Public Works (1890) Department.

RAILWAY BRANCH.

G.O., No. 1874 Ry.

DATED 25th November

[Despatch Abstract.]

Volunteers.—Letters from the Govt of India forwarding a statement shewing the number of employés on the Madras Railways who are not —, and requesting that every endeavour should be made to enrol them in the Corps; communicated to the Consulting Engineer for Railways for attention.

Indexed.

[P. W. Ry. 500—8-5-00.]

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Enclosure No. 1 to Public Works Department No. 2910-G., dated 20th October 1890.

Statement showing the enrolled strength of the several Indian railway volunteer corps on 31st March 1890, and the number of European and East Indian employés on the railways concerned, on 31st December 1889.

Corps.	Enrolled strength.	European and East Indian employés on open line.	Remarks.
	No.	No.	
East Indian Railway	1,210	1,520	
Bengal-Nagpur Railway	539*	495	* Includes employés on un-open sections of the railway enrolled as volunteers.
Rajputana-Malwa State Railway—*2nd Battalion, Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway Volunteer Rifle Corps*	788†	873	† Includes cadets.
Southern Mahratta Railway	394	643	
North Western Railway—*3rd Punjab (North Western Railway) Volunteer Rifles* ...	1,093	1,262	
Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway—(*i*) *Oudh Volunteer Rifles*	101		
(*ii*) *Rohilkhand Volunteer Rifles* ...	49		
(*iii*) *Ghazipur Volunteer Rifle Corps* ...	6	271‡	‡ Includes the Lucknow-Sitapur-Sihramau State Railway.
(*iv*) *Oudh Volunteer Reserve Corps* ...	15		
(*v*) *Cawnpore Volunteer Rifle Corps* ...	2		
Tirhoot State Railway	54	97	
Eastern Bengal State Railway	300	464	Includes the Bengal Central Railway.
Wardha Coal State Railway—*Nagpur Volunteer Rifles, "C" Company*	31	36	
Burma State Railway	651*	300	§ Includes certain non-railway employés and also employés on the un-open section of the line.
Great Indian Peninsula Railway	964	1,462	
Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway—*1st Battalion, Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway Volunteer Rifles*	456*	256	‖ Includes certain non-railway employés and cadets.
Madras Railway	864	1,309	
South Indian Railway	546	578	
Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway—*Northern Bengal Mounted Rifles, "A" and "B" Troops.*	18	21	There is no separate Railway Corps, the men are attached to "A" and "B" Troops of the Northern Bengal Mounted Rifles.
Bengal and North-Western Railway—(*i*) *Ghazipur Volunteer Rifles (Gorakhpur and Sonepur Detachments)*	67	86	
(*ii*) *Oudh Volunteer Rifles, "G" Company* ...	8		
Rohilkhand-Kumaon Railway—*Rohilkhand Volunteer Rifles*	11	18	
Nizam's (Guaranteed by H. H. the Nizam) State Railway—*Hyderabad Volunteer Rifles, "B" and "C" Companies*	177	211	
Bhavnagar-Gondal-Junagarh-Porbandar State Railway—*1st Battalion, Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway Volunteer Rifles, "F" Company*	59	55	
Morvi State Railway—*Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway Volunteer Rifle Corps, "F" Company*	6	6	
TOTAL ...	8,409	9,963	

Enclosure No. 2 to P. W. D. No. 2910-G., dated 20th October 1890.

Clause 51, India Army Circulars of 1889.

His Excellency the Governor-General in Council is pleased to notify the following regulations for the guidance of volunteer reserves in India and Burma. These regulations are provisional only, and are subject to such alterations as may be considered necessary :—

Section I.

Constitution and formation of corps.

1. Volunteer reserve corps will consist of Europeans or those of European descent, who, from various causes, are unable or unwilling to enlist in active volunteer corps.

