

## RELIEF FORCE FOR NORTH RUSSIA.

### ADVANCE GUARD LEAVES TO-DAY.

#### TERMS OF ENLISTMENT.

The advance guard of the relief force for North Russia leaves England to-day. The officers are due to arrive at Tilbury by train at 10.57 a.m. and the men by various trains from 1.35 p.m. up to 4 o'clock. The troops should be all aboard by nightfall and the steamer will sail before morning.

Voluntary recruiting opened yesterday for this force, which will be called the Relief Force, North Russia. Though the fact that such a force was to be got together was made public only yesterday morning, by 3 o'clock in the afternoon over 60 men had presented themselves for enrolment.

The force will include the following:—

ROYAL FIELD ARTILLERY.

ROYAL ENGINEERS (Field, Signals, and Postal).

INFANTRY.

MACHINE GUN CORPS.

ROYAL ARMY SERVICE CORPS.

ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS.

ROYAL ARMY ORDNANCE CORPS.

#### COMPOSITION OF THE FORCE.

The force will be mainly composed of volunteers drawn from the following sources:—(a) Demobilized and discharged trained soldiers; (b) trained duration-of-the-war soldiers, serving at home; (c) soldiers serving on normal engagements or for two, three, or four years.

All men re-enlisting must be (a) fully trained in the arm which they desire to join; (b) fit for general service; (c) 19 years of age and over. A discharged or demobilized soldier, if accepted, will rejoin in the rank, substantive or acting, he held at the time he left the Colours.

Pay, allowances, and bonus will be as now given to men in the Armies of Occupation. On completion of the period of service all men will be given two months' furlough, or any longer period to which they may be entitled, on full pay and allowances. Specially designed badges will be worn by all personnel engaged.

The period of enlistment for recruits will be one year, or such shorter period as may be required, but no man who re-enlists for this duty will be kept longer than required for this special service. Qualified men should apply at once to the nearest recruiting officer; to officers commanding local regimental depôts; or to the Chief Recruiting Staff Officer, Great Scotland-yard, London.

Recruiting will be closed as soon as the requisite numbers have been obtained. Men desirous of enlisting are, therefore, urged to apply at once, as the latest date must be about April 25.

The Royal Engineers will be formed at Chatham and the Machine Gun Corps at Shorncliffe, the R.A.M.C. at Aldershot, and the remainder in, or very near, London.

#### AN UNFOUNDED REPORT.

We are officially informed that there is no truth in the published statement that 2 Army Reserve are being re-enlisted. The fact is that numbers of 2 men are re-enlisting, availing themselves of the favourable terms offered in the Army Order of April 1, full particulars of which have been published in *The Times*. It is equally untrue that lots of 18 are being enlisted for service in Russia. No one under the age of 19 will be allowed to enlist for this purpose.

## KOLTCHAK'S OFFENSIVE.

### BOLSHEVIST DEFEATS.

According to an official telegram from Omsk, Admiral Koltchak's troops, in the direction of Viatka—260 miles north of Perm, and a base for the North Russian front—have repelled enemy attacks north and south of the railways, and have successfully continued the offensive, taking much material. They occupied the station of Lanul, 40 miles from Sarapul, and captured locomotives and rolling-stock.

As a result of successful operations at Sperlitamak, 80 miles south of Ufa, field guns, machine guns, and prisoners have been taken from the Red Army.

In authoritative Russian quarters it is held that the move of Admiral Koltchak's Army, if it develops favourably, should ease the situation at Archangel. With the possession of Viatka and the control of the line from that place to Kotlas the Bolshevik position would be seriously embarrassed, and the Bolshevik flotilla, which is at present frozen in on the Northern Dvina, and is in all probability lying at Kotlas, would be menaced.—*Reuter*.

## **Retype – Relief force for north Russia**

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The Force will include the following:-

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Royal Engineers [Field, Signals and Postal]

Infantry

Machine Gun Corps

Royal Army Service Corps

Royal Army Medical Corps

Royal Army Ordnance Corps

#### **Composition of the Force**

The Force will be mainly composed of volunteers drawn from the following sources:-

[a] Demobilised and discharged trained soldiers

[b] Trained duration-of-the-war soldiers serving at home

[c] Soldiers serving on normal engagements of one, two, three or four years.

All men reenlisting must be [a] fully trained in the arm of which they declare to join [b] fit for general service [c] 19 years of age and over. A discharged or demobilised soldier, if accepted, will rejoin in the rank substantive or acting he held at the time he left the Colours.

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Recruiting will be closed as soon as the required numbers have been obtained. Men desirous of enlisting are, therefore urged to apply at once as the latest date must be about April 25.

The Royal Engineers will be formed at Chatham, the Machine Gun Corps at Shorncliffe, the RAMC at Aldershot and the remainder in or very near London.

#### **An unfounded report**

We are officially informed that there is no truth in the published statement that Z Army Reserves are being re-mobilised. The fact is that numbers of Z Men are re-enlisting availing themselves of the favourable terms offered in the Army Order of April 1, full particulars of which have been published in The Times. It is equally untrue that lads of 18 are being enlisted for service in Russia. No one under the age of 19 will be allowed to enlist for this purpose.

**My Note.** *Class Z Reserve* was authorised by an Army Order of 3 December 1918. There were fears that Germany would not accept the terms of any peace treaty, and therefore the British Government decided it would

be wise to be able to quickly recall trained men in the eventuality of the resumption of hostilities. Soldiers who were being demobilised, particularly those who had agreed to serve "for the duration", were at first posted to Class Z. They returned to civilian life but with an obligation to return if called upon. The Z Reserve was abolished on 31 March 1920.