

280. The active list of Chief Gunners, Chief Torpedo Gunners, Chief Boatswains, and Chief Carpenters, and Gunners, Torpedo Gunners, Boatswains, and Carpenters, will be raised to—

Numbers of  
Warrant  
Officers.

Chief Gunners, Chief Torpedo Gunners, and Chief Boatswains, including 10 Officers holding either rank by virtue of their appointments (Chief Gunners, Chief Torpedo Gunners, Gunners and Torpedo Gunners being eligible for such appointments, as well as Chief Boatswains and Boatswains)	...	...	...	...	...	100
Chief Carpenters	...	...	...	...	...	20
Gunners, Torpedo Gunners, and Boatswains (including 16 Signal Boatswains)	...	...	...	...	...	1,150
Carpenters	...	...	...	...	...	240
Artificer Engineers	...	...	...	...	...	50

The proportion of Gunners and Torpedo Gunners to Boatswains will be so regulated as may, in the opinion of the Admiralty, be advisable for the efficiency of the service, and the number of promotions to the respective ranks will be adjusted accordingly—eight per cent. of the total of each branch holding the chief rank, Gunners and Torpedo Gunners forming one branch.

2. The increase of Artificer Engineers to be made gradually as follows :—

- 25 between 1st April 1899 and 31st March 1900.
- 25 between 1st April 1900 and 31st March 1901.

An initial analysis of the lower deck reveals half a dozen different functions: executive-military, engineer, artisan, medical, accountant and police. Within these functions there were further subdivisions into occupational groups, resulting in a score of different branches or classes of rating. The relative numerical strength of the more important ones is indicated by the following figures taken from one year, 1919:

Seamen	46,802	Armourers	938
Stokers	30,477	Electrical artificers	932
ERAs and mechanics	5,042	Ships' stewards	697
Officers' stewards and cooks	4,598	Blacksmiths	391
Signalmen	4,476	Joiners	311
Telegraphists	4,065	Painters	266
Cooks	1,994	Plumbers	236
Sick-berth stewards	1,492	Coopers	212
Shipwrights	1,332	Carpenters' crews	163
Writers	952	Sailmakers	101
		Miscellaneous	1,262 <sup>13</sup>

Two important groups not listed here are the Royal Marines – half sailors, half soldiers – and the warrant officers, one of the oldest ranks in the service, though becoming anomalous in this period and existing uneasily in the no-man's-land between lower and quarter deck. Each of the branches tended to be self-contained and inward-looking. The smaller ones in particular were often tight-knit, while the divisions *between* branches could be wide. One of the consequences was that it was always difficult for the reform movement to present a united front.

### MARKS OF RANK—OFFICERS.

Officers wear distinguishing gold lace, and, in the case of the Civil Branches, coloured cloth, on both sleeves of their coats. When wearing a great-coat and in white uniform, the lace and cloth are worn on shoulder-straps.

Officers are divided into two branches, executive and civil. The Civil Branch is sub-divided into Engineer, Medical, Accountant, and Naval Instructor Officers.

Branches are distinguished as follows:—

Executive (Military)	By a circle on the upper row of lace.	
Engineer	By purple cloth.	In conjunction with the gold lace stripes, between them or below them, not above them.
Medical	By scarlet cloth.	
Accountant	By white cloth.	
Naval Instructor	By light blue cloth.	
Assistant Constructors	By silver-grey cloth.	

The lace worn on the sleeves and shoulder-straps differs in breadth according to the rank of the officer, as follows:—

*(The Measurements shown are Inches.)*

Admiral of the Fleet	1 row of 1	and 4 rows of $\frac{1}{2}$ .
Admiral	1 row of 1	and 3 rows of $\frac{1}{2}$ .
Vice-Admiral	1 row of 1	and 2 rows of $\frac{1}{2}$ .
Rear-Admiral and Commodore, 1st class	1 row of 1	and 1 row of $\frac{1}{2}$ .
Commodore, 2nd class	1 row of 1	
Captains	4 rows of $\frac{1}{2}$	
Commanders	3 rows of $\frac{1}{2}$	
Lieutenant over 8 years' seniority	2 rows of $\frac{1}{2}$	with a row of $\frac{1}{4}$ between them.
Lieutenant under 8 years' seniority	2 rows of $\frac{1}{2}$	
Sub-Lieutenant	1 row of $\frac{1}{2}$	
Chief Gunners and Chief Boatswains	1 row of $\frac{1}{2}$	
Gunners and Boatswains over 10 years' seniority	1 row of $\frac{1}{4}$	

In the case of Flag Officers and Commodores, 1st class, the upper row of lace forms a circle, above the row, 2 inches in diameter. In the case of a Commodore, 2nd class, a circle of  $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch lace is placed just over the  $1\frac{1}{2}$ -inch band. All other Executive Officers have a band of lace the width of the upper row, formed into a circle above the upper row, the circle being  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches in diameter.

Officers of the Civil Branches have the same number of rows of lace as officers of corresponding rank in the Executive Branch, the upper row being straight and having no circle above it. The spaces between the lace are filled with the coloured cloth previously referred to. The width of the coloured cloth is  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch.

