

Ranks

For readers unfamiliar with Naval terminology of the 1940s, the following explanation and tables will help in understanding the apparent cryptic letters in the Rank column of the Names list.

The basic rank is represented by some letters in the body. For example PO for Petty Officer, or Lt for Lieutenant. This is further defined by letters to the right or left. For example LRM is Leading Radio Mechanic, and ElCdr is Electrical Commander. Finally there are the suffix letters in parenthesis to denote further specialisation such as (S) for wireless telegraphy equipment installed in shore establishments

Considering the ranks covered in this history, the hierarchy of non commissioned ranks was:

Ordinary
Able
Leading
Petty Officer
Chief Petty Officer

For commissioned ranks the hierarchy was:

Midshipman
Sub Lieutenant
Lieutenant
Lieutenant Commander (historical Lieutenant in Command)
Commander
Captain
Commodore
Rear Admiral

As well, for those non coms commissioned and Senior Commissioned. Thus Commissioned Electrical Officer, Senior Commissioned Engineering Officer etc. These two positions related in a rather loose fashion to Sub Lieutenant and Lieutenant respectively.

Letters to the left

A Acting. That is temporary appointment
L Leading
PO Petty Officer
Ch Chief (Petty Officer)
El Electrical. That is a specialisation in electrical technology
Inst Instructor. Typically those with professional qualifications in teaching
C Commissioned

Core Letters

RE Radio Electrician. This was the name change from PORM as from 1947

RM Radio Mechanic
WM Wireless Mechanic. 1942 title changed in 1943 to Radio Mechanic
S/Lt Sub Lieutenant
Lt Lieutenant
LtCdr Lieutenant Commander
Cdr Commander
Capt Captain
Cmdr Commodore
RAdm Rear Admiral

Suffixes

(L) Electrical
(R) Radar
(S) Wireless Telegraphy (W/T) equipment in shore establishments
(W) Radar & W/T
(Ty) Temporary
(Sp) Specialist. Generally the radar officers specially trained at University.

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