



*Commonwealth of Australia*

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# Royal Australian Air Force

**CONDITIONS OF SERVICE  
IN THE RANKS — AIRMEN**

## Ground Personnel

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## FOREWORD.

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The information contained in this publication has been prepared to provide prospective candidates with a summary of conditions of entry, and service, in the Royal Australian Air Force. However, changes are liable to occur in these conditions, and it should therefore be read as a guide and not an authority on Service matters.

The Royal Australian Air Force is one of the three Defence Services of Australia, and its members are liable for service in the Air Force, in peace or war, on land, sea, or in the air.

Broadly speaking, its personnel may be divided into two categories, flying and non-flying. Other than those officers whose duties are not connected with work in the air, non-flying personnel are restricted to tradesmen in the various musterings set out later, and unskilled personnel. Collectively they are known as airmen, and it is with the latter that this publication is mainly concerned. A separate pamphlet dealing with methods of entry as officers is available on request.

There are many aspects of Service life which may not be familiar to those who are pursuing a civilian career, and a study of the following pages will, it is hoped, give a sufficient summary of the advantages and obligations which an airman obtains and assumes in the Service.

Particular attention should be paid by intending applicants for enlistment to the paragraphs relating to physical fitness and trade ability before entry, and to the method of making application for enlistment.

Aviation has made remarkable progress, both in its civilian and service aspects in recent years, and it appears that it must have an even more important role in the future. Its work is almost wholly technical, and the basic trades of the civilian require considerable amplification before proficiency as a tradesman in aircraft work, or its allied trades, can be reached. The Air Force undertakes such additional training, and the civilian who becomes an airman reaches a stage of competency, through instruction and continued practice, equal to any requirements of the aircraft industry.

In other words, the Air Force is not merely a means of serving one's country. It is a medium by which the intelligent man can increase his skill and gain knowledge in the higher application of his trade, and thus prepare himself for advancement either in the Service itself, or on his return to civil life.

Most of the foregoing applies only to the tradesman. The non-technical man should realise that his work is of a routine nature similar to that of the unskilled worker in civilian life, and his prospects therefore are more limited.

# Royal Australian Air Force

## 1.—QUALIFICATIONS FOR ENTRY:

An applicant for enlistment must, as a rule, be a British born or a naturalised British subject of pure European descent. He must not be less than 18 years of age nor more than 35. If difficulty is experienced in recruiting specific trades, the Air Board may authorise the raising of the upper age limit for enlistment in the particular trade. This has been temporarily arranged in certain instances. Tradesmen will be required to pass the prescribed trade test subject to Service requirements for entry in their particular trade.

All candidates must be passed as fit for Air Force service by an authorised Air Force medical examining officer before being enlisted. The decision of the Service examining officer will be final, and no appeal against it will be considered; neither will specific reasons for rejection be given.

## 2.—ENLISTMENT:

Successful applicants will be enlisted in the Royal Australian Air Force for the duration of the war and for twelve months thereafter. It should be clearly understood that service in the Royal Australian Air Force means service either within or outside the Commonwealth. Personnel to proceed overseas will be drawn from the Royal Australian Air Force. No guarantee, however, can be given to any individual that he will be selected for service overseas. Neither can any guarantee be given to individuals that they will serve solely within the Commonwealth.

## 3.—RANK ON ENLISTMENT:

The rank on enlistment into the Royal Australian Air Force will be that of Aircraftman Class 1.

## 4.—PROMOTION:

Promotion to the various ranks of non-commissioned officer and to warrant rank will depend upon the ability of the individual and the vacancies in the Service.

## 5.—TRADE GROUPS:

For the purpose of pay, airmen are divided into five groups, as follows:

- (i) GROUP I.—Blacksmith, Carpenter (boat builder), Carpenter (body builder), Carpenter (pattern maker), Carpenter (propeller maker), Carpenter (rigger), Coppersmith, Draughtsman, Fitter (Grade I) (Grade II (A)) (Grade II (E)), Fitter (armourer), Fitter (electrical), Fitter (driver motor transport), Fitter (general), Fitter (machinist), Fitter (motor boat), Instrument Maker, Plumber, Turner, Welder, Wireless and Electrical Mechanic, and Wood Machinist.
- (ii) GROUP II.—Armourer, Carpenter (General), Fabric Worker, Motor Trimmer, Photographer, Painter, W/T Operator, Electrician, Flight Mechanic, Flight Rigger.
- (iii) GROUP III.—Boiler Attendant, Cook, Dental Orderly, Driver Motor Transport, Motor Boat Crew, Storekeeper, Shoemaker, Tailor, Nursing Orderly.
- (iv) GROUP IV.—Clerk (General), Clerk (Stores).
- (v) GROUP V.—Aircraft Hand, Canteen Steward, Drill Instructor, Gardener, Labourer, Messman, Mess Steward, Office Orderly, Service Police, Storehand, Telephone Operator, Guard, Trainee.