2. For the formation of volunteer reserves, each presidency may be divided into volunteer districts according to the localisation of existing volunteer corps. Men living near each other may be formed into one or more "squads" of not less than five and not more than fifteen men. All "squads" near each other may be formed into one or more "sections" of not less than fifteen and not more than thirty men. On the same principle "half-company of not less than thirty men, and "companies" of not less than sixty men, may be formed. The companies thus formed in each volunteer district may be attached to the volunteer corps in the district, or be formed into separate reserve volunteer corps, as may be decided by the local Government.

3. No commissioned, warrant, or non-commissioned officer of the regular army will be eligible for enrolment in the volunteer reserve in any rank if he has any connection at the time with purely military duties. This restriction does not apply to the employment of military officers who may be selected by Government for the post of commandants or adjutants.

4. Honorary commissioned officers and warrant and non-commissioned officers and men on the Unattached List, if not employed on purely military duties, and army schoolmasters are eligible for enrolment in a volunteer reserve corps, on a certificate from the officer under whom they are serving that their being volunteers will not interfere with their duties ; but none of these ranks, except honorary commissioned officers, will be eligible for appointment as commissioned officers. The certificate above referred to will not be required in the case of military men employed as clerks.

5. Members of the police force may be enrolled as reservists, but they are not eligible to hold any rank above that of private, unless permitted by the local Government or Administration.

6. Out-pensioners of Her Majesty's regular forces, residing in India, may be enrolled as reservists.

7. Where active volunteer corps exist, and no special reason presents itself to the contrary, the reserves raised in the locality will be attached, for administrative purposes, to the active corps so that the reservists may derive full advantage from the instructional staff ranges, and appliances belonging to the active corps. Should the reservists desire to form a separate corps, the question will be referred to the local Government or Administration concerned for decision. If an additional separate staff is found necessary for a reserve corps, the Government of India will be prepared to consider recommendations on this head. Where there is no active volunteer corps in the locality, the organisation of the volunteer reserve will partake of a territorial character, and will be conducted by the divisional and district civil officers, with the assistance of any instructional staff it may be found necessary to sanction.

8. Applications for the formation of volunteer reserves will be submitted for the orders of the local Government or Administration. If a separate corps be formed, the designation of such corps will be fixed by the local Government or Administration, and no corps will be permitted to assume any title or designation without such authority.

9. In the formation of volunteer reserves, care is to be taken that the ranks of the active corps are not depleted by indiscriminate recruiting. Recruiting for reserve corps will therefore be carried on under the following conditions :—

(*a*)—All persons who, on account of their age, the nature of their business, residence at a distance from a volunteer centre, or other cause, cannot join an active corps, may be enrolled in the reserve. A liberal interpretation should be put by commanding officers on this rule.

(*b*)—No member of an active volunteer corps shall be transferred to the reserve without the permission of the officer commanding the active corps, unless the member has attained the age of 35 years and is an efficient volunteer.

(*c*)—The sanction of the officer commanding the active volunteer corps to which the reserves are attached will be necessary before a candidate is enrolled in the reserve, unless the candidate has attained the age of 35 years, when such permission shall not be required.

(*d*)—No candidate will be admitted into the reserve without the sanction of the officer commanding the reserve corps.

(*e*).—Applications for the sanction of the officer commanding the active corps for the enrolment of a candidate in the reserve must be made in the form given in Appendix A (*vide* page 72).

9a. Europeans, Eurasians, &c., of good character and respectability, domiciled in India and residing within the limits defined in the following paragraph, shall be eligible for enrolment in the Presidency Volunteer Reserve Battalion.

Applicable to the Calcutta Volunteer Reserve Battalion only.

9b. The municipal limits of Calcutta and its suburbs, Howrah, Dum-Dum, and the riverside districts, extending on both sides of the river Hooghly from the Hooghly Bridge to Budge-Budge and Fort Gloster, will be the locality from which the Presidency Volunteer Reserve Battalion may be recruited.

Applicable to the Calcutta Volunteer Reserve Battalion only.

