

***3244.—Royal Marines—Specialist Qualifications for General Duty and Technical Branches—Introduction of Specialist Qualification of LC (Landing Craft)**

(N.C.W./R.M. 688/53.—23 Oct. 1953.)

It has been decided that the specialist qualifications of LH and LD for Royal Marines should be dispensed with and that, in future, R.M. ranks employed in landing craft should carry out both seamanship and engine training. The specialist qualification for ranks so trained will be LC (Landing Craft).

2. Ranks at present holding the specialist qualifications of LH and LD (not originally trained as M/T drivers) will be required to undergo conversion courses for the appropriate LC qualification. Ranks holding LD specialist qualifications, who are also drivers, are to be given the opportunity :—

(a) To remuster in the GD Branch and undergo LC conversion courses, in which case they will regain any seniority relinquished on their original transfer to the Technical Branch.

(b) To remain in the Technical Branch and revert to driving duties once a sufficient number of men have been trained in the appropriate LC rate.

3. The names of any men wishing to remuster in the GD Branch are to be reported to Director of Pay and Records R.M. and Commandant, Technical Training Centre R.M. by 31st December, 1953.

4. The following arrangements are being made for the current training year in order to implement the policy laid down in paragraphs 1 and 2 above :—

(a) LH2 and LD2 specialist training courses will be extended so as to include seamanship and engine training. Ranks passing these courses will be awarded the specialist qualification of LC2.

(b) Conversion courses for ranks holding LH2 and LH3 specialist qualifications will take place at Amphibious School, R.M. as notified in Royal Marines Routine Orders.

(c) Conversion courses for ranks holding the specialist qualification of LD3, who request to remuster in the GD Branch, will take place at Amphibious School, R.M. as notified in Royal Marines Routine Orders, or in Landing Craft Squadrons.

(d) Conversion courses for ranks holding the specialist qualifications of LH1, LD1 and LD2 will not take place before 1st April, 1954.

5. The system of training for ranks qualifying initially for the specialist qualification of LC3 will be promulgated shortly.

(A.F.Os. 1422/53 and 3243/53.—Royal Marines—Specialist Qualifications for General Duty and Technical Branches.)