

for the period of the present war or for a period not exceeding four years :

And whereas it is enacted by proviso (a) to the said sub-section that "any officer, warrant officer, petty officer, non-commissioned officer, or man, who at such date as may be fixed by Order in Council belongs or is attached to the Royal Naval Air Service, the Royal Flying Corps, or any unit of the naval or military forces engaged in defence against air craft which is designated by the Admiralty or Army Council for the purpose, may be so transferred or attached without his consent, but if any person so transferred or attached, within three months from the time when he receives notice of such transfer or attachment or such longer period as in any particular case the Air Council may allow, gives notice to his commanding officer that he does not desire to be so transferred or attached, the transfer or attachment shall be annulled without prejudice to the validity of anything which may have been done in the meanwhile : "

And whereas His Majesty by Order in Council made on the 22nd day of March, 1918, fixed the first day of April, 1918, as the date for the purpose of the said proviso (a) :

Now, therefore, the Air Council, in pursuance of the powers conferred on them by the said Act and with the consent of the Admiralty and Army Council, hereby order as follows :—

1. The officers mentioned in Part I of the Schedule to this Order shall by virtue of this Order become attached to the Air Force. The period for which those officers will be so attached shall be the period of the present war or four years, whichever may be the longer, unless in the case of any officer, before the expiration of such period, the Air Council arrange with the Admiralty or Army Council, as the case may be, for his return to the naval or military service.

Provided that in the case of an officer who was attached to the Royal Naval Air Service or the Royal Flying Corps the period for which he is attached to the Air Force shall in no case exceed such period as will complete the period for which he was attached to the Royal Naval Air Service or the Royal Flying Corps.

2. The officers, warrant officers, petty officers, non-commissioned officers and men mentioned in Part II of the Schedule to this Order shall by virtue of this Order be transferred to the Air Force.

3. This Order shall take effect on the first day of April, 1918.

4. Any person transferred or attached to the Air Force by virtue of this Order may within three months from the time when he receives notice of such transfer or attachment give notice to his Commanding Officer that he does not desire to be so transferred or attached, and in that case the transfer or attachment will be annulled without prejudice to the validity of anything which may have been done in the meanwhile.

SCHEDULE.

PART I.

All officers holding permanent commissions in the Navy or Royal Marines or commissions other than temporary in the Royal Naval Reserve or Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve who on the first day of April, 1918, belonged or were attached to the Royal Naval Air Service.

All officers holding permanent commissions

in the Regular Forces or commissions in the Reserve of Officers, the Special Reserve (except Royal Flying Corps Special Reserve), Territorial Force or Territorial Force Reserve who on the first day of April, 1918, belonged or were attached to the Royal Flying Corps.

All officers holding permanent commissions in His Majesty's Indian forces who on the first day of April, 1918, were attached to the Royal Flying Corps.

PART II.

All other officers, all warrant officers, petty officers, non-commissioned officers and men of His Majesty's naval or military forces (other than forces raised and provided by the Government of any part of His Majesty's Dominions outside the United Kingdom) who on the first day of April, 1918, belonged or were attached to the Royal Naval Air Service or the Royal Flying Corps.

All officers holding temporary commissions on the general list of His Majesty's Indian forces and all officers of the Indian Army Reserve who on the first day of April, 1918, were attached to the Royal Flying Corps.

Air Ministry,

2nd April, 1918.

ROYAL AIR FORCE.

All Officers serving with the Royal Naval Air Service and Royal Flying Corps on the 31st March, 1918, or in connection with those Services in certain Government Departments, in other than the undermentioned capacities, are granted temporary commissions in the Royal Air Force, with effect from the 1st April, 1918, in ranks which will appear in the Royal Air Force List.

In view of the special circumstances incident to the inception of the Royal Air Force these ranks must be regarded as subject to revision as circumstances may require until confirmed by the actual issue of the Commission.

The exceptions are as follows :—

Certain officers of the Royal Navy whose services are only lent temporarily to the Royal Air Force.

Certain Accountant Officers, Royal Navy.

Officers under instruction, other than those holding commissions or appointments in the Royal Flying Corps.

Officers i/c Messing, other than those holding commissions or appointments in the Royal Flying Corps.

Officers serving with cadet units, other than those holding commissions or appointments in the Royal Flying Corps.

Liaison Officers, other than those holding commissions or appointments in the Royal Flying Corps.

Medical Officers and Chaplains.

Quartermasters, other than those holding commissions or appointments in the Royal Flying Corps.

The undermentioned appointments are made at the Air Ministry :—

DEP. MR. GEN. PERS.

Lt.-Col. (temp. Brig.-Gen.) G. Livingston, C.M.G., and to retain his temp. rank whilst so empld. 1st Apr. 1918.