9c. The Presidency Volunteer Reserve Battalion will be divided into companies, half-companies, and sections, according to postal districts.

Applicable to the Calcutta Volunteer Reserve Battalion only.

9d. Members of the Burma Volunteer Reserve shall not be formed into separate corps, but shall be attached to some corps of active volunteers. They will be formed into companies to be called reserve companies of the corps to which they are attached.

Applicable to the Burma Volunteer Reserve only.

9e. The Madras Volunteer Reserves will be affiliated to the Madras Volunteer Guards for administrative purposes and for general supervision of drills, &c.*

Applicable to the Madras Volunteer Reserves only.

9f. The members of this reserve will be enrolled by sections, companies, &c., according to the municipal districts in which they reside.

Applicable to the Madras Volunteer Reserves only.

10. Prior to enrolment in the reserves, it should be made clear to the applicant that his obligations will be as follows, and he will be required to sign a declaration in the form given in Appendix B (*vide* page 73):—

1st.—The maintenance in good order and at all times in readiness for service (if in his possession) of rifle, ammunition, accoutrements, and uniform (if any).

2nd.—The wearing of uniform only when on duty, and in compliance with regimental orders.

3rd.—Attendance in uniform, fully accoutred, whenever summoned by competent authority, save when prevented by duty to employer, sickness, or other unavoidable cause.

4th.—Attendance at muster, inspection parade, and drill, such attendances being limited to seven in the year in all.

5th.—Completion of the annual musketry course prescribed for reservists (para 40).

6th.—Delivery of arms, ammunition, and uniform in good order (reasonable wear excepted) to the authority appointed to receive them on leaving the district or resigning his membership.

7th.—To notify to the regimental authorities all changes of residence.

11. All persons enrolled as members of the volunteer reserve shall be subject to the provisions of Act XX of 1869, and to such orders in accordance therewith, or not opposed thereto, as may from time to time be issued under the authority of the Governor-General in Council.

* Raised in Madras itself.

12. Where reservists are attached to active volunteer corps, they will not be formed into separate corps, but will be formed either into companies, sections, &c, to be called reserve companies of the corps to which they are attached, or they may be simply attached to the various companies. Where, however, the reservists are not attached to existing active corps, but form corps by themselves, the corps will be divided into companies, half-companies, and sections, according to postal or municipal districts, according to their place of residence or place of employment, as they may elect.

13. No person shall be enrolled in a reserve volunteer corps who has been dismissed from any volunteer or reserve corps under the provisions of section 18 or 20 of Act XX of 1869.

14. If a person, who has been enrolled as a reservist because his residence was remote from a volunteering centre, changes his residence to a place which is, or is near to, a volunteering centre, he shall be invited to join the active volunteer corps and shall not be permitted to remain a reservist, unless he shows good and sufficient reasons why he cannot join the active corps.

15. A person who is already a member of a volunteer reserve corps is ineligible for enrolment in any other reserve corps until struck off the strength of the corps to which he belonged. Reservists temporarily absent from their own corps may be attached to any other.

Section II.

Establishments.

16. Officers of volunteer reserves will be appointed by the local Governments or Administrations, and their appointments and promotions will be notified in the local gazettes. Commandants and field officers will be selected by the local Government or Administration, all other officers being elected by the reservists and approved by the local Government or Administration. Officers will be granted commissions by the local Government. Only one commission will be issued to an officer of the volunteer reserve on first appointment, and any promotions he may subsequently receive will be notified in the local gazette, and he will be entitled by virtue of his commission to hold and exercise the rank to which he has been so promoted.

17. Officers who have held commissions of a lower grade in the army or volunteer force may be promoted, on joining the reserves, to a higher grade.

18. Every officer appointed to a commission as subaltern, captain, or field officer in the volunteer reserve, or promoted under rule 17 to be a captain or field officer in the reserve, will be required to pass, if he has not already done so, the examinations laid down in Army Regulations, India, Vol. IX, "Volunteers," for the respective commissioned grades.

