

SEMI-SKILLED RATINGS

Engineer Officers' Conference — 1976

Engineering Branch Study — Discussion Period

The Engineering Branch Study Report recognized that in all three sub-branches there was room for more effective use of senior mechanic ratings in a technical capacity. The senior . . . and for ME senior mechanics increased training for skill of hand with suitable subsequent employment is proposed.

Stokers Manual — 1901

Appendix — Qualifications for Higher Ratings

QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED TO PASS FROM STOKER 2ND CLASS TO STOKER 1ST CLASS

- (1) Efficiency as a fireman when a boiler is working at full power.
- (2) Ability to attend and lubricate a bearing.
- (3) Knowledge of the names and uses of the principal tools in ordinary use in the Engine-room Department.
- (4) An intelligent use of the more simple ones, e.g. spanner, hammer and chisel, file, screw-driver.
- (5) Ability to plait gasket for packing.
- (6) A fair knowledge of the Stokers Manual.

The examination will be conducted by the Engineer Officer of the ship.

(In addition a fair knowledge of Rifle Exercises, and Small Tube Water-tube Boilers, &c., will be required.)

QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE RATING OF ACTING LEADING STOKER

To be of two years' service as Stoker 1st Class, and not within two years of completing the first period of service.

To be a specially selected Stoker 1st Class on board a seagoing ship, and have been through a course of watchkeeping at auxiliary machinery and at the engines and boilers either of a picket boat, torpedo boat, torpedo-boat destroyer, or other vessel with small tube boilers.

To show a fair knowledge of one of the following trades: — Fitter and Turner, Boilermaker and Smith, Coppersmith, Moulder.

Men with the above qualifications may be rated Acting Leading Stoker on board ship up to the authorized numbers.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE RATING OF LEADING STOKER

Acting Leading Stokers will be discharged to a Home Dépôt for a three months' Mechanical Course at the end of a commission, if they have had three years' service since they obtained the rating of Stoker 1st Class; but no Acting Leading Stoker should commence this course till he has had three years' service since he became Stoker 1st Class.

After qualifying in this course, an Acting Leading Stoker will be confirmed as Leading Stoker.

Any man failing in the course will revert to the rating of Stoker 1st Class.

THREE MONTHS' MECHANICAL COURSE FOR LEADING STOKER

	Weeks
<i>General Instruction:—</i>	
Working at bench with hammer, chisel, and file — —	2
Replace gauge glasses, pack and adjust minor glands, break and re-make easy steam joints, and joints of boiler doors	1
Use of sledge hammer, soldering iron and ratchet brace —	1
	—
	4
	—
<i>And in addition:—</i>	
<i>Fitter and Turner—</i>	
A further three weeks at bench work, in addition to above two weeks — — — — —	3
The remaining five weeks at lathes and machines — —	5
	—
	8
	—
<i>Boilermaker and Smith—</i>	
Light flanging — riveting and caulking — removing and re-newing boiler tubes — drilling holes for boiler test — tapping and plugging same with screwed rivets — water test of boilers — — — — —	4
Build brick arch and line up sides of furnaces — —	1
General work at forge, including making and tempering chisels, and welding up to 1½-inch round bar — —	3
	—
	8
	—
<i>Coppersmith—</i>	
Make small length of 4-inch copper pipe from sheet — fit branch at right angles — braze on flanges — make copper hand lamp — make a tin oil feeder — sweat liners on brasses — re-metal small bearings — — — — —	8
<i>Moulder—</i>	
Simple moulding, including articles with core, e.g. elbow with flanges, small valve box, &c. Rig up pot furnace from ship's appliances — — — — —	8

Whilst going through the above practical course the men will receive one hour's lecture a week in explanation of the subjects of the Stokers Manual, and of the appliances in use in their workshops.

Evening classes will be held on two nights a week for instruction in Steam and Engineering Subjects. Men who are backward in ordinary school work (reading, writing, and the first four rules of arithmetic) will be given opportunities of improving their knowledge.

An advanced class will be held on one night a week.

The examination will consist of tests in all the above subjects.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR STOKER PETTY OFFICER

Leading Stokers will be eligible for advancement to Stoker Petty Officer after one year's service as Leading Stoker provided they satisfy the Engineer Officer as to their fitness for the higher rating and can pass a certain standard in general educational subjects. Selections for promotion to Stoker Petty Officer will be made from among the Leading Stokers as vacancies arise.

QUALIFICATION FOR CHIEF STOKER

Stoker Petty Officers will be eligible for advancement to Chief Stoker after two years' service as Stoker Petty Officer, provided they pass a qualifying examination and satisfy the Examining Officer as to their fitness for the higher rating. To be rated Acting for one year, at the end of which if their conduct, &c., has been satisfactory they may be confirmed.
