

2848.—Royal Marine Gunners—Promotion and Pension.

(C.W. 22379.—3.8.1917.)

Royal Marine Gunners will be eligible for promotion to commissioned warrant rank and to commissioned rank under the following regulations:—

1. The title of Royal Marine Gunners promoted to commissioned warrant rank to be Chief Royal Marine Gunner.

2. All deserving Royal Marine Gunners after 15 years' service as such to be advanced to Chief Royal Marine Gunner. Until the number of Chief Royal Marine Gunners exceeds 8 per cent. of the established number of Chief Royal Marine Gunners and Royal Marine Gunners combined, Royal Marine Gunners with less than 15 years' service may be promoted to Chief Royal Marine Gunner.

3. Chief Royal Marine Gunners to be eligible after 5 years' service as such for promotion to the rank of Captain, Royal Marines.

4. Captains, Royal Marines, of 8 years' seniority promoted under the foregoing rule to be eligible for promotion to the rank of Major, Royal Marines.

5. Not more than one Major thus promoted to be borne on the establishment at any one time, and the number of Captains promoted under Clause 3 not to exceed at any one time 4 per cent. of the established number of Captains, Royal Marines, thus promoted, Chief Royal Marine Gunners, and Royal Marine Gunners combined.

6. Chief Royal Marine Gunners, and Royal Marine Gunners, to be eligible for special promotion for war or distinguished service under conditions similar to those laid down in Article 299, Clauses 4 and 5, King's Regulations and Admiralty Instructions, for the special promotion of Commissioned Warrant Officers and Warrant Officers of the Royal Navy, and Chief Royal Marine Gunners to be eligible for promotion to combatant commissions in the same manner as Royal Marine Gunners.

7. The pay of Chief Royal Marine Gunners to be on the same scale as that provided for Chief Gunners, Royal Navy. The pay of Captains and Majors promoted under the foregoing provisions to be on the same scale as that applicable to Lieutenants and Lieutenant-Commanders, R.N., promoted from Chief Gunner, R.N., respectively. All allowances payable under existing regulations to Royal Marine Gunners to be payable to the Chief Royal Marine Gunners, and the Captains and the Major referred to in these regulations under the same conditions as if they were Royal Marine Gunners.

A mess allowance of 1s. 6d. a day to be paid to the Major and Captains under the same conditions as to Lieutenants, R.N., promoted from warrant rank.

8. Royal Marine Gunners, and Officers promoted from that rank, to be retired compulsorily at 55 years of age, or at any age for physical unfitness, but voluntary retirement to be permitted at the discretion of the Admiralty at or after the age of 40.

9. The retired pay of Majors and Captains promoted under the foregoing provisions to be on the same scale as that applicable to Lieutenant-Commanders and Lieutenants of the Royal Navy promoted from Chief Gunners and Gunners, and pensions to be granted to Chief Royal Marine Gunners and Royal Marine Gunners on the scales applicable respectively to Chief Gunners and Gunners, Royal Navy. Service as Warrant Officer, Royal Marines, to be equivalent to service above the rank of Petty Officer, R.N., and service as Colour-Serjeant and below to be equivalent to service as Petty Officer or Seaman. Any Royal Marine Gunner now on the list, however, whether subsequently promoted or not, to have the option of being pensioned under the scale at present applicable to Royal Marine Gunners, if more to his advantage than the scale provided under these regulations.

10. Widows' pensions and compassionate allowances for children to be granted on the scales, and subject to the conditions, applicable to Officers of corresponding rank in the Royal Navy.

(K.R. & A.I.—Art. 299.)