19. Sections, half-companies, companies, half-battalions, and battalions of reserve volunteers will be officered in the same proportion as sections, &c., of active volunteer corps, *viz.*, as laid down in para. 45, Army Regulations, India, Vol. IX, "Volunteers."

20. The establishment of non-commissioned officers for reserve volunteer corps will also be in the same proportion as that laid down for active corps, *viz.*, as in para. 45, Army Regulations, India, Vol. IX.

21. Non-commissioned officers are to be appointed, on the recommendation of officers commanding companies, by the commanding officer of the corps from among the enrolled members.

22. The adjutant of the active volunteer corps in the locality will exercise the supervision necessary for the drill and instruction of the reservists, and where the strength of the reserve corps justifies the appointments, Government will be prepared to receive applications for the services of sergeant and drill instructors for the reserve corps. The sergeant instructor so appointed will be required to perform the office work of the corps.

23. Instructors appointed to reserve corps will be subject to the rules applicable to instructors of active volunteer corps, *viz.*, those contained in section VIII of Army Regulations, India, Vol. IX, "Volunteers."

24. The rules contained in section V of Army Regulations, India, Vol. IX, "Volunteers," concerning officers of volunteers, will apply to officers of volunteer reserves, except when those regulations are not in accordance with the provisions of the present rules.

25. All proposed resignations of officers of reserve volunteer corps will be submitted through the usual channel to the local Government for acceptance.

Section III.

Arms, Ammunition, Equipment, &c.

26. Reservists will be armed with Martini-Henry rifles, and each man will be ellgible to receive fifty rounds of ammunition annually *gratis*. Extra ammunition, up to a maximum of fifty rounds annually, may be purchased by reservists for practice or match-shooting at half price. Ninety per cent. of the empty cartridges must be returned from the last supply before a fresh supply is issued.

27. As commandants are held personally responsible by Government for the safety and effective condition of arms and accoutrements entrusted to their respective corps, no issue of either one or other is to be made by the Ordnance Department to a new corps until the name of the commandant is notified in the local gazette. Requisitions for arms and accoutrements for reservists should be made according to the procedure laid down in Article 239, Army Regulations, India, Vol. IX.

28. Each member of the volunteer reserve will be supplied by Government with one rifle, one bayonet or sword-bayonet, and one set of brown accoutrements.

29. Arms and accoutrements will be supplied to reservists under the same rules as they are issued under to active volunteer corps.

30. The arms should be kept by reservists themselves where this can be done safely, otherwise suitable arrangements should be made by the corps for their safe custody.

31. The wearing of uniform by volunteer reservists will not be compulsory; but should the wearing of uniform be decided on, a grant of Rs. 5 will be passed for each reservist to whom uniform is supplied, on the same terms as for members of active volunteer corps. This allowance will be passed only once for each reservist.

32. A simple suit of khaki drill in the plains and of serge of the same color in the hills would appear to be the most suitable uniform for the reserves. If preferred, reservists may adopt the uniform of the active corps to which they are attached. The color and pattern of uniform of reservists must be approved by the local Government.

33. The rules contained in section XI, Army Regulations, India, Vol. IX, on the subject of the custody and inspection of, and the responsibility for, arms and accoutrements shall apply generally to the arms and accoutrements of volunteer reservists.

34. No member of a reserve corps shall take his arms, accoutrements, &c., away from the district within which he has been enrolled without special permission in writing from the commandant of the corps.

35. Every member shall keep his arms, ammunition, accoutrements, and uniform in good order and ready at all times for service. Members must deliver up their arms, ammunition, uniform, &c, when called in by competent authority.

36. Blank ammunition at the rate of ten rounds per reservist will be issued to members of reserve volunteer corps for instructional purposes; this allowance will be increased up to a miximum limit of forty rounds per man in the case of reserve battalions joining the local volunteer corps on their field days, provided a certificate is produced that the overplus was required for expenditure on field days.