**6.—RATES OF PAY:**

**PRE-EMBARKATION RATES**

**AFTER-EMBARKATION RATES**

Rank	Daily Rate	Total for un-married man	Total for married man 1 child (Wife's rate 3/-; Child, 1/-)		Daily Rate	De-ferred pay	Total for un-married man	Total for married man 1 child (Wife's rate 3/-; Child, 1/-)		
			Sep. Allow.	Total				Sep. Allow.	Total	
GROUP I.					GROUP I.					
Warrant Officer ..	13/6	13/6	4/-	17/6	13/6	3/-	16/6	4/-	20/6	
Flight Sergeant ..	13/-	13/-	4/-	17/-	13/-	2/6	15/6	4/-	19/6	
Sergeant .. ..	12/-	12/-	4/-	16/-	12/-	2/-	14/-	4/-	18/-	
Corporal .. ..	11/-	11/-	4/-	15/-	11/-	2/-	13/-	4/-	17/-	
Leading Aircraftman ..	10/6	10/6	4/-	14/6	10/6	2/-	12/6	4/-	16/6	
Aircraftman 1 ..	10/-	10/-	4/-	14/-	10/-	2/-	12/-	4/-	16/-	
Aircraftman 1.				Active Pay	Separ. Allow.	Total 7 Days' Pay	Active Pay	Separ. Allow.	Defrd. Pay	Total 7 Days' Pay
Single man .. ..				10/-	—	£3 10 0	10/-	—	2/-	£4 4 0
Married. No children				10/-	3/-	£4 11 0	10/-	3/-	2/-	£5 5 0
Married. One child ..				10/-	4/-	£4 18 0	10/-	4/-	2/-	£5 12 0

  

Rank	Daily Rate	Total for un-married man	Total for married man 1 child (Wife's rate 3/-; Child, 1/-)		Daily Rate	De-ferred pay	Total for un-married man	Total for married man 1 child (Wife's rate 3/-; Child, 1/-)		
			Sep. Allow.	Total				Sep. Allow.	Total	
GROUP II.					GROUP II.					
Warrant Officer ..	12/-	12/-	4/-	16/-	12/-	3/-	15/-	4/-	19/-	
Flight Sergeant ..	11/6	11/6	4/-	15/6	11/6	2/6	14/-	4/-	18/-	
Sergeant .. ..	10/6	10/6	4/-	14/6	10/6	2/-	12/6	4/-	16/6	
Corporal .. ..	9/6	9/6	4/-	13/6	9/6	2/-	11/6	4/-	15/6	
Leading Aircraftman ..	9/-	9/-	4/-	13/-	9/-	2/-	11/-	4/-	15/-	
Aircraftman 1 .. ..	8/6	8/6	4/-	12/6	8/6	2/-	10/6	4/-	14/6	
Aircraftman 1.				Active Pay	Separ. Allow.	Total 7 Days' Pay	Active Pay	Separ. Allow.	Defrd. Pay	Total 7 Days' Pay
Single man .. ..				8/6	—	£2 19 6	8/6	—	2/-	£3 13 6
Married. No children				8/6	3/-	£4 0 6	8/6	3/-	2/-	£4 14 6
Married. One child ..				8/6	4/-	£4 7 6	8/6	4/-	2/-	£5 1 6

**PRE-EMBARKATION RATES**

**AFTER-EMBARKATION RATES**

Rank	Daily Rate	Total for un-married man	Total for married man 1 child (Wife's rate 3/-; Child, 1/-)		Daily Rate	De-ferred pay	Total for un-married man	Total for married man 1 child (Wife's rate 3/-; Child, 1/-)	
			Sep. Allow.	Total				Sep. Allow.	Total
				<b>GROUPS III. &amp; IV.</b>		<b>GROUPS III. &amp; IV.</b>			
Warrant Officer ..	11/6	11/6	4/-	15/6	11/6	3/-	14/6	4/-	18/6
Flight Sergeant ..	10/6	10/6	4/-	14/6	10/6	2/6	13/-	4/-	17/-
Sergeant .. .. .	10/-	10/-	4/-	14/-	10/-	2/-	12/-	4/-	16/-
Corporal .. .. .	9/-	9/-	4/-	13/-	9/-	2/-	11/-	4/-	15/-
Leading Aircraftman ..	8/-	8/-	4/-	12/-	8/-	2/-	10/-	4/-	14/-
Aircraftman 1 .. ..	7/6	7/6	4/-	11/6	7/6	2/-	9/6	4/-	13/6

Aircraftman 1.	Active Pay	Separ. Allow.	Total 7 Days' Pay	Active Pay	Separ. Allow.	Defrd. Pay	Total 7 Days' Pay
Single man .. .. .	7/6	—	£2 12 6	7/6	—	2/-	£3 6 6
Married. No children	7/6	3/-	£3 13 6	7/6	3/-	2/-	£4 7 6
Married. One child ..	7/6	4/-	£4 10 6	7/6	4/-	2/-	£4 14 6

