

# SEA SERVICE CHEVRONS.

## ONE FOR EACH YEAR.

The Secretary of the Admiralty has made an announcement with regard to the conditions of the award to members of the Royal Navy and the other marine services of chevrons for service at sea or overseas.

Chevrons, it is announced, will be awarded to denote services overseas or at sea undertaken since August 4, 1914, and are to be worn in uniform. Applications and correspondence from serving officers and men with regard to chevrons are not to be addressed direct to the Admiralty, but are to be dealt with by their commanding officers in the first instance.

The following will be eligible for the award subject to the conditions laid down:—

Officers and men of the Royal Navy, Royal Marines, and naval forces of the Dominions, Royal Fleet Reserve, Royal Naval Reserve, and Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve, and Royal Naval Auxiliary Sick Berth Reserve. Note.—The regulations governing the award of chevrons to officers and men serving in the Royal Naval Division will be those laid down in Army Order No. 4, dated December 20, 1917, and the qualifying service in their case will be verified in the manner therein laid down.

Officers and men of the Royal Naval Air Service up to April 1, 1918.

Officers and men of the mercantile marine serving under special naval engagements in H.M. ships and auxiliaries.

Queen Alexandra's Naval Nursing Service and Reserve, members of the Women's Royal Naval Service.

Officiating ministers and civilian medical practitioners and dental surgeons who have given whole-time service.

Canteen staff borne on the books of sea-going ships.

Service overseas and at sea is defined as follows:—

Service at sea is service in sea-going ships of war and auxiliaries; it does not include service in hulks and harbour vessels, nor in harbour craft which are tenders to such vessels, except in those which are employed in minesweeping. The service of men as gun's crew in defensively armed merchant ships counts as qualifying service for the award. Service overseas includes all service outside the United Kingdom, except in the case of officers and men of the Dominions Naval Forces serving in their own country. In the case of the latter it includes all service outside their own country. Officers and men of the late Royal Naval Air Service who, although serving in the United Kingdom, were liable for service in the air for offensive or defensive purposes, may count such service as qualifying service. Service in kite balloons when embarked in ships will also count.

The date for the award of the first chevron will be August 5, 1914, in the case of those serving at sea or abroad on that date, and in other cases the date on which the individual began or begins qualifying service as defined—for example, an individual who began qualifying service on December 31, 1915, is entitled to his first chevron on that date. In the case of officers and men of the Naval Forces of the Dominions the date will be the date of being drafted to a sea-going ship or leaving their own country.

Additional chevrons are to be awarded as follows:—

(a) From January 1, 1915, to December 31, 1917, inclusive, on a calendar year basis, that is, one chevron and not more than one for each of the years 1915, 1916, and 1917. The individual must have an aggregate of three months' qualifying service in the calendar year to entitle him to the award for that year. An additional chevron is not to be given for the calendar year in which the first chevron is awarded. Service cannot be added from one calendar year to another. Periods in prison, detention or in captivity as a prisoner of war are not to count towards the three months' qualifying service. Note.—Should an individual have been wounded on active service and not have the necessary three months' qualifying service for the calendar year in which he was wounded, he is, nevertheless, to be awarded the chevron for that year, subject, however, to the condition that more than one chevron cannot be obtained in any one calendar year.

(b) From January 1, 1918, onwards, one chevron for each successive aggregate period of 12 months' qualifying service. This service need not be continuous. It will include short periods of leave where the individual returns to service at sea or overseas at the conclusion of such leave. Periods of absence without leave, in prison or detention, in hospital from sickness due to avoidable causes, or in captivity as a prisoner of war are to be excluded in calculating the 12 months required to qualify for an additional chevron. Note.—No service prior to January 1, 1918, is to count towards the 12 months' qualifying service.

### 1914 SILVER CHEVRON.

The chevrons will be  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. in width, the arms  $1\frac{1}{2}$  in. long. They will be worn inverted on the right forearm. Chevrons for officers will be of silver or gold braid. The first chevron, if earned on or before December 31, 1914, will be silver; if earned on or after January 1, 1915, it will be gold, and all additional chevrons after the first will be gold. The silver chevron will be worn below the gold one. For ratings they will be of worsted embroidery of two colours—red and blue. The first chevron, if earned on or before December 31, 1914, will be red; if earned on or after January 1, 1915, it will be blue; and all additional chevrons after the first will be blue.

In the case of officers they are to be worn on the blue undress coat only.

The chevrons are a distinction to be worn on uniform to denote service at sea or overseas since the outbreak of war, and are not to be regarded as being in the nature of a reward. There will, therefore, be no posthumous award to fallen officers or men. The chevrons may be worn in plain clothes by officers and men who have left the Service, but who would, had they remained in the Service, have been entitled to wear them on uniform. In such cases, application for authority to wear the chevrons must be made.

It is an offence under the Defence of the Realm Regulations for any unauthorised person to wear a chevron or chevrons, and it should be noted that under Regulation 41, sub-paragraph (c), it is an offence for any person to supply, without lawful excuse or authority, one of these chevrons to an unauthorised person.