

(A.I.O. 3151)

Royal Marine Forces Volunteer Reserve (Short Title R.M.F.V.R.)—Formation

(N.7553/48.—24 Sep. 1948.)

The Royal Marines Act, 1947 has provided the necessary legislation for the formation of the Royal Marine Forces Volunteer Reserve. Their Lordships have approved of the setting up during the current year of two Centres which will be located as follows:—

(a) R.M.F.V.R. Centre, City of London.
Address :—R.M.F.V.R. Centre,
Finsbury Barracks,
City Road,
London, E.C.2.

(b) R.M.F.V.R. Centre, City of Glasgow.
Address :—R.M.F.V.R. Centre,
Whitfield Road,
Govan,
Glasgow.

In Glasgow there is a temporary office for enquiries and recruiting purposes with the following address:—

The Adjutant,
R.M.F.V.R. Centre—City of Glasgow,
Room 503,
St. Enoch's Hotel,
Glasgow.

2. Arrangements are being made to open further Centres in Liverpool and Bristol during 1949. Subsequently, other large towns in the country will receive consideration. These will include Belfast, Manchester, Leeds and Nottingham (or Leicester), but not necessarily in this order of priority. In the case of the City of Glasgow Centre, it is intended to open a sub-centre of the R.M.F.V.R. at Greenock during 1949.

3. It is proposed to commence recruiting on the 1st November, 1948 for the Centres in both London and Glasgow, but training is not expected to start for the first three months.

4. The R.M.F.V.R. will be under the direction and administration of The Commandant General, Royal Marines.

5. It has been decided to use the term "Centre" to describe an R.M.F.V.R. area, with its location following, i.e. "R.M.F.V.R. Centre—City of London". This terminology for the R.M.F.V.R. area may be accepted, for command and administrative purposes, as being the equivalent of an R.N.V.R. "Division". Each Centre will contain Units and Sub-units which will cover the various commitments of the Corps in connection with Sea Service, Commandos and Combined Operations. In this respect a Centre will not be the exact equivalent of a Territorial

Army Unit or an Auxiliary Air Force Squadron, in so far as it will cater for more than one commitment of the Corps. The strength of each Unit and Sub-unit within a Centre will vary with the locality.

6. Regulations concerning method of entry, pay and conditions of service will be promulgated shortly and will be similar to those of the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve.

7. Uniform will be the same as for the Royal Marines except for the distinguishing shoulder titles—R.M.F.V.R.

8. Volunteers will be required to complete 80 hours in part time training per year which can be undertaken either by attending 40 drills of two hours each spread over the whole year, or by attending week-end training and performing eight to ten hours at a time. In addition, they will be required to perform 56 days' continuous training, in periods of not less than 14 days at a time, during their Reserve engagement which will probably be for a period of five years. For men who have had two years' service or more during the war, full time training may be reduced to a total of 28 days in the period 1948–1952 but this will apply only to men joining the Reserve before a certain date (to be announced).

9. Travelling expenses ($1\frac{1}{2}d.$ per mile) incurred whilst attending training will be paid, and an allowance known as training expense allowance, at rates varying from 9d. to 1s. 6d. per hour (according to rank), will be paid to volunteers whilst undergoing part time training, to cover incidental out-of-pocket expenses. These allowances will be sufficient to meet normal expenses incurred by men performing their training at week-ends. Pay and allowances according to rank are payable for training of more than 48 hours' duration.

10. Bounties varying from £9 to £12 per annum will be paid to volunteers (not officers) who complete their training and qualify as "efficient".

11. In addition to the obligatory training referred to above, volunteers may undergo special courses of both continuous and part-time instruction and may volunteer for service at sea.

12. The Headquarters of the Reserve will be in charge of an officer appointed as "Director, R.M.F.V.R." who will be responsible to The Commandant General, Royal Marines, for all matters affecting the Reserve.

13. All enquiries concerning methods by which officers and other ranks may join the Reserve should be made at the Headquarters of the two Centres specified above or direct to the following address:—

Director, R.M.F.V.R.,
Royal Marine Office,
Admiralty,
Queen Anne's Mansions,
London, S.W.1.
(A.F.O. 4355/47 is cancelled.)