36a. No member shall wear his uniform, except when on duty or proceeding to the range for practice and in compliance with regimental orders.

Applicable to the Calcutta Volunteer Reserve Battalion only.

36b. The commanding officer shall fix the time and place for drills, parades, and rifle practice, and members, must attend such drills, &c., as shall be ordered unless prevented by any reasonable cause, and provided that no efficient member shall be compelled to attend more than seven in all during the year. Members who have not previously learnt their drill may be required to make themselves efficient in the elements of drill and in the manual and firing exercises within a reasonable time.

Applicable to the Calcutta Volunteer Reserve Battalion only.

36c. At drill, musketry instruction, or rifle practice, the senior officer, non-commissioned officer, or volunteer of longest standing present shall be in command, and any order given by him must be obeyed by all.

Applicable to the Calcutta Volunteer Reserve Battalion only.

Section. IV.

Discipline.

37. The rules contained in section IX of Army Regulations, India, Vol. IX, on the subject of discipline of active volunteer corps, will apply to reserve corps of volunteers.

38. The rules regarding courts-martial and courts of enquiry contained in section X of Army Regulations, India, Vol. IX will be also applicable to corps of reserve volunteers and reservists.

Section V.

Drill and Musketry.

39. A knowledge of drill, other than such knowledge as is necessary to enable a reservist to qualify under the musketry course (*vide* para. 40), shall not be required of a reserve volunteer in order that he may obtain a certificate of efficiency, but commandants should encourage reservists to acquire a knowledge of drill, and should afford them such facilities as are possible of practising drill.

40. Towards qualifying as an efficient for the season, a reservist must execute the following musketry course:—

Yards.	Rounds.	Position.	Target.	Hits.
100	5	Standing	4 feet square ...	3
200	5	Kneeling	Do. ...	3
300	5	Lying down	Do. ...	3

41. Where a reserve corps is affiliated to an active volunteer corps, the reservists, if convenient for them, will practise firing and execute their annual course of musketry at the range of the active corps, but where this is inconvenient or impracticable, reservists, whether belonging to an affiliated corps or to a corps unconnected with any active corps, will go through their firing at any suitable ground appointed by the commandant of the corps, a qualified person deputed by the commandant being responsible that the reservist fires from correct distances and at proper-sized targets made either of wood or canvas, so as to be easily moved from place to place as necessary.

42. A reservist who has qualified as an efficient for three years, according to para. 40, may be excused, if the commandant of his corps is satisfied that he is efficient, from the annual course for two years, and may be classed as efficient and be entitled to the capitation allowance, i.e., on the responsibility of the commandant he may be excused the annual course for two years, but must go through it in the sixth year of his service, and again in the ninth year of service; and so on.

43. As reserve volunteer corps may consist of persons who on account of their residence or place of business, are obliged to live at a distance from a volunteer centre, commandants of volunteer reserve corps should endeavour to afford every opportunity to such members of their corps to execute their musketry course, &c., by deputing the sergeant instructor or any qualified person to visit any station where a sufficient number of members can be collected, and in any other way practicable.

44. When reservists use the ranges of the volunteer corps to which they are attached, they must observe the rules and regulations laid down in section XV, Army Regulations, India, Vol. IX, for observance at ranges.

Section VI.

Capitation.

45. Volunteer reserve corps will, at the commencement of each financial year, receive from Government an annual capitation grant of Rs. 10 for every reservist in respect to whom the commandant can certify that such reservist is acquainted with the proper method of keeping his arms, accoutrements, and ammunition in proper order; that his arms, &c., were in good order when inspected by the person appointed to do so; and that he has executed the musketry course laid down in para. 40. Reservists have no individual claim on this allowance.

Section VII.

Miscellaneous.

