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ARMY ORDER.

Special.

WAR OFFICE,

15th April, 1912.

ROYAL WARRANT.

Royal Flying Corps (Military Wing).

GEORGE R.I.

WHEREAS WE have approved of the establishment of an aeronautical service for naval and military purposes under the designation of the Royal Flying Corps ;

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Royal Flying Corps
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AND WHEREAS it is necessary to form a Military Wing of the Royal Flying Corps to which officers and men of Our Land Forces can be appointed ;

OUR WILL AND PLEASURE is that the Royal Flying Corps (Military Wing) shall be deemed to be a corps for the purposes of the Army Act.

Given at Our Court at St. James's, this 13th day of April, 1912, in the 2nd year of Our Reign.

By His Majesty's Command,

HALDANE OF CLOAN.

The Royal Flying Corps.—His Majesty the King has been graciously pleased to approve the establishment of an Aeronautical Service for naval and military purposes under the designation of the Royal Flying Corps.

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Royal Flying Corps
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The Royal Flying Corps will supply the necessary personnel for a Naval and a Military Wing, for a Central Flying School and for a Reserve.

The Royal Flying Corps, with the exception of the Naval Wing and of officers and men of the Royal Navy and Royal Marines who are members of the Reserve, will be under the administration of the War Office.

Entry to the Royal Flying Corps as officers will ultimately be confined to those who have passed a

course of instruction at the Flying School. These officers will be drawn from (a) officers of all branches of the naval and military forces, and (b) civilians.

Officers of the Regular Army who desire to join the Royal Flying Corps should make application to the War Office through the usual military channels. An applicant must state whether he desires to join the Royal Flying Corps for continuous or for Reserve service, and must give an assurance that he will, when required, complete the specified course of training. Officers who are desirous of, and are selected for, service in the Military Wing or the Central Flying School, but for whom there are no vacancies, will be appointed to the Reserve until vacancies occur. An officer of the Regular Army must have not less than 2 years' service. An officer above the rank of captain will be selected in exceptional cases only. An applicant must be recommended by his commanding officer and be certified as having good eyesight and as being medically fit for the work. Commanding officers, in forwarding applications, should state the candidate's weight, whether he is a good map-reader and field-sketcher, and whether he has any knowledge of mechanical engineering.

Officers of the Reserve of Officers, of the Special Reserve of Officers, or of the Territorial Force who desire to join the Royal Flying Corps should make application in the same manner as officers of the Regular Army, with the exception that a medical certificate will not be required with the application as these officers will be medically examined before selection under War Office instructions. The requirement of 2 years' service will not apply to Special Reserve or Territorial Force officers.

An officer selected for the Royal Flying Corps who has obtained, or subsequently obtains, the certificate of the Royal Aero Club, at his own expense, will be paid (if he has not already received it), under instructions from the War Office, the sum of 75 \pounds . After selection he will be required to undergo a course of instruction at the Flying School. At the conclusion of this course, if satisfactorily completed, he will be eligible for appointment (a) for service in the Military Wing, or (b) to the permanent staff of the Flying School, or (c) to the Royal Flying Corps Reserve. If selected for appointment to the Military Wing or Flying School he will be appointed to the Royal Flying Corps for a period of 4 years from the date he joined the Flying School, and, except in the case of officers of the Royal Engineers, will be seconded in his regiment. The tenure of the appointment may be extended from year to year under conditions to be prescribed by the Army Council.

An officer who is found at any time to be unfitted for the duties of the corps will be required to rejoin his regiment.

An officer who is appointed to the Reserve of the Royal Flying Corps on the conclusion of his course at the Flying School will be attached to the Military Wing of the Royal Flying Corps for such further training as may be necessary. He will then rejoin his regiment or corps, and will remain available for service with the Royal Flying Corps for a period of 4 years. This period may be extended from year to year under conditions to be prescribed by the Army Council.

A gentleman not holding a commission who desires to join the Royal Flying Corps as an officer will forward his application to the Commandant, Central Flying School, quoting the number of his Royal Aero Club Certificate, and stating which wing of the corps he wishes to join. If selected for the Military Wing he will be granted a commission as 2nd lieutenant on probation in the Special Reserve of Officers. The training of these officers will normally be the same as that prescribed for officers of the Regular Army, and they will receive, under the same conditions, the sum of 75% if they have obtained the Royal Aero Club's Certificate at their own expense. An officer who desires to leave the corps before the expiration of 4 years' service will be called upon to refund this sum. Officers holding probationary commissions may be confirmed in their rank on the completion of the course at the Flying School, and will then be graded in the Royal Flying Corps as flying officers.

The grades of officers in the Royal Flying Corps will be—

Commanding officer.

Squadron commander.

Flight commander.

Flying officer.

Officers holding the appointments of commanding officer, squadron commander, and flight commander will, if of lower rank, be granted temporary rank of lieutenant-colonel, major and captain respectively, while holding those appointments. This applies to officers of the Regular Army, the Reserve of Officers, the Special Reserve of Officers, and the Territorial Force.

