

Where Service is with Smile !

A Note on the Nursing Services of our Armed Forces

LOOKING after the sick and the wounded Armed Forces personnel who toil day and night for the defence of our country is an important and noble job. This is done by the officers of the Military Nursing Service. There are lots of opportunities for the young girls to join the Military Nursing Service, says Maj. Gen. (Miss) G. A. RAM, Director, Nursing Services, Medical Directorate, Army Hq., New Delhi.

TRAINED nurses who possess the qualification of SRN and SRM and of the age group of 21 to 35 years are eligible to join the Military Nursing Service. For their service in a recognised Government or private hospital as civilian nurses they are entitled to an ante-date up to two years which will count for their future promotion. Those who possess the B.Sc. (Nursing) qualification also get an additional ante-date of one year.

Permanent Commissions

The civilian nurses are commissioned in the rank of Lieutenant with a starting salary of Rs. 650 and an annual increment of Rs. 20. After 7 years of service including the ante-date allowed to them, they are eligible for promotion to the rank of Capt. with a starting salary of Rs. 825 and an annual increment of Rs. 25, the salary rising up to Rs. 1000. In addition to pay they are entitled to initial uniform allowance of Rs. 700, upkeep allowance of Rs. 360 per year and dearness allowance and city compensatory allowance as for civilians. Those who are qualified in nursing speciality like Sister Tutor, Operation Theatre, Class I, Psychiatric Nursing, are eligible to a qualification pay of Rs. 45 p.m. Nursing Officers are given accommodation at a concessional rate which is 2½%

of their pay. Those who are in Central/State Service can apply through proper channel and their lien will be kept in the Central/State service. They can return to the Central/State service after 3 years of service in the Army, if they so desire. Others are also given temporary commissions initially for a period of 3 years which is automatically renewed unless they desire to leave the service. They can relinquish their commission after three years of service by giving three months' notice to the Government.

Temporary Commissions

Temporary commissioned officers are eligible for grant of permanent commission after the completion of 8 years' service including ante-date, if any. When permanent commission is granted their entire service in the Military Nursing Service in the temporary capacity is counted in full towards the regular engagement. Permanent commissioned officers are eligible for time-scale promotion to the rank of Capt and Maj after completion of 7 years and 17 years of service respectively which includes their temporary commissioned service. Promotions to the rank of Lt-Col and above are by selection. The highest rank in the Military Nursing Service is that of Maj-Gen. The pay scales of MNS officers are as under :

Lieut: 650-20-810, Capt: 825-25-1000; Maj: 1040-40-1200; Lt. Col: 1300-50-1450; Col: 1500-50-1600; Brig: 1650-50-1800; Maj Gen: 1850-50-2000

From the pay scales given it may be seen that civilian nurses on grant of commission as a Lieut in the MNS will get approximately Rs. 950 p.m. including D.A. and other allowances.

Military Nursing Services Officers serve upto the age of 55 years,

except Col and Brig. who go upto 57 years and Maj Gen upto 59 years of age. The rates of pension for MNS officers are as under :

Capt.: Rs. 350, Maj.: Rs. 450, Lt Col.: Rs. 550; Col: Rs. 650; Brig: Rs. 750; Maj-Gen Rs. 825.

Probationer Nurses

In case you have got younger sisters with minimum qualification of Matric and 50% marks in the aggregate you can advise them to apply for Probationer Nurses' training. Application for Probationer Nurses' training are called for every year in the months of Mar/Apr in the *Employment News* and other leading newspapers. We give them three years' training in our Schools of Nursing attached to Armed Forces hospital. In addition to a stipend of Rs. 45 p.m. these student nurses are given free training, accommodation, messing, medical facilities, one month's vacation, leave annually and other concessions such as free Rly travel warrants, etc. The Armed Forces have a College of Nursing of their own where young girls in the age group of 17-25 are taken every year for training in B.Sc (Nursing). The advertisement for this course will appear sometime in Dec/Jan each year. They are also entitled to free training, accommodation, messing facilities, vacation leave, free Rly warrants, etc. Both Probationer Nurses and B.Sc (Nursing) students on successful completion of their training are granted permanent commission in the MNS in the rank of Lieut. Their pay scales are the same as mentioned for temporary commissioned officers.

Those who are granted permanent commission have plenty of opportunities to increase their professional knowledge by specialising in various fields of nursing, viz., Psychiatric Nursing, M.Sc (Nursing), Orthopaedic Nursing, Cancer Care Nursing, O.T. techniques, etc.