Imperial Navy organization, 1337 er

**Cutters, gun boats and bomb ships**

4-10 guns

Ship’s commander (*Lieutenant*)

Master’s mate (*Midshipman* or *Chief Petty Officer*)

Quartermaster (*Chief Petty Officer*)

Quartermaster’s mate (*Petty Officer*)

Boatswain’s mate (*Chief Petty Officer*)

Carpenter’s mate (*Chief Petty Officer*)

Surgeon’s mate (*Petty Officer*)

Gunner’s mate (*Petty Officer*)

Cook (*Sailor* or *Able sailor*)

4–12 x topmen (*Able sailor*)

8–12 x cables and anchors (*Sailor* or *Able sailor*)

0–7 x gun crew / unskilled (*Sailor* or *Boy*)

**Total:** 21–40 officers and men

**Brigs and brig-sloops**

10-16 guns

Ship’s commander (*Lieutenant*)

Two watches, *each*:

Officer of the Watch / Master’s mate (*Midshipman* or *Chief Petty Officer*)

Quartermaster (*Chief Petty Officer*)

TOP DIVISION

Division officer (*Petty Officer*)

6–8 x fore topmen (*Able sailor*)

7–9 x main topmen (*Able sailor*)

DECK DIVISION

Division officer (*Petty Officer*)

2–4 x forecastle team (*Sailor* or *Able sailor*)

4–8 x cables and veering (*Sailor* or *Able sailor*)

3–6 x gun crew / unskilled (*Sailor* or *Boy*)

Not standing watch (“*Idlers*”):

Boatswain (*Warrant Officer*)

Boatswain’s mate (*Petty Officer*)

Carpenter (*Warrant Officer*)

Carpenter’s mate (*Chief Petty Officer*)

Master-at-Arms (*Chief Petty Officer*)

Surgeon’s mate (*Petty Officer*)

Gunner (*Warrant Officer*)

Gunner’s mate (*Petty Officer*)

Armorer (*Chief Petty Officer*)

Sailmaker (*Petty Officer*)

Cook (*Sailor* or *Able sailor*)

Clerk (*Able sailor*)

**Total:** 65–90 officers and men

**Corvettes**

16-24 guns

Ship’s commander (*Lieutenant-Captain*)

Two watches, *each*:

Officer of the Watch / Master’s mate (*Midshipman* or *Chief Petty Officer*)

Quartermaster (*Chief Petty Officer*)

Boatswain’s mate (*Petty Officer*)

Surveyor (*Able sailor*)

TOP DIVISION

Division officer (*Petty Officer*)

6–8 x fore topmen (*Able sailor*)

8–9 x main topmen (*Able sailor*)

5–6 x mizzen topmen (*Able sailor*)

DECK DIVISION

Division officer (*Petty Officer*)

4–8 x forecastle team (*Sailor* or *Able sailor*)

8–12 x cables and veering (*Sailor* or *Able sailor*)

5–10 x gun crew, nippers and messengers (*Sailor* or *Boy*)

**Optional:** 8–12 x capstan team (*Sailor*)

Not standing watch (“*Idlers*”):

PURSER’S TEAM

Purser (*Master*)

Clerk (*Able sailor*)

SURGEON’S TEAM

Surgeon (*Master*)

Surgeon’s mate (*Petty Officer*)

BOATSWAIN’S TEAM

Boatswain (*Warrant Officer*)

Rope maker (*Chief Petty Officer*)

Sailmaker (*Petty Officer*)

CARPENTER’S TEAM

Carpenter (*Warrant Officer*)

Carpenter’s mate (*Chief Petty Officer*)

1–2 x carpenter’s crew (*Able sailor*)

Master-at-Arms (*Chief Petty Officer*)

GUNNER’S TEAM

Gunner (*Warrant Officer*)

Gunner’s mate (*Petty Officer*)

Armorer (*Chief Petty Officer*)

1–2 x cooks (*Sailor* or *Able sailor*)

**Total:** 100–160 officers and men

**Frigates**

28-44 guns

Ship’s Captain (*Captain, junior grade*)

Sailing Master (*Master*)

Two watches, *each*:

Officer of the Watch *(Lieutenant* or *Master)*

Master’s mate (*Midshipman* or *Chief Petty Officer*)

Quartermaster (*Chief Petty Officer*)

2 x boatswain’s mates (*Petty Officer*)

2 x surveyors (*Able sailor*)

FORE MAST DIVISION

Division officer (*Petty Officer*)

10–12 x fore topmen (*Able sailor*)

MAIN MAST DIVISION

Division officer (*Chief Petty Officer*)

12–14 x main topmen (*Able sailor*)

MIZZEN MAST DIVISION

Division officer (*Petty Officer*)

8–10 x mizzen topmen (*Able sailor*)

FORECASTLE DIVISION

Division officer (*Midshipman* or *Petty Officer*)

