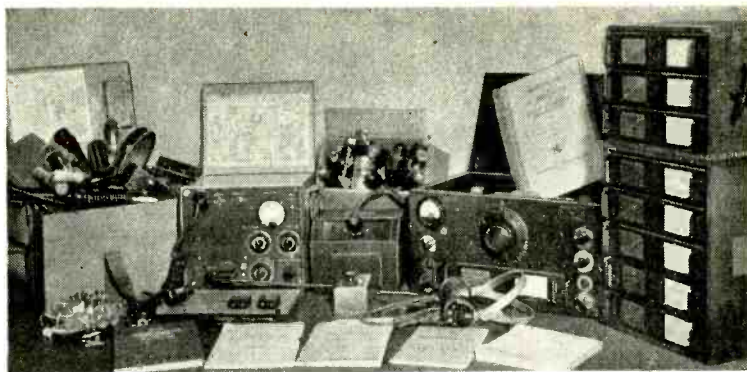


R.N.V.W.R.

Reserve of Naval Telegraphists and Radio Electricians



IT might be as well before discussing the present need for recruits to the Royal Naval Volunteer Wireless Reserve to review the history of the organization. Formed in 1932, as a result of consultations between Vice-Admiral J. W. S. Dorling (representing the Admiralty), H. Bevan-Swift, A. E. Watts and J. Clarricoats (R.S.G.B. representatives) and H. S. Pocock, it had a membership of 270 by 1938, when it was amalgamated with the Telegraphist Branch of the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve, bringing the combined total to 381. In 1939 it was given its present title. During the war the reservists filled with distinction posts in the Signals Branch of the Navy, both afloat and ashore. In 1945 it was decided to reconstitute the Reserve, which now has a strength of some 600 ratings. Whilst this is in excess of the 1939 figure, it is well below the total strength allowed by the Admiralty—39 officers, 1,200 telegraphists and 240 electrical ratings for maintenance work.

The main object of the Reserve is to train telegraphists who, in an emergency, would fill the gap in the Fleet until the mobilized men had been trained for the task. Training is essentially operational rather than theoretical, although some basic theory is taught. Having reached the required standard of proficiency, a telegraphist may be lent transmitting and receiving equipment for use at home. He does not, however, have to pass the normal P.M.G. licence examination but is issued with a licence on the recommendation of his District Officer.

Each of the nine Districts into which the United Kingdom is arbitrarily divided for the purpose of the Reserve contains a number of training centres where regular instruction is given by full-time telegraphist instructors. Recruits must be between the ages of 17 and 45 and must sign on for five years. Training consists of sixteen hours' instruction per quarter, plus four periods of eight days' continuous training with the Navy during the five years. Young men liable for National Service, who join the R.N.V.W.R. and attain the requisite standard of proficiency, are certain of acceptance in the Navy for their period of service.

A bounty of £9 is paid to Reservists at the end of each year, plus a proficiency grant of up to £3 p.a. Travelling and training expenses are also paid, and those using Naval transmitting equipment at home are granted a maintenance allowance of £3 p.a.

In conformity with modern practice, Reservists are taught touch-typing so that they can take down morse messages direct on to the typewriter. The Naval speed is 22 w.p.m.

Particulars of the Reserve, which now has thirty-

Equipment issued to Reservists for use at home includes a 30-watt portable h.f. transmitter (Type 5G) and a communication-type receiver.

nine training centres and units, are obtainable from the R.N.V.W.R., Queen Anne's Mansions, London, S.W.1.

Short-wave Conditions

Predictions for January

FROM this month the publication of the written matter on short-wave conditions will be discontinued, but the predictions will continue to be given in the form of four sets of curves, indicating the highest frequencies likely to be usable over four long-distance circuits from this country during the coming month. The curves, together with their caption, will be self-explanatory.

