

*†4355. Royal Marine Forces Volunteer Reserve—Formation
(N.9788/47.—12 Dec. 1947.)

As soon as the necessary legislation can be obtained, it is intended to form a reserve of the Royal Marines to be known as the Royal Marine Forces Volunteer Reserve (R.M.F.V.R.).

2. As many inquiries are being received, particularly from officers and men who have recently been released, or who are about to be released, the following advance information is promulgated. This information is provisional but gives an outline of the proposed organisation.

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

4. The first group of the R.M.F.V.R. will have its headquarters at Chatham. Other groups may be formed later at Portsmouth and Plymouth and other towns.

5. It is hoped to arrange for training to be organised both in the evenings and during week-ends. In this way, volunteers who do not live close to one of the centres, e.g., in London, but who wish to join the Reserve may do so, and without any extra expense to themselves.

6. 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).

7. Travelling expenses (1½d. per mile) incurred whilst attending training will be paid, and an allowance known as training expenses 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.

8. Bounties varying from £5 to £8 per annum will be paid to volunteers (not officers) who complete their training and qualify as "efficient".

9. 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.

10. Uniform will be the same as for the Royal Marines with the possible addition of a distinguishing shoulder flash.

11. It is probable that enrolment in the reserve for ex-servicemen will be limited to those under the age of 45 in order that one period of Reserve service can be completed before reaching the age of 50; in exceptional cases extension of this limit will be considered. Volunteers must be medically fit. The physical requirements will probably be the same as for the Royal Marines.

12. Officers and men who wish to enrol in the Reserve on release from active service should apply through their Commanding Officer to have their names forwarded to the Commandant General, Royal Marines, for provisional notation. (Note.—This does not apply to men with a liability to serve in the Royal Fleet Reserve on completion of their active service engagement). This notation will in no way bind an officer or man to enrol in the Reserve when the final conditions of service are promulgated.