

## 802.—Ordnance Artificer Branch—Institution of Armourer Ratings—Pay and conditions of service.

(N. 53182/18.—1.3.1919.)

The report of the Armament Personnel Committee as regards ranks and ratings for the care and maintenance of the gun armament having been considered, the Board has decided—

- (a) to arrange for the work at present performed by the Armourer Branch and Turret E.R.A.'s to be undertaken by Officers and men of an Ordnance Artificer Branch, assisted by Seamen and Marines who have received certain special instructions;
  - (b) to close recruiting for the Armourer Branch;
  - (c) to discontinue the practice of detailing engine room ratings for the upkeep of turret gun mounting machinery as soon as sufficient Ordnance Artificers, &c., become available;
  - (d) to provide a nucleus of experienced Officers and men for the Ordnance Artificer Branch by transferring thereto volunteers from among Artificer Engineers and Engine Room Artificers with previous experience of turret machinery, and Officers and men of the Armourer Branch, as a special case upon the introduction of the new scheme and subject to the fulfilment of certain required conditions;
  - (e) to regard the senior rank or rating of the Ordnance Artificer Branch borne as the Gunnery Officer's responsible assistant for the mechanical efficiency of the gun armament;
  - (f) to train a proportion of the requirements of Ordnance Artificers from boys on lines similar to Boy Artificers.
2. The general conditions of service, &c., of Officers and men of the Ordnance Artificer Branch, and of Seamen and Marines "Q.O.," are contained in the accompanying amendments to the K.R. and A.I.

### ORDNANCE ARTIFICER BRANCH—OFFICERS.

3. *Titles.*—Ordnance Lieutenant-Commander,  
Ordnance Lieutenant,  
Commissioned Ordnance Officer,  
Warrant Ordnance Officer.
4. *Status.*—Non-Military.
5. *Uniform.*—Distinctive cloth of Branch, dark blue.
6. *Warrant Rank.*—With reference to Article 311, K.R. and A.I., as now revised, discretionary power will be exercised as regards the age qualification in the case of Ordnance Artificers who have previously held the rating of Chief Armourer or Armourer.

Armourer ratings who have already qualified for Warrant Armourer will be eligible for promotion to Warrant Ordnance Officer without further course or examination, and will be afforded the necessary instruction in hydraulics prior or subsequent to promotion, as may prove convenient.

7. *Preliminary Examinations for Warrant Rank.*—Candidates for warrant rank will be required to pass (a) an educational test, (b) a professional examination, prior to taking the qualifying course.

The educational test, which must be passed before taking the professional examination, will follow generally the instructions contained in M.O. 4016/18.

For instructions as to the conduct of the professional examination, *vide* Appendix X, Part XVI, K.R. and A.I., as now revised.

8. *Commissioned Warrant Rank.*—Warrant Ordnance Officers will be promoted to Commissioned Ordnance Officers on attaining ten years' seniority as Warrant Officer, provided they are recommended by their Commanding Officer, have a good record, and have served for five years at sea as Warrant Officer; but promotion at an earlier period will be permitted up to a number not exceeding one-third of the total number of Commissioned Warrant and Warrant Officers borne, and until the ten-year rule becomes operative.

9. *Commissioned Rank.*—Commissioned Ordnance Officers will be eligible for promotion to the rank of Ordnance Lieutenant, at the discretion of the Admiralty and providing they are in possession of three years' sea service as Commissioned Warrant Officer.

The number of Commissioned Ordnance Officers promoted to higher ranks will be limited to 8 per cent. of the total number of Commissioned, Commissioned Warrant, and Warrant Officers of the Ordnance Artificer Branch, one-half of this establishment being reserved for older Officers for long and zealous service, and the remaining half, as a general rule, confined to younger officers who will be required to pass an examination for promotion.

Discretionary power will be exercised as regards the sea service qualification in the case of Commissioned Armourers transferred.

10. *Examination for early promotion to Commissioned Rank.*—The examination for early promotion to commissioned rank will follow generally the instructions contained in M.O. 4017/18, the papers in professional subjects being set and the worked papers marked by "Excellent."

The subjects included in the professional examination will be similar to those required of candidates at the final examination for warrant rank, the questions being of a more advanced nature.

