

CIVIL DEFENCE AWARDS

DETAILS OF QUALIFYING SERVICE

The Home Office, Ministry of Home Security, and the Scottish Office, in accordance with the King's authorization of the award of chevrons for war service and wound stripes to members of the Police, eligible Civil Defence (General) Services, the National Fire Service, and the Fire Guard, issued yesterday, give details of qualifications for awards and the categories of members in each service to whom awards may be made.

The chevrons and wound stripes will be identical with those awarded to members of the Armed Forces. Issue to the Police and the National Fire Service will be made by chief officers of Police and Fire Force commanders respectively, while Civil Defence personnel and Fire Guards will receive chevrons and stripes through the local authority or other authority with whom they are serving at the time of the award.

The chevrons and stripes are to be worn on uniforms, or, in the case of un-uniformed recipients, on armbands. They may be retained on cessation of service, and may then be worn on plain clothes.

Members are not required to apply for chevrons, which will be issued in due course on the basis of records. One chevron will be awarded for each completed year of qualifying service, reckoned from September 3, 1939, or any later date of enrolment or beginning of duty. The first award will comprise the number of chevrons due for qualifying service up to and including January 31, 1944. Subsequent awards will be made on completion of any further period of 12 months' service not covered by the original award.

QUALIFYING SERVICE

Qualifying service in any of the eligible Services, whether whole-time or part-time, may be aggregated. Thus a man who served for two years in the Army and since his discharge has completed a year's service as a part-time warden will be entitled to three chevrons. Members who want previous service to be recognized for an award will be required to make application and furnish a covering certificate from a responsible officer of the previous service.

Service at the age of 15 and 16 will qualify for chevrons. Members of the Army Cadet Corps, the Junior Training Corps, the Air Training Corps, and the Sea Cadet Corps who have undertaken when required regular service as messengers, &c., may be awarded chevrons. If cadets have enrolled and received basic training but have not undertaken regular turns of duty such service will not qualify.

One gold wound stripe will be awarded in respect of each occasion on which the member has received a wound or injury while on duty in the present war which could be classified as a "war injury" as defined in the Personal Injuries (Civilians) Scheme. The wound must also have necessitated admission as an in-patient at a hospital, or first-aid treatment together with subsequent treatment by a doctor or as an out-patient at a hospital, and must have incapacitated the person from work for not less than seven consecutive days.

One red wound stripe only will be awarded in respect of all wounds sustained while the person was serving as a member of the Armed Forces in previous wars. Members will be invited by the authorities concerned to make application and furnish details if they consider they are entitled to wound stripes in this or previous wars. Eligible persons under 17 years of age may be awarded wound stripes.

ELIGIBLE SERVICES

POLICE.—Regular policemen and policewomen, First Police Reserve, Special Constables, Police War Reserve, Women's Auxiliary Police Corps, Police Auxiliary Messenger Service.

CIVIL DEFENCE SERVICES.—Warden (including shelter wardens), rescue (including former first-aid party), decontamination, report and control, messenger, ambulance (including sitting case cars), first-aid (including first-aid posts and points, public cleansing centres, mobile cleansing units, and the nursing service for public air raid shelters), Civil Defence Reserve, and the Kent County Civil Defence Mobile Reserve and West Sussex County Civil Defence Mobile Reserve.

National Fire Service awards will cover service in a local authority fire brigade, or the Auxiliary Fire Service prior to nationalization.

FIRE GUARD.—Members of a local authority's fire guard service in a prescribed area or in an un-prescribed area, where the Regional Commissioner has signified that he is satisfied that a fire guard is necessary and that the local authority established an organization regarded by the Regional Commissioner as appropriate to the needs of the area; persons performing fire guard duties in business or Government premises; persons performing Civil Defence or fire brigade duties at business or Government premises under the Fire Guard (Business and Government Premises) Order, 1943.

The dates from which fire guards will be eligible for awards will be (1) voluntary service under the local authority—not before April 19, 1940; (2) compulsory service under the local authority—not before January 18, 1941; (3) service at business and Government premises—not before September 19, 1940; (4) Civil Defence and fire brigade duties at premises to which the Fire Guard (Business and Government Premises) Order, 1943, applies—not before September 3, 1939.