

# GENERAL INFORMATION

**T**HIS is a book for which many people have been waiting. Nothing quite like it has ever been brought out before. It shows you how to distinguish the rank, duty and decorations of members of the Fighting Forces.

RANKS are indicated by any of three means—by cap decorations, by shoulder straps, or by sleeve markings or badges. Duties are indicated by gorget patches (“ tabs ”), armlets or sleeve badges.

DECORATIONS AND MEDALS are indicated by ribbons worn on the left breast ; and so as to recognise these easily, it helps to know the order in which they are worn on undress (ordinary) uniform. Certain Orders, such as the Garter, are only worn with Full Dress uniform at State, semi-State or official functions.

The Victoria Cross takes precedence over every other decoration. Immediately after it are worn the Orders of Knighthood. Then come the medals for gallantry. After these, the campaign medals are worn in date order. These are followed by Jubilee and Coronation medals, then Long Service and Good Conduct medals, after which come any foreign decorations and medals which the King has given permission to be worn.

It is only possible to include in a book of this size medal ribbons which are most likely to be seen to-day, and for this reason medals which were awarded for campaigns prior to 1900 have been purposely omitted, together with some which are so rare as to be very seldom seen.

Rank indications and badges are accurate at the time of going to press, but it is always possible that some detail alterations might be made, particularly during war-time.

The three Services have been dealt with in order of their seniority, the highest ranks of each being given first.

The *Daily Mirror* wishes to acknowledge with grateful thanks the kind assistance given to them in the compilation of this book by the Admiralty, the War Office, the Air Ministry and the Curator of the Imperial War Museum for information and facilities for research ; to Messrs. Spink & Son, Ltd. for medals ; to Messrs. A. H. Baldwin & Sons, Ltd. for medal ribbons ; and to Messrs. Gieves, Ltd., for details of uniforms.

# ROYAL NAVY

## INDICATIONS OF RANK ON SHOULDER STRAPS AND SLEEVES OF OFFICERS

The rank of a Naval Officer is shown by the gold stripes he wears on his sleeves, and the branch to which he belongs is shown by the strip of coloured cloth between the gold stripes :—

Executive	..	No coloured cloth
Engineer	..	Purple
Surgeon	..	Scarlet
Dental	..	Orange
Paymaster	..	White
Instructor	..	Light Blue
Shipwright	..	Silver Grey
Electrical	..	Dark Green
Ordnance	..	Dark Blue
Wardmaster	..	Maroon



ADMIRAL OF THE FLEET  
G.R. INDICATE'S A.D.C. TO KING



ADMIRAL

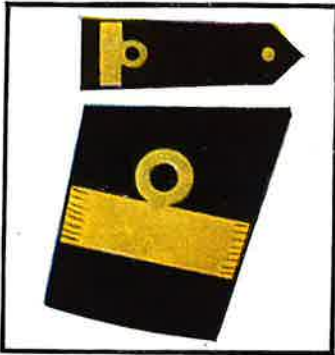
# ROYAL NAVY



VICE-ADMIRAL



REAR ADMIRAL (1) OR COMMODORE  
1ST CLASS (2)



COMMODORE 2ND CLASS



CAPTAIN



COMMANDER



LIEUTENANT-COMMANDER

# ROYAL NAVY



LIEUTENANT



SUB-LIEUTENANT



WARRANT OFFICER  
(THINNER STRIPE)



NAVAL CADET LAPEL



MIDSHIPMAN OR NAVAL  
CADET



MIDSHIPMAN LAPEL



FLAG OFFICERS



CAPTAINS AND  
COMMANDERS



ALL OTHER  
OFFICERS



C.P.O.

## RESERVES



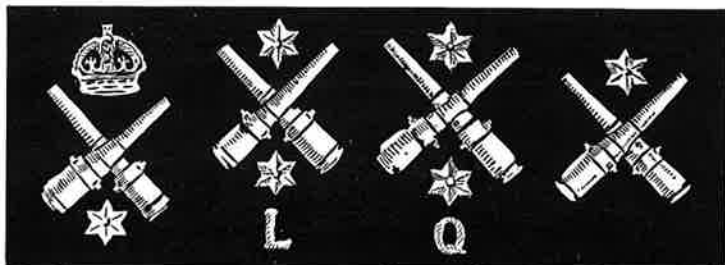
LIEUTENANT R.N.R.

LIEUTENANT R.N.V.R.



