

THE VICTORY MEDAL.

The King has been pleased to recognise by the issue of a distinctive medal the services rendered by His Majesty's military forces in theatres of war since August 5th, 1914. The medal, which will be designated "The Victory Medal," will be identical with that issued by the other Allied and Associated Powers for service in theatres of war, and will obviate the interchange of Allied commemorative war medals. It will be in bronze, and attached by a ring to the riband which will be red in the centre with green and violet on each side, shaded to form the colours of two rainbows.

Provided the claims are approved by competent military authorities the medal will be granted to Nursing Sisters, nurses and others employed with military hospitals who actually served on the establishment of a unit in a theatre of war within defined periods.

WAR SERVICE GRATUITIES FOR NAVAL NURSES.

MINIMUM RATES AND CONDITIONS.

1. Subject to the other conditions laid down below, war service for the purpose of this award shall be service within periods beginning on August 4, 1914, and ending at the date of termination of the war as defined by statutory authority, or August 3, 1919, whichever is the earlier.

2. The minimum gratuity payable to a member of Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Service shall be as follows:—

Sister	£40
Superintending Sister	40
Head Sister	45

3. Members of Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Service who have completed more than one year's war service, as defined in paragraph 1, will receive, in addition, the following sums in respect of each additional month or portion of a month, subject to a maximum addition of 48 such increments:—

(a) If with any service oversea—*i.e.*, outside the United Kingdom, or in a hospital ship, £1.

(b) If with no service oversea, the monthly increments shall be at the rate of 10s.

4. The minimum gratuity payable to members of Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Service Reserve shall be:—

Sister	£30
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5. Members of Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Service Reserve who have completed more than one year's war service, as defined in paragraph 1, will receive, in addition, the sum of 10s. in respect of each additional month or portion of month, whether for service at home or abroad, subject to a maximum of 48 such increments.

6. The minimum gratuity of Voluntary Aid Detachment Nursing Members and Red Cross Association Nurses, who have been employed in naval hospitals and paid from naval funds, will be £10 in each case, with an increment at the same rate and under the same conditions as laid down in paragraph 5 for members of Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Service Reserve.

7. The award of the gratuities as laid down in

paragraphs 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 will be with retrospective effect from August 4, 1914, and they will be in lieu of any bonus or gratuity for which nurses are eligible under existing regulations, unless the latter are more favourable than the above gratuities, in which case nurses will be eligible to draw the more advantageous rate.

8. Gratuities will not be payable under this award in the case of a member of Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Service:—

- Whose services are dispensed with, or who resigns her appointment for misconduct or for other causes which, in the opinion of the Board of Admiralty, disqualify her from the grant of a gratuity.
- Who, before Nov. 11, 1918, voluntarily resigned her appointment after less than two years' service
- Who is granted a first appointment after May, 9, 1919.

9. The payment of gratuities under this award to Members of Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Service Reserve will be subject to satisfactory service having been rendered; this condition will also govern the award of the gratuity to Voluntary Aid Detachment nursing members and Red Cross Association nurses.

10. The rank which will determine the minimum gratuity payable will be the actual substantive or acting rank for which pay is drawn by the nurse on the termination of her war service, or, in the case of those serving beyond Nov. 11, 1918, on that date if higher. Acting rank specifically granted without pay and allowances of the rank will not entitle the holder to the higher rate of gratuity for such rank.

11. Applications for gratuities under the terms of this award should be addressed to the Accountant-General of the Navy, Admiralty, S.W. 1, except in the cases of those nurses still serving, respecting whom further instructions will be issued.

BONUS FOR MILITARY NURSES.

An Army Order issued on Aug. 28, provides for the grant of a bonus by way of extra remuneration, as under:—

Members of the Q.A.I.M.N.S. and of the permanent nursing establishment of military families' hospitals will, until further notice, be granted a bonus at the same rates as those approved for the Reserve and temporary staffs. The weekly rates of the bonus are as follows:—

- Q.A.I.M.N.S., Q.A.I.M.N.S.R., and T.F.N.S. staff nurse 8s. 9d., sister 10s. 6d., assistant matron 17s. 6d., matron 17s. 6d., principal matron 24s. 6d., matron-in-chief 28s.
- Military families' hospitals. Charge nurse 8s. 9d., matron 10s. 6d.
- V.A.D. nursing members 3s. 6d.
- Special military probationers 3s. 6d.
- Assistant nurses 5s. 3d.

The bonus is based on the rank, acting or substantive, for which pay is being drawn. Acting rank specially granted without pay and allowances of the rank will not entitle the holder to the higher rate for such rank.

In cases other than those of the Q.A.I.M.N.S. and the permanent nursing establishment of the military families' hospitals, the bonus will only be issued subject to the nurse having signed a contract to continue to serve until April 30, 1920, or until her services are no longer required, whichever is the earlier date.

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