46. Rules for the guidance of volunteer reserve corps, not inconsistent with these regulations, may be drawn up by the commandant of the corps and submitted to the local Government or Administration for approval, and such rules, when approved by such Government or Administration, will be binding on the members of the corps.

47. Commandants of reserve volunteer corps will cause to be kept up carefully a roll containing the names of all the members of the corps under their command, their places of residence or business, their age, and any other particulars considered necessary; and will also be responsible that this roll is corrected from time to time, especially when reservists change their residence (see para. 10). This roll, duly corrected, must be submitted to the local Government or Administration quarterly.

48. The rules for the submission of returns correspondence, &c., in section XX of Army Regulations, India, Vol. IX, will be generally applicable to volunteer reserve corps.

48a. *The property of the corps is legally vested in the commanding officer, but the following committees may be appointed to aid him in the management of the finances:—*

Applicable to the Calcutta Volunteer Reserve Battalion only.

(a)—*A Special Committee to consist of the officers of the corps under the presidency of the officer next in seniority to the commanding officer.*

(b)—*A General Committee to consist of the color-sergeants, one non-commissioned officer, and two privates from each company under the presidency of the sergeant-major, or next senior non-commissioned officer.*

48b. *The Proceedings of the General Committee shall be forwarded to the President of the Special Committee, and when endorsed by that committee, or with such alterations or amendments as that committee may suggest, shall be submitted to the officer commanding who may approve or disapprove of the proceedings as he may think fit.*

Applicable to the Calcutta Volunteer Reserve Battalion only.

P to 81 / 109 65/90.

No. 2910 G.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

GENERAL.

To The Joint Secretary to the Government of Madras, Railway Branch Public Works Department.

Simla, the 20th October 1890.

SIR,

I am desired to acquaint you that, in connection with the question of increasing the volunteer forces of India, the Government of India has had under consideration the question whether the various railways in India could not contribute a larger number of the employés on their lines as volunteers. Several Indian railways have already large and efficient volunteer corps, and some of them, which have no separate railway corps, contribute largely to existing volunteer corps in stations through which the lines run; the Government of India is, however, of opinion that there is still a large number of railway employés who are not volunteers, but who would be found willing to join, if measures were taken to secure them. With this object the Government of India has caused a statement to be prepared showing the enrolled strength of the several Indian railway volunteer corps and the number of European and East Indian employés on these lines, and I am now to forward for your information a copy of this statement, from which you will see what number of the employés on the Madras Railway are not volunteers, and to request that you will make every endeavour to enrol these employés in the railway volunteer corps (if one exists) or in the nearest non-railway volunteer corps.

2. The Government of India is aware that there are some railway employés, who, owing to the nature of their duties, their age, or other causes, would not be able to join an active volunteer corps, and in order to meet the cases of these and to enable them to join a movement for the defence of the country, the Governor General in Council lately sanctioned the formation of a reserve of volunteers, on conditions which are within the ability of almost every European and East Indian to comply with. The rules for volunteer reserves will be found in clause 51 of India Army Circulars of 1889, a copy of which is attached, and the conditions therein laid down are being further modified and made easier by an India Army Circular to be shortly issued. I am to suggest that, in any case where some of the employés of a line are unable or unwilling to join an active volunteer corps, they may be enrolled in a reserve volunteer corps or as reservists in an active corps.

P W C dº 10965

3. Finally, I am directed to ask that you will give the foregoing matters your earnest attention, and that you will use all the influence at your command to promote these objects, to which the Government of India attaches great importance.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient Servant,

G Holwalker 60 SC

Under-Secy. to the Government of India.

Cir. 17-11-90
Inv 27 (460 SC)

Documents accompanying.

1. Statement showing enrolled strength of Indian Railway Volunteer Corps.
2. Clause 51 of India Army Circulars of 1889.

60 S. Co -

B. Rlo 1874 Rd 25 Nov 1890

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24/11/90 24 23/11/90
Communicated to the Consulting Engineer for Railways for attention

Yours
BE:R

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