8–12 x forecastle team (*Sailor* or *Able sailor*)

6–12 x cables and veering (*Sailor* or *Able sailor*)

AFTGUARD DIVISION

Division officer (*Midshipman* or *Petty Officer*)

16 x capstan team (*Sailor*)

6–12 x cables and veering (*Sailor* or *Able sailor*)

7–15 x nippers and messengers (*Sailor* or *Boy*)

Not standing watch (“*Idlers*”):

PURSER’S TEAM

Purser (*Master*)

Cooper (*Petty Officer*)

Clerk (*Able sailor*)

SURGEON’S TEAM

Surgeon (*Master*)

2 x surgeon’s mates (*Petty Officer*)

BOATSWAIN’S TEAM

Boatswain (*Chief Warrant Officer*)

Ropemaker (*Chief Petty Officer*)

Sailmaker (*Petty Officer*)

Sailmaker’s mate (*Able sailor*)

CARPENTER’S TEAM

Carpenter (*Warrant Officer*)

Carpenter’s mate (*Chief Petty Officer*)

3 x carpenter’s crew (*Able sailor*)

Caulker (*Chief Petty Officer*)

Master-at-Arms (*Chief Petty Officer*)

Corporal (*Petty Officer*)

GUNNER’S TEAM

Gunner (*Warrant Officer*)

Gunner’s mate (*Petty Officer*)

Armorer (*Chief Petty Officer*)

Yeoman of the powder room (*Petty Officer*)

Gunsmith (*Able sailor*)

STEWARD’S TEAM

Steward (*Chief Petty Officer*)

Butcher (*Able sailor*)

3 x cooks (*Sailor* or *Able sailor*)

Coxswain (*Petty Officer*)

Yeoman of the sheets (*Petty Officer*)

**Optionally attached:** up to half a company (authorized strength 60 men) of marines

**Total:** 200–320 officers and men

**Battlecruisers**

50-60 guns

Ship’s Captain (*Captain, junior grade*)

Chief of Staff (*Lieutenant*)

Sailing Master (*Master*)

Maritime Pilot (*Master*)

Two watches, *each*:

Officer of the Watch *(Lieutenant)*

Master’s mate (*Midshipman* or *Chief Petty Officer*)

Quartermaster (*Chief Petty Officer*)

4 x boatswain’s mates (*Petty Officer*)

2 x surveyors (*Able sailor*)

FORE MAST DIVISION

Division officer (*Petty Officer*)

14–18 x fore topmen (*Able sailor*)

MAIN MAST DIVISION

Division officer (*Chief Petty Officer*)

16–20 x main topmen (*Able sailor*)

MIZZEN MAST DIVISION

Division officer (*Midshipman* or *Petty Officer*)

11–14 x mizzen topmen (*Able sailor*)

FORECASTLE DIVISION

Division officer (*Midshipman* or *Petty Officer*)

7–9 x anchors and bowsprit (*Sailor* or *Able sailor*)

6–9 x fish tackle (*Sailor* or *Able sailor*)

8–10 x veering tier (*Sailor* or *Able sailor*)

8–10 x cable tier (*Sailor* or *Able sailor*)

AFTGUARD DIVISION

Division officer (*Midshipman* or *Petty Officer*)

20–30 x capstan team (*Sailor*)

8–10 x veering tier (*Sailor* or *Able sailor*)

8–10 x cable tier (*Sailor* or *Able sailor*)

WAISTERS

Division officer (*Petty Officer*)

10–20 x nippers and messengers (*Sailor* or *Boy*)

Not standing watch (“*Idlers*”):

PURSER’S TEAM

Purser (*Master*)

Cooper (*Petty Officer*)

Clerk (*Able sailor*)

SURGEON’S TEAM

Surgeon (*Master*)

3 x surgeon’s mates (*Petty Officer*)

BOATSWAIN’S TEAM

Boatswain (*Chief Warrant Officer*)

Ropemaker (*Chief Petty Officer*)

Sailmaker (*Petty Officer*)

Sailmaker’s mate (*Able sailor*)

CARPENTER’S TEAM

Carpenter (*Warrant Officer*)

Carpenter’s mate (*Chief Petty Officer*)

3 x carpenter’s crew (*Able sailor*)

Caulker (*Chief Petty Officer*)

Master-at-Arms (*Chief Petty Officer*)

Corporal (*Petty Officer*)

GUNNER’S TEAM

Gunner (*Warrant Officer*)

Gunner’s mate (*Petty Officer*)

Armorer (*Chief Petty Officer*)

Yeoman of the powder room (*Petty Officer*)

Gunsmith (*Able sailor*)

2 x quarter gunners (*Able sailor*)

STEWARD’S TEAM

Steward (*Chief Petty Officer*)

Butcher (*Able sailor*)

