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CONDITIONS OF SERVICE IN THE SPECIAL RESERVE OF OFFICERS.

War office 40 /1166

1. The following paragraphs give a short summary of the conditions of service in the Special Reserve of Officers as laid down in the Special Reserve Regulations. Paras. 3,5,6,8,9 and 10 do not apply to the non-combatant branches of the service, and there are certain modifications in the case of Royal Engineers and Army Service Corps.
2. The Special Reserve of Officers, which is a part of the Reserve of Officers for the Regular Army, is designated for the following purposes:-
 - (i). To provide officers, up to Lieutenant-Colonel, for units of the Special Reserve.
 - (ii). To provide officers up to the rank of Captain (inclusive) for the supplementary list or Regular units and corps.

The officers required for (a) are almost for Infantry.* There are 101 reserve battalions (formerly Militia battalions) in the Army, and nearly all of these are short of subalterns.

The requirements of (b) include all branches of the service. It is hoped that before very long each Regular unit and corps will have a number of young Supplementary officers, trained in that unit and ready to be called up to serve with that unit, either on the outbreak, or in the course of war. The present shortage of officers in the Infantry Reserve battalions makes it necessary to defer opening the supplementary Lists of Regular Units of Infantry of the Line, and to appoint all candidates for this branch of the services to the reserve battalions. Candidates for the Supplementary Lists of Regiments of Cavalry and Foot Guards, and for Artillery, Engineers, Army Service Corps, Royal Army Medical Corps, and Army Veterinary Corps, may be accepted at once.

3. The qualifications for candidates are:-
 - (i). To be between the ages of 18 and 25.
 - (ii). To provide a certificate of moral character.
 - (iii). To be certified medically fit, according to the standard laid down for candidates for the Regular Army.
 - (iv). No standard of education required before 31st March 1912.
4. Candidates may select the branch of service, and the unit to which they wish to be appointed. Candidates who fulfil the above qualifications are appointed to a commission in the Special Reserve of Officers on probation, subject to approval by the prescribed authority.
5. The probationary training of officers, performed for the most part (except Royal Engineers and Army Service Corps) with a Regular unit, lasts 12 months for those who have no certificate of proficiency from the Officer Training Corps; it lasts 8 months for those who have Certificate A, and 4 months for those that have Certificates A and B.

* The exceptions are:- Two regiments of Irish Horse, two Royal Garrison Artillery units (Antrim and Cork), two Royal Engineer units (Anglesey and Monmouthshire).

6. The probationary officers who are in possession of Certificate B will be allowed to perform their 4 months' training in two parts. By this means an officer can do some or all of his probationary training during university vacations, and if he takes advantage of this during his 4 years stay at university, will have on leaving no liability in peace beyond his annual training. This should greatly facilitate the entry of candidates who wish to start their civil career without delay.
7. At the conclusion of the period of probationary training, the officers commission is confirmed, with the date from the day on which he was he was appointed on probation, if the commanding officer of the unit with which he has performed this training certifies that he is in all respects fit to do his duties of his rank in the field.
8. The annual training of officers of the combatant branches is 14 or 25 days; and, in addition, 6 days' musketry, or 2 days' gun-practice according to arm. Officers of Special Reserve units train with their units, Supplementary officer's train with a Regular unit of the regiment or corps to which they belong. The principle to be borne in mind is that supplementary officers should train annually, and, if required, go on active service, with officers whose acquaintance they made during their probationary training. Certain obligatory courses are also required.
9. Promotion is, generally, by establishment; but, failing this, promotion by time (5 years to Lieutenant, 10 years to Captain) is allowed.
 Officers must qualify before promotion to the rank of Captain (and for officers of Special Reserve units to the rank of Major) as laid down for Regular officers, in subjects C (i.) (ii.) and (iii.), (*vide* Kings regulations, App. Xi 1).
 Officers on the supplementary list are not promoted above the rank of Captain.
10. On reaching the age of 35, supplementary officers cease to be borne on the supplementary list. They can either transfer to a Special Reserve unit, or to the general reserve of officers (retaining their liability in case of war), or resign their commissions. In the case of the supplementary list of Royal Field Artillery, officers transferred from the recently disbanded Special Reserve units of Royal Field Artillery, may be admitted up to the age of 40.
11. The pay of officers of the Special Reserve of Officers is as follows:--
 40*l.* outfit allowance (part to be refunded if the officer fails to serve 4 years)
 20*l.* a-year retaining fee, which may be withheld if annual training is not performed in two successive years.
 Whilst on military duty or attending an authorised course of instruction, pay and allowances, generally speaking, as for Regular officers of the same rank and arm, together with 4*s.* a-day messing allowance; 50*l.* gratuity if called up during an emergency.
 A cadet of the Officers Training Corps in possession of Certificate B, who takes a commission in the Special Reserve of Officers, receives a gratuity of 35*l.*
12. From the foregoing paragraphs it will be seen that the conditions of service and the duties of a Special Reserve officer need not, in peace, time hinder a young man in his civil profession, nor involve him in expense. In war he may at any time be called to command Regular troops, and to fight side by side with the Regular officers with whom he has preformed his training in peace time.

13. It should be borne in mind that the provision of officers for the Special Reserve is the primary object with which the Officers Training Corps has been started.
14. Cadets desiring information as regards the procedure to be followed with a view to obtaining commissions in the Special Reserve of Officers, can, if they belong to a contingent of the senior division, obtain this from the adjutant of the contingent; if they belong to the junior division they should ask the Regular officer detailed to assist in the training of the contingent.