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ADMIRALTY FLEET ORDER

NAVAL ELECTRICAL BRANCH—OPPORTUNITY FOR CERTAIN PERMANENT AND TEMPORARY RESERVE AND VOLUNTEER RESERVE OFFICERS TO APPLY FOR PERMANENT COMMISSIONS IN THE ROYAL NAVY

ADMIRALTY, S.W.1,
13th September, 1945.

The following Order having been approved by My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty is hereby promulgated for information and guidance and necessary action.

By Command of Their Lordships,

J. V. Markham

To Commanders-in-Chief, Flag Officers, Senior Naval Officers, Captains and Commanding Officers of H.M. Ships, Vessels and C.O. Craft (See A.F.O. 1628/45), Superintendents or Officers in Charge of H.M. Naval Establishments, and Admiralty Overseers concerned.

NOTE :—Advance copies are being dispatched by Air to Distributing Authorities for immediate supply to recipients of A.F.Os. in accordance with A.F.O. 1487/45.

The scale of distribution is shown in the Admiralty Fleet Order Volume, 1941, Instructions, paragraph 10.

See AFO 389/46.
" " 1627/46.
" " 1628/46.
" " 2039/46.
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5283.—Naval Electrical Branch—Opportunity for Certain Permanent and Temporary Reserve and Volunteer Reserve Officers to Apply for Permanent Commissions in the Royal Navy

(C.W. 15106/45.—13 Sep. 1945.)

Dec AFO 6545/40
" - 6390/40
" - 6225/40
" - 5646/40
" " 180/46
" " 186/46
" " 1210/46

In A.F.O. 517/45 Their Lordships announced Their intention to establish a Naval Electrical Branch to be responsible for the technical and maintenance aspects of all applications, except ordnance and ordnance torpedo stores, of electricity to the naval service, and to operate those electrical equipments which do not form part of the installations provided for other users.

2. A departmental committee was also appointed to plan the organization of such a branch both at its inception and on reaching maturity. Although much detail remains to be settled it is now possible to give a more precise picture of what is intended, sufficient to enable officers to visualize the scope of the career and prospects which will be open to them.

3. It will be obvious that some factors, such as the balance of the branch as affecting promotion, the proportion of sea and shore appointments, and the detailed application of the pay and retired pay scales, cannot receive final approval until the scheme can be presented as a whole. Officers will understand that this Order represents the intentions of Their Lordships and should it subsequently be necessary to depart from them, thereby diminishing the attractiveness of the career offered, opportunity will be given for reconsideration of any decision to volunteer based hereon.

4. *Nature and scope of duties of Officers in Electrical Branch*

4. The branch will be technical and non-executive. In accordance with existing regulations its officers will be distinguished by Green cloth between the distinction lace, but any change in this general policy will be equally applied to this branch.

5. Electrical Officers will have exactly the same status as other technical officers in their respective spheres and in accordance with existing regulations will be responsible to the Commanding Officer for the efficient performance of their duties including the organization and care of the electrical personnel, and for meeting the needs of other branches who are users of electrical equipment.

6. There are many users of electricity and the success of the branch will in considerable measure depend upon the closeness of the co-operation between it and these users. The position will be exactly analogous to that of Torpedo Officers who have hitherto, and do now, discharge these duties, though in future the scope will be greater.

7. Torpedo Officers have found their advancement to higher rank in the Executive Branch, whereas Electrical Officers must look for it in their own technical branch. There will be appointments available on the staff of commands, in dockyards and in Admiralty establishments, and it is anticipated that the proportion will be such as to provide as good prospects of reaching high rank as in other branches.

8. Selection for promotion will not depend upon technical qualification and aptitude alone. What is required is initiative, decision, sense of responsibility and administrative ability over the whole field of the branch.

9. *Requirements as Officers of the Electrical Branch*

9. Officers entered and trained for the branch will be required to undergo such education and instruction as will qualify them as fully trained electrical engineers capable of exercising their profession over the whole range of responsibilities indicated in the first paragraph.