11. *Special promotions to Commissioned and Commissioned Warrant Rank.*—Commissioned and Commissioned Warrant Rank will be granted earlier at the discretion of the Admiralty for war or other distinguished service.

12. *Lieutenant Commander's Rank.*—Ordnance Lieutenants will be eligible for promotion to Ordnance Lieutenant Commander on attaining 8 years' seniority as Ordnance Lieutenant.

13. *Complements of Officers.*—A Commissioned Warrant or Warrant Ordnance Officer will eventually be included in the complements of—

All battleships and battle cruisers, "Dreadnought," and later;

"Courageous" and "Glorious";

Flagships of Light Cruiser Squadrons, Destroyer Depot Ships, and Repair Ships, as requisite.

This notification, however, should not be regarded as authorising formal additions to complements or applications for the appointments of these Officers; the establishment will be worked up to gradually as suitable candidates become available and in such a manner as will ensure an even flow of promotion in years to come.

14. *Pay.*—The rates of pay will be as laid down for Mechanical Branches in M.O. 3090/18.

15. *Pensions and Retired Pay.*—Pensions and Retired Pay will be assessed on the scales applicable to Officers of similar classes.

16. *Working Suits.*—An annual gratuitous issue of brown jean for working suits will be made to Officers of the branch when serving afloat.

#### ORDNANCE ARTIFICER BRANCH—RATINGS.

17. *Uniform.*—As for Electrical and Engine Room Artificers.

18. *Pay and Status.*—

	Daily rate.	
	s.	d.
Chief Ordnance Artificer, 1st class	8	1
" " " 2nd class	7	7
Ordnance Artificer, 1st class	6	7
" " 2nd class	6	4
" " 3rd class	6	1
" " 4th class	4	3
" " 5th class		

Pensions as for ratings of similar classes.

Ordnance Artificers, 5th class, will have the status of a leading rate, the remainder will have the status of Chief Petty Officers.

19. *Messing*.—With reference to the instructions contained in Article 852 K.R. and A.I., as now revised, Commanding Officers should put forward the necessary proposals in their next list of Alterations and Additions; the work to be carried out, if possible, during the next refit. The work involved in the proposals should be reduced to a minimum.

20. *Bath Rooms*.—To use the Chief Petty Officers' bathroom, not the Engine Room Artificers' bathroom.

21. *Trades*.—Fitters and Turners only will be provided, but provision will be made for new entries to receive instruction in elementary smithing and copper-smithing. See Article 888, Clause 2, K.R. and A.I., as regards smith's and copper-smith's work calling for a high degree of skill in those trades.

22. *Training of Boy Ordnance Artificers*.—Boy Ordnance Artificers will undergo their initial training in the Mechanical Training Establishments, and their specialist training in the Gunnery Schools.

#### SEAMEN AND MARINES (Q.O.).

23. Non-substantive pay of 2*d.* a day will be paid to Seamen and Marines qualifying in Ordnance (Q.O.) under the conditions shewn in Appendix XV, Part III, No. 42*A* (see end of this Order).

24. With reference to Articles 403 and 1480 K.R. and A.I., now cancelled, Seamen and Marines qualified in Armourer's Work (Q.A.) prior to the date of this Order may continue in receipt of extra pay under Article 1468 K.R. and A.I.; but the Q.O. allowance of 2*d.* a day will not be payable in addition to extra pay in the case of men who may qualify in Ordnance.

#### TRANSFER OF ARTIFICER ENGINEERS AND COMMISSIONED AND WARRANT ARMOURERS TO THE ORDNANCE ARTIFICER BRANCH.

25. The names of Officers volunteering and recommended for transfer should be forwarded to the Captain of the "Excellent," who will submit them, together with his remarks, to the Admiralty.

In the case of Artificer Engineers the applications should include particulars as to previous experience of turret machinery.

26. The transfer of those selected will be effected under the following conditions:—

*Commissioned Armourers*.—To Commissioned Ordnance Officer, without further course or examination.

*Warrant Armourers*.—To Warrant Ordnance Officer without further examination, but those who have not already acquired experience of turret machinery will be required to undergo a course of instruction in "Excellent" subsequent to transfer and as opportunity offers.