# ROYAL NAVY

## SLEEVE BADGES—PETTY OFFICERS AND MEN

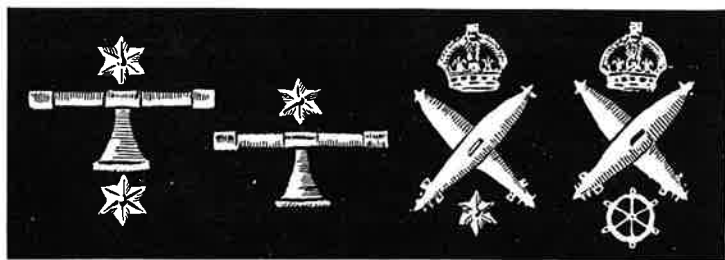


GUNNER'S MATE

GUNLAYER  
1ST CLASS

QUARTERS RATING  
1ST CLASS GUNNERY BRANCH

GUNLAYER  
2ND CLASS

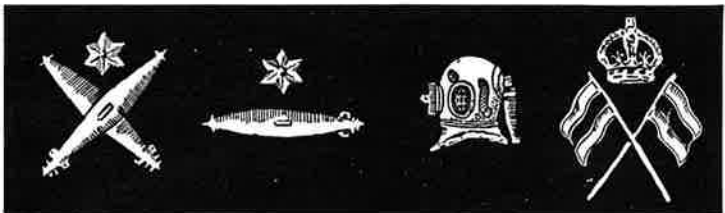


RANGETAKER  
1ST CLASS

RANGETAKER  
2ND CLASS

TORPEDO GUNNER'S  
MATE

TORPEDO  
COXSWAIN



LEADING  
TORPEDOMAN

SEAMAN  
TORPEDOMAN

DIVER

CHIEF YEOMAN AND  
YEOMAN OF SIGNALS



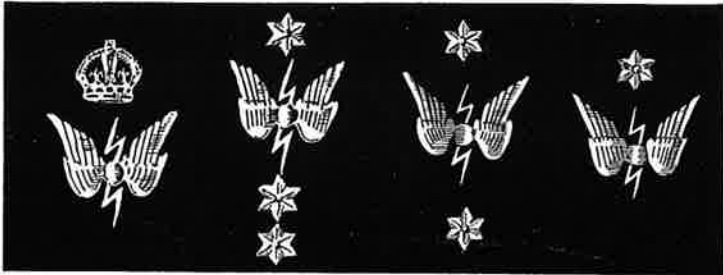
SIGNALMAN 2ND CLASS

SIGNALMAN 3RD CLASS

VISUAL SIGNALMAN  
TRAINED OPERATOR

# ROYAL NAVY

## SLEEVE BADGES—PETTY OFFICERS AND MEN

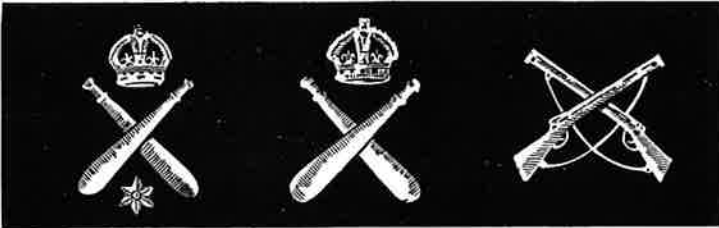


PETTY OFFICER  
TELEGRAPHIST

LEADING  
TELEGRAPHIST  
W.T. 2

LEADING  
TELEGRAPHIST  
W.T. 3

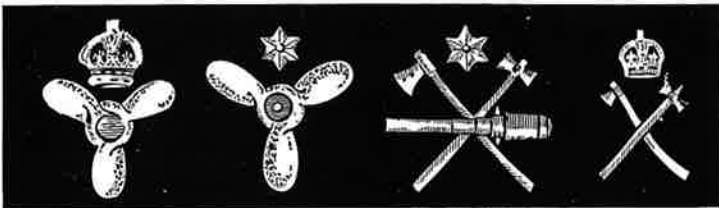
TELEGRAPHIST



PHYSICAL AND  
RECREATIONAL TRAINING  
INSTRUCTOR 1ST CLASS

PHYSICAL AND  
RECREATIONAL TRAINING  
INSTRUCTOR 2ND CLASS

GOOD SHOOTING  
BADGE

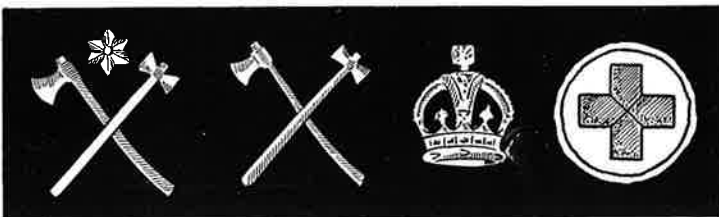


CHIEF STOKER AND  
STOKER PETTY OFFICER

LEADING STOKER AND  
STOKER 1ST CLASS

CHIEF ARMOURER

CHIEF SHIPWRIGHT



CHIEF PETTY  
OFFICER ARTISAN

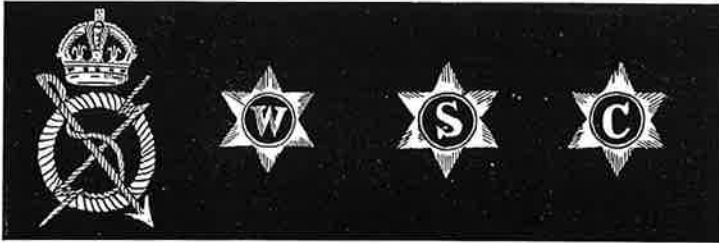
SHIPWRIGHTS AND  
ARTISANS

REGULATING PETTY  
OFFICER

SICK BERTH  
RATING

# ROYAL NAVY

## SLEEVE BADGES—PETTY OFFICERS AND MEN

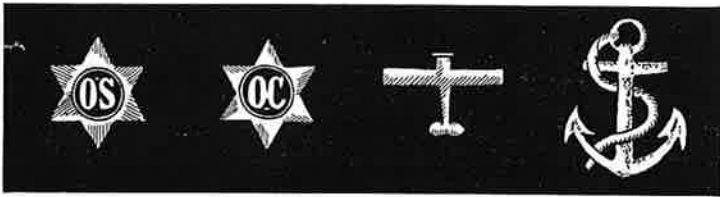


SUBMARINE DETECTOR  
INSTRUCTOR

WRITER

SUPPLY RATING

COOK

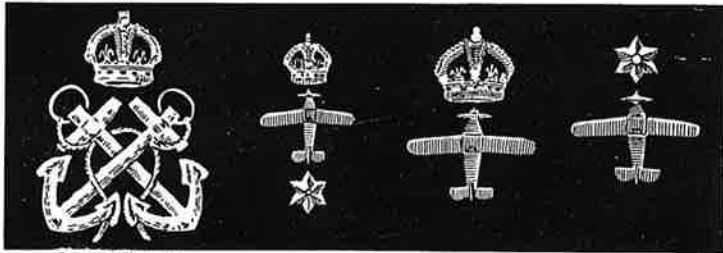


OFFICERS' STEWARD

OFFICERS' COOK

TELEGRAPHIST  
AIR GUNNER

LEADING SEAMAN



PETTY OFFICER

OBSERVER'S MATE  
CHIEF PETTY OFFICER

ACTING OBSERVER'S  
MATE

AIR GUNNER  
2ND CLASS

### PETTY OFFICERS' CAP BADGES



CHIEF  
PETTY OFFICER



PETTY OFFICER