10. This state will take a considerable time to achieve because it has hitherto been the practice to specialize in one section or another of the commercial electrical field.

11. It is recognized that during the interim period the branch must depend on officers whose preparatory education has not been as broad as the future will require, and on those whose professional qualification is confined to one or two of the subjects to be covered.

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12. This may lead to a measure of selective appointments especially during the early stages, but officers transferred must understand that they will be required to extend their knowledge and experience, and to undergo conversion courses as and when they can be arranged, in order to shorten the time during which selective appointments will be necessary.

13. It is recognized that this will place at a disadvantage those who are not already qualified electrical engineers and whose experience has been confined to one speciality, particularly Radar. Such officers, especially those in the younger age groups, must expect to have to undergo courses to fit them to assume wider responsibilities, first in wireless and second in ships' electrical equipment.

14. If at the end of one year after transfer an officer has shown himself to be incapable of so extending his knowledge and experience, he will be liable to be reverted to his reserve commission.

Qualifications for transfer

15. This Order is addressed to Officers of the Permanent and Temporary Lists of the Royal Naval Reserve and Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve in the following categories:—

- (a) Qualified Electrical Officers.
- (b) Qualified Torpedo Officers.
- (c) Qualified Radar Officers.
- (d) Qualified Air Radio Officers.
- (e) Qualified Wireless Officers.
- (f) Qualified Air Electrical Officers.

16. An Order concerning transfer to the branch by officers holding permanent commissions in the Royal Navy, by civilian electrical engineers serving in the Admiralty, the dockyards, overseeing appointments, etc. (including officers granted temporary commissions in the R.N. or the R.N.V.R. but paid on a civilian salaried basis) and by civilian Radar officers, will be issued separately.

17. Officers having the qualifications listed in paragraph 15 and who—

- (i) hold the rank of Acting Sub-Lieutenant or higher;
- (ii) if under the age of 27 have at least one year's mobilized service as a Naval Officer in this war;
- (iii) if over the age of 27 have at least two years' mobilized service as a Naval Officer in this war;
- (iv) have at least six months' service in their special qualification;
- (v) are physically fit for service in the Royal Navy;
- (vi) were below the age of 35 when they commenced mobilized service as a Naval Officer. Officers who were above this age limit will be given consideration if they are recommended as being outstandingly suitable for transfer;
- (vii) are British subjects of European descent

may apply now to be considered for transfer to permanent commissions in the Electrical Branch of the Royal Navy.

18. Dominion officers serving on loan to R.N. are eligible to apply but their acceptance will be subject to the agreement of their respective Governments.

Pay

19. It is contemplated that the pay of Electrical Officers should be equal to that of Engineer Officers, the present scale being given in Appendix to the Navy List, page 9. The scale of allowances is still under consideration.

Rank and Seniority on transfer

20. Acting Sub-Lieutenants will transfer as Sub-Lieutenants (L), R.N., with seniority of date of transfer.

21. Sub-Lieutenants will transfer as Sub-Lieutenants (L), R.N., with their seniority as Sub-Lieutenants. Where, however, these officers have more than one year's service as Naval Officers, their seniority as Sub-Lieutenants (L), R.N., will be ante-dated by half the time served as officers in excess of the minimum one year's qualifying service. Sub-Lieutenants who under the above rules attain one and a

half year's or more seniority as Sub-Lieutenant will be transferred in the rank of Lieutenant (L), R.N. Their seniority as Lieutenant will be that of date of transfer, ante-dated up to a maximum of one year by half the amount of seniority as Sub-Lieutenant (calculated on the above basis) in excess of one and a half years. For example: a Sub-Lieutenant of six months' seniority who has a total of 18 months officer's service will transfer as Sub-Lieutenant (L), R.N., of nine months' seniority. A Sub-Lieutenant of one and a half years' seniority who has a total of two years officer's service will become a Lieutenant (L) of three months' seniority. A Sub-Lieutenant of two years' seniority who has a total of two and a half years officer's service will become a Lieutenant (L) of seven and a half months' seniority.