The warrant officers, non-commissioned officers and men, of the Royal Flying Corps (Military Wing) will be obtained either by transfer from the Regular Army or by enlistment for the corps. In the case of direct enlistment the terms of service will be 4 years' Colour and 4 years' Reserve service. In the case of transfer from other arms the conditions of service will be varied

so that a soldier shall complete 4 years' Colour service with the Royal Flying Corps from the date of transfer and the unexpired portion of his term of original enlistment in the Reserve of the Royal Flying Corps.

All officers and men of the Royal Flying Corps, including the Reserve, will be liable to serve in time of war, either for naval or military purposes, in any part of the world.

The organization of the Military Wing of the Royal Flying Corps, to fulfil the requirements of the Expeditionary Force, will eventually be as follows :—

Wing Headquarters.

7 Aeroplane Squadrons, each providing 12 aeroplanes.

1 Airship and Kite Squadron, providing two airships and two flights of kites.

1 Line of Communications Royal Flying Corps Workshop.

The peace establishment of an Aeroplane Squadron, which for the present will coincide with the War establishment, is shown in Appendix I. The several squadrons will be raised under instructions to be issued hereafter.

The personnel and matériel of the Air Battalion, Royal Engineers, will be absorbed as far as possible in the Military Wing of the Royal Flying Corps, and the Air Battalion will cease to exist as a unit of the Corps of Royal Engineers on the 13th May next.

The officers of the Reserve of the Royal Flying Corps will be appointed from (a) naval and military officers, and (b) civilians, who have completed the course of training satisfactorily, but are not serving on the establishment of the Naval or Military Wing nor on the permanent staff of the Flying School. These officers will fall into two classes. The flyers of the First Reserve will be required to perform certain flights during each quarter of the year. Flyers of the Second Reserve will not be required to perform any flights but will be available for service in the Royal Flying Corps in time of war.

Non-commissioned officers and men may be enlisted directly into the Special Reserve for a total period of 6 years.

Further instructions will be issued as regards the uniform of the corps.

The Central Flying School.

The Central Flying School will be situated on Salisbury Plain. The establishment of the school is given in Appendix II.

Its functions will be the training of candidates for, and personnel of, the Royal Flying Corps in—

- (1.) Art of flying, including cross-country flights.
- (2.) General principles of mechanics and of aeronautics entering into the construction of aeroplanes.
- (3.) Construction, maintenance and use of instruments, internal combustion engines, &c., forming part of the technical equipment of the corps.
- (4.) Meteorology.
- (5.) Observation in the air.
- (6.) Air navigation and flying by compass.
- (7.) Photography from aircraft.
- (8.) Signalling by all methods as applied to aircraft.
- (9.) Instruction in types of warships and aircraft of all nations.

The nature and dates of courses of instruction to be carried out at the school will be published from time to time in Army Orders.

There will probably be three courses of instruction for flyers in each year.

The Royal Aircraft Factory.

The Army Aircraft Factory will be designated the "Royal Aircraft Factory," and will continue to be administered by the War Office. It will carry out the following functions :—

- (1.) The higher training of mechanics for the Royal Flying Corps.
- (2.) Repairs and reconstruction for the Royal Flying Corps.
- (3.) Tests with British and foreign engines and aeroplanes.
- (4.) Experimental work.
- (5.) The existing work in the manufacture of hydrogen, and generally meeting the requirements of the Airship and Kite Squadron.
- (6.) General maintenance of the factory as at present.

By Command of the Army Council,

EWD Ward

(ii.) *Transport.*

Detail.	Head-quarters.	Three flights.	Total squadron.
<i>1st Line.</i>	Vehicles.	Vehicles.	Vehicles.
Motor cars	1	6	7
Motor lorries, 30-cwt....	...	9	9
Motor repair lorry ...	...	3	3
Shed lorry ... ..	...	6	6
Trailer trucks to hangar lorries	...	6	6
Motor cycles ... ..	...	6	6
<i>Train.</i>			
Motor lorry, 30-cwt., for baggage and supplies	1	...	1
Total	1	36	37

NOTE.—No drivers of mechanical transport are shown for 1st line transport, as all air mechanics will be trained to drive the vehicles. Fitters and turners are provided for the care of the engines.

APPENDIX II.

CENTRAL FLYING SCHOOL.

ESTABLISHMENT.

(Provisional.)

	Officers.	Other ranks.	Total.
Commandant	1	...	1
Secretary	1	...	1
Medical officer	1	...	1
Quartermaster	1	...	1
Instructor in theory and construction	1	...	1
Instructor in meteorology	1	...	1
Inspector of engines	1	...	1
Warrant officer mechanics ... ..	...	3	3
Storekeeper ... ..	...	1	1
Instructional flights—			
Officer instructors	5	...	5
Chief petty officers or serjeants ...	...	10	10
Air mechanics	40	40
Total	12	54	66
For workshops—mechanics and labourers	...	20	20

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