## FLEET AIR ARM



The Fleet Air Arm, originally under the control of the Air Ministry, has since May 24th, 1939, been controlled entirely by the Admiralty. For this reason, officers of the Fleet Air Arm wear naval uniform, but are distinguished from naval officers by the small letter "A" in the circle surmounting the sleeve stripes. Those officers who are actual pilots, wear their wings on their sleeves, and not on the left breast like the R.A.F.

At present many Fleet Air Arm pilots are R.A.F. officers who have been seconded to the Navy, but they will be replaced by naval personnel as these become available.

Because the Naval Discipline Act requires all naval personnel to be entered on the books of a ship, Fleet Air Arm Shore Establishments have been given ship names in the same manner that Chatham and Portsmouth barracks are known as H.M.S. "Pembroke" and H.M.S. "Victory." These shore stations include the names of H.M.S. "Daedalus," H.M.S. "Peregrine," H.M.S. "Kestrel," H.M.S. "Merlin," and H.M.S. "Malabar."



## ROYAL MARINES

The Royal Marines (the "Jollies") were originally boarding parties taken by the Navy to carry out the hand-to-hand fighting between ships which was a feature of sea battles a century or so ago.

They are now primarily used as rapidly mobile sea-soldiers, and although a part of the Navy, they still retain Army rank names and indications. Royal Marine ranks are equal to their equivalent rank in the Navy (see page 2) except that a Major of Marines is equal to a Naval Commander when afloat.

The Royal Marines wear navy-blue uniform, and the only difference between their shoulder-strap indications and those of the Army is that the letters "R.M." are worn at the bottom of the strap nearest the arm. Officers' caps differ from those of N.C.O.'s and rankers by having a different badge, and red piping round the crown of the hat.