22. Sub-Lieutenants over 24 who under the rules in paragraph 19 above would not qualify for the rank of Lieutenant on transfer will transfer as Lieutenant (L), R.N., with seniority of date of transfer ante-dated so that they will attain eight years' seniority as Lieutenant on reaching the age of 32.

23. Lieutenants will transfer as Lieutenant (L), R.N., with their original seniority as Lieutenant ante-dated either—

(a) by half the time served as officers, up to a maximum of one year, in excess of the minimum qualifying period of one year laid down in paragraph 16 (ii) above. For example, a Lieutenant of three months' seniority with two years officer's service would be transferred as a Lieutenant (L) of nine months' seniority. A Lieutenant of six months' seniority with two and a half years officer's service will be transferred as a Lieutenant (L) of 15 months' seniority; or

(b) so that they will attain eight years' seniority as Lieutenant (L) on reaching the age of 32, whichever is more favourable to the officer.

24. Lieutenants over the age of 32 will transfer as Lieutenant Commanders (L) with seniority of date of transfer ante-dated by six months for each whole year by which the officer's age exceeds 32; the maximum ante-date granted will be three years.

25. Substantive Lieutenant Commanders will transfer as Lieutenant Commanders, R.N., with their existing seniority, or, if more favourable to the officer, with their seniority ante-dated as laid down in paragraph 24 above.

26. Substantive Commanders will transfer as Commanders (L), R.N., with their existing seniority.

27. Any acting higher rank held will be disregarded in determining rank on transfer.

Promotion

28. Officers transferred as Sub-Lieutenants will be eligible for promotion to the rank of Lieutenant upon attaining the age of 24 or one and a half years' seniority as Sub-Lieutenant, whichever is the earlier. Lieutenants will be promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Commander on attaining eight years' seniority as Lieutenant. Officers will be considered for promotion to higher rank under rules similar to those governing the promotion of Engineer Officers and will be eligible to be retired under the same conditions as are applied to them.

29. As R.N. non-executive officers, officers transferred will be liable to be employed in such appointments as the Admiralty may decide.

Uniform

30. Officers selected to transfer may after the war claim a grant for uniform such as will bring the total of all grants made on this account up to a total of £50.

Retirement and Retired Pay

31. Conditions and compulsory age limits for retirement will be those laid down for Engineer Officers in the Appendix to the Navy List, page 81, but special consideration may be given to officers who are selected for transfer at more than 35 years of age.

32. Retired pay will be accorded under the rules recently published in A.F.O. 3325/45. Officers whose mobilized Naval service commenced after the age of 35 will be dealt with specially, if any are accepted for transfer.

Applications to Transfer.

33. Officers who wish to be considered for transfer to permanent commissions in the Electrical Branch should address applications to their Commanding Officers, giving the following details:—

- (i) Full name.
- (ii) Date of birth.
- (iii) Rank and seniority now held, with a brief record of Naval career as an officer, giving date of commencing reckonable service and courses undergone.
- (iv) Particulars of education, including degrees or other qualifications held.
- (v) Past employment in civil life.
- (vi) Reference to any previous application made, e.g. under C.A.F.O. 2652/44, paragraph 8.

34. It is desirable that these applications should reach the Admiralty as early as practicable and in any case by 31st December, 1945.

35. Commanding Officers should forward applications, together with a report, on Form S.206 as to their opinion of the officer and his suitability for transfer, to their administrative authority for remarks and onward transmission to Admiralty (C.W. Branch).

36. Selection machinery will be set up and choice made on the basis of qualifications, suitability and age according to requirements. In some cases it may be necessary for officers to appear in person before a committee.

37. Instructions for medical examination will be issued when provisional selection has been made.

(C.A.F.O. 2652/44, A.F.Os. 517/45 and 3325/45.)