*Artificer Engineers*.—To Warrant Ordnance Officer without further examination, but will be required to undergo a course of instruction in gunnery in H.M.S. "Excellent" and at Woolwich immediately subsequent to transfer.

27. Time served in former rank will count in all cases for purposes of seniority and increased pay in the rank to which transferred.

28. The transfer of Artificer Engineers will be limited to special cases.

29. These instructions do not apply to pensioners, &c., who for various reasons have been given the temporary rank of Warrant Armourer during the War.

#### TRANSFER OF E.R.A.'s AND ARMOURER RATINGS TO THE ORDNANCE ARTIFICER BRANCH.

30. Time-expired men will be accepted only upon re-engagement, which in the case of men who have completed time for pension will be subject to the special sanction of the Admiralty, *vide* Article 363, K.R. and A.I.

31. To be eligible for consideration as a prospective candidate for the Ordnance Artificer Branch, a candidate must:—

*If an E.R.A.*—

(a) hold a rating not lower than Acting E.R.A., 4th Class, and not higher than E.R.A., 1st Class;

(b) have—

- (i) undergone a course in hydraulics in a Gunnery School and have had not less than six months' experience afloat with turret machinery ; or
- (ii) have had not less than 12 months' experience afloat with turret machinery ;
- (c) have passed the educational test for direct entry Acting Ordnance Artificer, 4th Class ;
- (d) be recommended for transfer by his Commanding Officer ;
- (e) have passed, in the case of E.R.A.'s other than those trained from Boys and pre-war direct entries, the trade test for direct entry Acting Ordnance Artificer, 4th Class (Fitter and Turner) ;

*If an Armourer rating—*

- (f) have passed the educational test for direct entry Acting Ordnance Artificer, 4th Class ;
- (g) have passed the trade test for direct entry Acting Ordnance Artificer, 4th Class (Fitter and Turner) (see paragraph 49) ;
- (h) be recommended for transfer by his Commanding Officer.

32. The results of the educational and trade tests are to be noted on the men's Service Certificates, and on the current ledger.

33. The names of candidates eligible and recommended are to be forwarded to the Gunnery Schools of the respective Port Divisions, together with Service Certificates, and, in the case of E.R.A.'s, particulars as to previous employment upon hydraulic duties.

34. The acceptance of E.R.A.'s and armourer ratings will be limited to those who pass the required tests (provisional or final) *and apply to qualify for transfer within six months of the date of this Order.*

35. The selection of candidates to qualify will be made by the Commanding Officers of the Gunnery Schools, who will inform the Depôts of the names of those selected so that the men may be sent to the Gunnery Schools for instruction as circumstances permit.

36. Selected E.R.A.'s and armourer ratings will be required to pass a satisfactory examination at the conclusion of special Gunnery School courses.

37. The actual transfers will be made only after completion of the Gunnery School courses, but are then to be effected as from the date of this Order, so that the relative positions of the men on the old and new rosters may be the same.

The date of commencement of pay as Ordnance Artificer may be similarly antedated.

38. Armourer ratings are not to be transferred, or commence to count time towards seniority and pay as Ordnance Artificer until they have attained the age of 21 years (or 20½ if recommended as specially deserving of early transfer) and have completed 12 months' service.

39. A gratuitous issue of the necessary additional articles of kit is to be made to armourer ratings, other than Chief Armourers, transferred to the Ordnance Artificer Branch.

40. Applications for the transfer of E.R.A.'s and Armourer ratings at present serving for the period of hostilities may be forwarded, but such candidates will not be permitted to commence their courses of instruction until the approval of the Admiralty as to their transfer to Continuous Service has been obtained by the Depôts.

They will be required to execute Continuous Service engagements upon the satisfactory completion of the Gunnery School courses, and prior to actual transfer to the Ordnance Artificer Branch.

RATINGS TO WHICH E.R.A.'S AND ARMOURER RATINGS WILL BE  
TRANSFERRED.

41. E.R.A.'s will be transferred to the corresponding rating in the Ordnance Artificer Branch, *e.g.*, E.R.A., 4th Class, to O.A., 4th Class, and will count E.R.A.