**Optional:** Baker (*Able sailor*)

3–4 x cooks (*Sailor* or *Able sailor*)

Chaplain (*Master*)

Coxswain (*Petty Officer*)

Yeoman of the sheets (*Petty Officer*)

**Attached:** half a company (authorized strength 60 men) of marines

**Total:** 360–450 officers and men

**Ships of the Line, 2nd rate**

64-80 guns

**Optional:** Flag Officer Commanding (*Commodore* to *Fleet Admiral*) [[1]](#endnote-1)

Ship’s Captain (*Captain, senior grade*)

Chief of Staff (*Lieutenant*)

Sailing Master (*Master*)

Maritime Pilot (*Master*)

Two watches, *each*:

Officer of the Watch *(Lieutenant)*

Master’s mate (*Midshipman* or *Chief Petty Officer*)

Quartermaster (*Chief Petty Officer*)

Quartermaster’s mate (*Petty Officer*)

2 x surveyors (*Able sailor*)

FORE MAST DIVISION

Division officer (*Midshipman* or *Petty Officer*)

Boatswain’s mate (*Petty Officer*)

19–23 x fore topmen (*Able sailor*)

MAIN MAST DIVISION

Division officer (*Midshipman* or *Chief Petty Officer*)

Chief Boatswain’s mate (*Chief Petty Officer*)

21–25 x main topmen (*Able sailor*)

MIZZEN MAST DIVISION

Division officer (*Midshipman* or *Petty Officer*)

Boatswain’s mate (*Petty Officer*)

14–17 x mizzen topmen (*Able sailor*)

FORECASTLE DIVISION

Division officer (*Midshipman* or *Petty Officer*)

Boatswain’s mate (*Petty Officer*)

10–12 x anchors and bowsprit (*Sailor* or *Able sailor*)

10–12 x fish tackle (*Sailor* or *Able sailor*)

10–15 x veering tier (*Sailor* or *Able sailor*)

10–15 x cable tier (*Sailor* or *Able sailor*)

1 x cable guide (*Able sailor*)

AFTGUARD DIVISION

Division officer (*Midshipman* or *Petty Officer*)

Boatswain’s mate (*Petty Officer*)

30–40 x capstan team (*Sailor*)

10–12 x veering tier (*Sailor* or *Able sailor*)

10–12 x cable tier (*Sailor* or *Able sailor*)

1 x cable guide (*Able sailor*)

WAISTERS

Division officer (*Petty Officer*)

Boatswain’s mate (*Petty Officer*)

10–20 x messengers (*Sailor* or *Boy*)

8 x nippers (*Sailor* or *Boy*)

Not standing watch (“*Idlers*”):

PURSER’S TEAM

Purser (*Master*)

Cooper (*Petty Officer*)

Clerk (*Able sailor*)

SURGEON’S TEAM

Surgeon (*Master*)

Hospital Steward (*Petty Officer*)

3 x surgeon’s mates (*Petty Officer*)

BOATSWAIN’S TEAM

Boatswain (*Chief Warrant Officer*)

Rope maker (*Chief Petty Officer*)

Sail maker (*Petty Officer*)

Sail maker’s mate (*Able sailor*)

CARPENTER’S TEAM

Carpenter (*Warrant Officer*)

Carpenter’s mate (*Chief Petty Officer*)

4 x carpenter’s crew (*Able sailor*)

Caulker (*Chief Petty Officer*)

Caulker’s mate (*Petty Officer*)

Master-at-Arms (*Chief Petty Officer*)

2 x corporals (*Petty Officer*)

GUNNER’S TEAM

Gunner (*Warrant Officer*)

Gunner’s mate (*Petty Officer*)

Armorer (*Chief Petty Officer*)

Armorer’s mate (*Petty Officer*)

Yeoman of the powder room (*Petty Officer*)

Gunsmith (*Able sailor*)

3 x quarter gunners (*Able sailor*)

STEWARD’S TEAM

Steward (*Chief Petty Officer*)

Butcher (*Able sailor*)

Baker (*Able sailor*)

4 x cooks (*Sailor* or *Able sailor*)

Chaplain (*Master*)

School teacher (*Master*)

Coxswain (*Petty Officer*)

Yeoman of the sheets (*Petty Officer*)

**Attached:** a company (authorized strength 105–140 men) of marines

**Total:** 520–650 officers and men

**Ships of the Line, 1st rate**

90-120 guns

**Optional:** Flag Officer Commanding (*Commodore* to *Fleet Admiral*) [[2]](#endnote-2)

**Optional:** Fleet Captain (*Captain, senior grade*) [[3]](#endnote-3)

Ship’s Captain [[4]](#endnote-4)

Chief of Staff (*Lieutenant*)

Sailing Master (*Master*)

Maritime Pilot (*Master*)

Two watches, *each*:

