The badge of the Control Armourer will be the same as that of other gunnery ratings, but with the letters "C.A." underneath.

11. *Qualifications and syllabuses.*—Qualifications and training syllabuses for Control Armourers will be contained in B.R. 632A/45 (*Gunnery Training Manual Vol. I*). It is not practicable to carry out this training at sea.

12. *Transfer of ratings from other Specialist Qualifications to Control Armourer.*—Transfer to Control Armourer from other specialist qualifications will be considered from among recommended volunteers holding 2nd and 3rd class R.C. qualifications, and, in exceptional cases where particular aptitude has been shown, from any 3rd class gunnery qualification.

13. *Selection of ratings for the C.A. Branch.*—When recommending ratings who volunteer for Control Armourer, Commanding Officers are to ensure as far as possible that they possess the necessary aptitude for maintenance work of a semi-skilled nature.