

3868.—Royal Marine Gunners—Qualification as Gunners†.

(C.W. 26233.—29.11.1919.)

The qualification of Gunner† will in future be open to Royal Marines.

Royal Marine Gunners already qualified will be eligible for a further Gunner† course.

At present the total number of R.M. Gunners† will be limited to 8, and on reaching Ward Room rank any Warrant Officers so qualified will cease to be employed as specialists, so that vacancies may occur for younger Officers.

The first course will include 4 only, and subsequent courses 2 only until the number, 8, is obtained. This will keep vacancies open for particularly able men until there is a prospect of vacancies occurring to be repleted.

Of the 8 qualified Gunners† it is intended that 4 should be earmarked for appointment to R.M. Gunnery Schools, and the remainder for appointment to certain Flag Ships in lieu of R.M. Gunners, where their services would be particularly useful in analysis of target practices, range-finder exercises, &c.

The number of Marine Gunners† authorised herein will be in addition to the authorised number of Gunners† (Seaman Branch).