Officer of the Watch *(Lieutenant)*

Master’s mate (*Midshipman* or *Chief Petty Officer*)

Quartermaster (*Chief Petty Officer*)

Quartermaster’s mate (*Petty Officer*)

3 x surveyors (*Able sailor*)

FORE MAST DIVISION

Division officer (*Midshipman* or *Petty Officer*)

Boatswain’s mate (*Petty Officer*)

26–30 x fore topmen (*Able sailor*)

MAIN MAST DIVISION

Division officer (*Midshipman* or *Chief Petty Officer*)

Chief Boatswain’s mate (*Chief Petty Officer*)

29–32 x main topmen (*Able sailor*)

MIZZEN MAST DIVISION

Division officer (*Midshipman* or *Petty Officer*)

Boatswain’s mate (*Petty Officer*)

18–21 x mizzen topmen (*Able sailor*)

FORECASTLE DIVISION

Division officer (*Midshipman* or *Petty Officer*)

Boatswain’s mate (*Petty Officer*)

16 x anchors and bowsprit (*Sailor* or *Able sailor*)

16 x fish tackle (*Sailor* or *Able sailor*)

16 x veering tier (*Sailor* or *Able sailor*)

16–20 x cable tier (*Sailor* or *Able sailor*)

1 x cable guide (*Able sailor*)

AFTGUARD DIVISION

Division officer (*Midshipman* or *Petty Officer*)

Boatswain’s mate (*Petty Officer*)

45–60 x capstan team (*Sailor*)

16 x veering tier (*Sailor* or *Able sailor*)

16 x cable tier (*Sailor* or *Able sailor*)

1 x cable guide (*Able sailor*)

WAISTERS

Division officer (*Petty Officer*)

Boatswain’s mate (*Petty Officer*)

20–30 x messengers (*Sailor* or *Boy*)

10 x nippers (*Sailor* or *Boy*)

Not standing watch (“*Idlers*”):

PURSER’S TEAM

Purser (*Master*)

Cooper (*Petty Officer*)

Clerk (*Able sailor*)

SURGEON’S TEAM

Surgeon (*Master*)

Hospital Steward (*Petty Officer*)

4 x surgeon’s mates (*Petty Officer*)

BOATSWAIN’S TEAM

Boatswain (*Chief Warrant Officer*)

Rope maker (*Chief Petty Officer*)

Sail maker (*Petty Officer*)

Sail maker’s mate (*Able sailor*)

CARPENTER’S TEAM

Carpenter (*Warrant Officer*)

Carpenter’s mate (*Chief Petty Officer*)

5 x carpenter’s crew (*Able sailor*)

Caulker (*Chief Petty Officer*)

Caulker’s mate (*Petty Officer*)

Master-at-Arms (*Chief Petty Officer*)

3 x corporals (*Petty Officer*)

GUNNER’S TEAM

Gunner (*Warrant Officer*)

Gunner’s mate (*Petty Officer*)

Armorer (*Chief Petty Officer*)

Armorer’s mate (*Petty Officer*)

Yeoman of the powder room (*Petty Officer*)

Gunsmith (*Able sailor*)

4 x quarter gunners (*Able sailor*)

STEWARD’S TEAM

Steward (*Chief Petty Officer*)

Butcher (*Able sailor*)

Baker (*Able sailor*)

4–5 x cooks (*Sailor* or *Able sailor*)

Chaplain (*Master*)

School teacher (*Master*)

Coxswain (*Petty Officer*)

Yeoman of the sheets (*Petty Officer*)

**Attached:** 1–2 companies (authorized strength 105–250 men) of marines

**Total:** 700–900 officers and men

1. Support divisions and divisions in a flotilla were commanded by a *Commodore,* who also commanded his own ship and had the rank of *Captain, senior grade* (albeit with a higher pay grade).

   Whole flotillas, as well as the three main divisions in a squadron (Van, Center and Rear) were commanded by flag officers ranging in rank from *Commodore Admiral* to full *Admiral*, and had their own captain on board, known as *flag captain* (also ranking *Captain, senior grade*) [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. Support divisions and divisions in a flotilla were commanded by a *Commodore,* who also commanded his own ship and had the rank of *Captain, senior grade* (albeit with a higher pay grade).

   Whole flotillas, as well as the three main divisions in a squadron (Van, Center and Rear) were commanded by flag officers ranging in rank from *Commodore Admiral* to full *Admiral*, and had their own captain on board, known as *flag captain* (also ranking *Captain, senior grade*) [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. Squadron and fleet commanders additionally had a Chief of Staff on board, called the *fleet captain*. In such cases, the actual commander of the ship was a more junior captain, who could be ranked as *Captain, junior grade* [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
4. The ship’s Commanding Officer. Nearly always ranked as *Captain, senior grade,* except when also having a *fleet captain* on board [↑](#endnote-ref-4)