Warrant Officers under 10 years' seniority do not wear distinguishing lace, but have three buttons on the sleeves, and, in the case of Engineer Warrant Officers, a band of purple cloth  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch wide under the buttons.

Subordinate officers do not wear distinguishing lace, but *Aide-de-Camp* wear, on each side of the collars of their coats a white turnback of 2 inches, with a notched hole of white twist  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches long, with a corresponding button; *Naval Cadets* wear on each side of the collars of their coats a button hole of white twist  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches long, with a corresponding button. *Clerks and Assistant Clerks* wear round each cuff of the coat a row of white cloth  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch wide.

Flag Officers and Commodores, 1st class, and officers of the Civil Branch ranking with them, wear devices on their shoulder-straps, but all other Commissioned Officers and Warrant Officers over 10 years' seniority, wear the same distinguishing lace on the shoulder-strap as on the cuff.

Subordinate officers do not wear shoulder-straps.

Warrant Officers under 10 years' seniority wear plain shoulder-straps.

Officers (executive or civil) serving on the staff of a Flag Officer or Commodore, and Naval Attachés wear *aguillettes* (i.e., ropes of gold lace hung from the shoulder) on the left shoulder.






*Aide-de-Camp* to the King, Admirals of the Fleet, and Honorary Physicians and Surgeons to the King wear *aguillettes* on the right shoulder.

If a Naval Attaché is also an *Aide-de-Camp* to the King he wears the *Aide-de-Camp's* *aguillettes* on the right shoulder only.






## DISTINGUISHING BADGES—MEN AND BOYS.

Men, of all ratings, whether dressed as seamen or not, if they are below the rating of Chief Petty Officer, wear their distinguishing badges for substantive ratings












## DISTINCTION LACE WORN BY NAVAL OFFICERS.

	Military Branch.	Without the Curl, but with		
		Purple between Stripes.	Scarlet between Stripes.	White between Stripes.
	Admiral of the Fleet.	—	—	—
	Admiral.	—	—	—
	Vice- Admiral.	Engineer-in- Chief if Engineer Vice- Admiral.	Medical Director- General.	—
	Rear- Admiral and Commodore 1st Class.	Engineer-in- Chief if Engineer Rear- Admiral.	Surgeon- General.	—
	Commodore 2nd Class.	—	—	—

## DISTINCTION LACE WORN BY NAVAL OFFICERS.

—	Military Branch.	With the Curl and Purple between Stripes.	Without the Curl, but with	
			Scarlet between Stripes.	White between Stripes.
	Captain.	Engineer- Captain.	Deputy Surgeon- General.	Paymaster - in - Chief also Sec- retary to a Flag Officer (if with over 5 years' service as Secre- tary to a C.-in- C.).
	Commander	Engineer- Commander.	Fleet- Surgeon.	Fleet Paymaster also Secretary to a C.-in-C.
	Lieutenant- Commander	Engineer- Lieutenant (over 8 years).	Staff Surgeon.	Staff Paymaster or Paymaster also Secretary to a Flag Officer other than a C.- in-C. or to a Commodore 1st class or Captain of the Fleet.
	Lieutenant	Engineer- Lieutenant (under 8 years).	Surgeon.	Assist. Paymaster (over 4 years) also Secretary to a Commo- dore 2nd class.
	Sub- Lieutenant and Mate.	Engineer- Sub- Lieutenant and Mate (E.)	—	Assist. Paymaster (under 4 years).

## DISTINCTION LACE WORN BY NAVAL OFFICERS OF THE RANK OR RELATIVE RANK OF

	Admiral of the Fleet.		Captain.
	Admiral.		Commander.
	Vice-Admiral.		Lieutenant-Commander.
	Rear-Admiral and Commodore 1st Class.		Lieutenant.
	Commodore 2nd Class.		Sub-Lieutenant, Mate and Commissioned Warrant Officer.
			Warrant Officer.

Colour between stripes as mentioned on previous pages.

# DISTINCTION LACE WORN BY NAVAL OFFICERS OF THE RANK OR RELATIVE RANK OF



Admiral of the Fleet.



Admiral.



Vice-Admiral.



**Rear  
Admiral**



**Commodore**



Captain.



Commander.



Lieutenant-Commander.



Lieutenant.



**Sub-  
Lieutenant,  
and Senior  
Commissioned  
Officer**



**Commissioned  
Officer**

RANK STRIPES AS WORN AT THE CESSATION OF THE WARRANT OFFICER RANK IN 1949



# DISTINCTION LACE WORN BY NAVAL OFFICERS OF THE RANK OR RELATIVE RANK OF



Admiral of the Fleet.



Admiral.



Vice-Admiral.



Rear Admiral



Commodore



Captain.



Commander  
GL, SL and SD



Lieutenant  
Commander  
GL, SL and SD



Lieutenant  
GL, SL and SD



Sub  
Lieutenant  
GL, SL and SD



Stripes as worn from late 1956 early 1957 at the introduction of the Special Duties List officer and the cessation of the Commissioned Rank