THE ARMY EMERGENCY RESERVE
ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

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R.A.M.C.

One of the lesser known units in the Corps is the Headquarters of the Army Emergency Reserve, R.A.M.C., which for years has functioned at Mytchett, with the Field Training Centre. Indeed, its title was merged with that of the Centre, which is now the Field Training Centre and H.Q. A.E.R., R.A.M.C. The Commandant, who is assisted by a regular officer and an R.O. III, is Commandant of the Depot and Training Establishments, R.A.M.C.; the remainder of the A.E.R. Headquarters staff includes a majority of civil servants.

The Army Emergency Reserve came into being by command of Her Majesty when, on the 6th September, 1952, by Royal Warrant, Her Majesty was pleased to approve that the Supplementary Reserve of Officers and the Supplementary Reserve should be re-designated the Army Emergency Reserve. Sections 11 and 27 of the Army Reserve Act, 1950, made provision for regulations which control enlistment, service, training and pay. These regulations are known as the “Regulations of the Army Emergency Reserve of Officers and for the Army Emergency Reserve.”

The role of the A.E.R. is to:

(a) provide a source of manpower for service outside the United Kingdom when no proclamation calling out the Army Reserve has been issued, but an emergency is imminent.
(b) provide a source of manpower including specialists and part-time National Servicemen which, for various reasons, cannot form part of the Regular Reserve or the Territorial Army.

There are several categories of A.E.R.; perhaps the most well known is the category to which National Service personnel are transferred to complete their liability for service after completing two years active role. Possibly far less known is that excellent and enthusiastic body of volunteers, the reservists of Category I of the A.E.R., who have an annual training commitment of two weekends and one camp of 15 days. They accept a liability for call-up for service in any part of the world without the usual Royal proclamation. There is also a volunteer Category II of the A.E.R. Personnel in this class have a training liability of 15 days per annum; they undertake to be called-up when the whole of the Royal Army Reserve is called out by proclamation, or in a crisis, for service in U.K. only without proclamation.

The A.E.R. is organized into units and into pools. Pools are of two types: (a) special pools, (b) general pools. Special pools will hold specialists who are in excess of those required in A.E.R. or T.A. units, but for whom there is a mobilization requirement.

In the A.E.R., R.A.M.C./Q.A.R.A.N.C., there are the following units:

- General Hospital
- Casualty Clearing Stations
- Field Dressing Stations
- Medical Platoon
- Ambulance Trains
- Forward Medical Equipment Depot
- Field Hygiene Sections

and many Specialist Teams. There is also a special pool of officers and O.R.s.
Many of the major units are regionalized and draw, for their recruits, on areas within a radius of 100 miles of Glasgow, Liverpool, Sheffield, Swansea, and London. Other units are not regionalized and receive recruits according to their specialist and trade qualifications. The units and pools are administered by the Headquarters of the A.E.R. of the Corps concerned and, as seen above, in the Medical Services this is carried out by the Headquarters of the A.E.R./R.A.M.C., which also administers the A.E.R./Q.A.R.A.N.C. Headquarters A.E.R./R.A.D.C. is at the Royal Army Dental Corps Depot in Aldershot.

*The Duties of the H.Q. are as follows:*

(a) To give general guidance to O.C.s units and to individuals in the pools on matters affecting conditions of service, pay, clothing, etc.
(b) To administer units in conjunction with O.C. concerned.
(c) To prepare and maintain unit documents and strength returns.
(d) To instruct on unit administration.
(e) To prepare for annual camp and to notify and arrange attendance of all personnel at camp.
(f) To provide stores, equipment, clothing, rations, etc., required.
(g) To prepare training schemes and programmes.

The present strength of the medical units varies considerably. Recruiting is slow but steady, but by no means sufficient. Publicity is, for various reasons, limited and is confined to the efforts of each individual in the A.E.R. or to regular army personnel who may have contact with communities that can provide recruits. There is still a great need for recruits and readers are invited to take part in the efforts of Headquarters A.E.R. in recruiting suitable persons for this excellent and interesting service. Whatever walk of life the reader may pursue he must meet people who, made aware of this service, will want to join. The spirit of the units, their turnout on parade, the enthusiasm (shown at training) reflects the fact that both officers and other ranks enjoy their service. It is, therefore, obvious that the more that can be encouraged to join, the greater will be the number of people who can gain not only the satisfaction of serving their country, but also the enjoyment and comradeship that the A.E.R. provides. Interested persons, who need have no previous military experience, can obtain the fullest details upon application to the Commandant, Headquarters A.E.R., R.A.M.C., Keogh Barracks, Mytchett, near Aldershot, Hants. There are vacancies for medical officers, nursing officers and other ranks of which a small proportion can, in limited circumstances, be Q.A.R.A.N.C. other ranks. Included in the other rank vacancies are requirements for A.C.C. and R.A.S.C. personnel.

Pay and allowances, as that of the regular officer or other rank, and travelling expenses are admissible for all training periods, except that marriage allowance is not payable for weekend training. A pre-proclamation bounty of £60 (taxable) is paid annually to all Category I reservists and a training bounty of between £13 and £8 10s. is also payable on completion of each annual training commitment.

"Out-of-camp" training, 1962, was completed early in the year. Units did well in tackling military training, getting to know new arrivals and generally shaking down for annual camp, which was variously spent by different units at the Royal Herbert Hospital, Woolwich, at St. Martin's Plain Camp and the Military Hospital, Shorncliffe, at Mytchett and at Ludgershall. One cannot help but to be impressed by the serious endeavours made to bring training to a high standard. The enthusiasm and
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esprit de corps demonstrated by all ranks is praiseworthy and also rewarding for the Commanding Officers and their training staff. Valuable assistance was given by the regular army medical units at Woolwich, Shorncliffe, Solihull, Ludgershall, Cowglen and the Army School of Health during weekend and annual training. The good relationship established at these places between the A.E.R. medical units and the regular army medical units has produced much goodwill. Other military hospitals, the R.A.M. College, the David Bruce Laboratory, have all from time to time accepted A.E.R. personnel for specialist training. A.E.R. medical officers have also been attached during their annual training to various field medical units and hospitals in B.A.O.R. where, from reports received from the officers concerned, the training was enjoyable, interesting and beneficial.

This article has presented a picture of the A.E.R./R.A.M.C., its function, organization and administration. One ventures to think that a strong A.E.R. is as vital to the country as an insurance policy is to the householder. For this reason alone the reader may wish to seek potential recruits and to advise them to apply to the Headquarters, A.E.R., R.A.M.C. for further information.

THE ROYAL SOCIETY

Tropical Research Fellowship

Applications are invited by the Council of the Royal Society for a fellowship for research into the scientific basis of diseases prevalent in the tropics. The appointment will be for two years in the first instance from 1st October, 1963, and may be renewed annually up to a total of five years. Applications should be made on forms to be obtained from the Executive Secretary, The Royal Society, Burlington House, London, W.1, and should be received as early as possible and in any case not later than 30th April, 1963.