Rank	Daily Rate	Total for un-married man	Total for married man 1 child (Wife's rate 3/-; Child, 1/-)		Daily Rate	De-ferred pay	Total for un-married man	Total for married man 1 child (Wife's rate 3/-; Child, 1/-)	
			Sep. Allow.	Total				Sep. Allow.	Total
				<b>GROUP V.</b>		<b>GROUP V.</b>			
Warrant Officer .....	10/6	10/6	4/-	14/6	10/6	3/-	13/6	4/-	17/6
Flight Sergeant ..	10/-	10/-	4/-	14/-	10/-	2/6	12/6	4/-	16/6
Sergeant .. .. .	9/-	9/-	4/-	13/-	9/-	2/-	11/-	4/-	15/-
Corporal .. .. .	8/-	8/-	4/-	12/-	8/-	2/-	10/-	4/-	14/-
Leading Aircraftman ..	5/6	5/6	4/-	9/6	5/6	2/-	7/6	4/-	11/6
Aircraftman 1 .. ..	5/-	5/-	4/-	9/-	5/-	2/-	7/-	4/-	11/-

Aircraftman 1.	Active Pay	Separ. Allow.	Total 7 Days' Pay	Active Pay	Separ. Allow.	Defrd. Pay	Total 7 Days' Pay
Single man .. .. .	5/-	—	£1 15 0	5/-	—	2/-	£2 9 0
Married. No children	5/-	3/-	£2 16 0	5/-	3/-	2/-	£3 10 0
Married. One child ..	5/-	4/-	£3 3 0	5/-	4/-	2/-	£3 17 0

**CREW PAY.**—Members of aircraft crews while in Australia will be eligible for payment of crew pay as under:

- (a) Airman Pilot, 4/- per diem continuously.
- (b) Airman Observer, 2/6 per diem continuously.
- (c) Air Gunner, 6d. per diem continuously, plus 2/- per diem while allotted as a member of an aircraft crew.
- (d) Wireless Operator, while allotted as a member of an aircraft crew, will receive crew pay of 2/- per diem.

#### **7.—SEPARATION ALLOWANCE.**

This is included in the pay figures shown in paragraph 6.

Separation allowance on the basis of 3/- per day to a wife and 1/- per day for each child under 16 years of age may be paid subject to the airman concerned making an allotment of at least 3/- per day to his wife. Separation allowance of 3/- per day may be paid to dependants (other than wives) of members subject to an allotment of 3/- per day being made by the airman in favour of the dependant. The separation allowance of 3/- per day is payable to a wife or to one other dependant, but not to both.

#### **8.—MESSING.**

**FREE RATIONS AND QUARTERS OR ALLOWANCES IN LIEU WILL BE PROVIDED AS A CONDITION OF SERVICE.**

#### **9.—UNIFORM AND CLOTHING.**

On enlistment the airman will be provided with a free initial issue of uniform and equipment. This uniform will be kept up to the required scale by a system of free issues.

#### **10.—MEDICAL AND DENTAL ATTENTION.**

Free medical attention, including medicine, as necessary, will be given to all airmen in accordance with conditions to be prescribed.

Certain dental attention will also be provided for members of the Force. All members must be medically fit prior to enlistment.

#### **11.—FARES.**

If he is accepted for service, an airman's fare will be paid to his place of enlistment. A married man who desires to bring his wife and children to his place of enlistment may do so at his own expense. No portion of this expense is payable from public funds.

#### **12.—MINORS.**

It will be necessary for applicants below the age of 21 to produce to the Recruiting Officer written consent by a parent or guardian stating that there is no objection to the applicant's enlistment for service in Australia or on active service overseas with the Royal Australian Air Force. Provision is made for the parent or guardian's consent on the application form.



### 13.—ENLISTMENT PROCEDURE.

Recruiting Centres have been established in the capital cities and certain provincial towns of the various States for the purpose of interviewing and trade testing applicants for enlistment. It should be understood that Air Force enlistment is conducted to fill vacancies by trades. Recruiting Centres will advise applicants of the trades in which vacancies exist. All applicants will be given an acknowledgment of their application. As the Recruiting Centres in provincial towns are established only on a mobile basis and move from place to place, unless the applicant is aware of the locality of the nearest Recruiting Centre, all inquiries are to be made to the Recruiting Centre situated in the capital city. The Recruiting Staff will then forward the application to the mobile centre nearest to the applicant or call the candidate up to the capital city for interview, whichever is most expedient. It should be clearly understood that only applicants possessing suitable qualifications will be called up for interview.

### 14.—WARNING.

Only candidates who can comply in all respects with these conditions will receive consideration, and all applications will be decided solely upon their merits. Candidates are warned against soliciting direct representations by members of Parliament or influential citizens to further their applications. Such representations will be regarded as an indication that the candidate lacks confidence in his own merits.

### 15.—TRADE TRAINING.

The expansion of the Royal Australian Air Force to meet the commitments of the Empire Air Training Scheme involves the enlistment of large numbers of fitters and wireless operators. Fitters are enlisted from men who are qualified in their trade by serving an apprenticeship or by many years of practical experience at the trade. To augment the supply of fitters for the ranks of the Air Force, trade training courses have been established in co-operation with the various Technical Colleges. Men for these trade training courses are selected from men who possess a certain fitting standard but are unable to pass the prescribed trade test for enlistment as fitter. These men are enlisted as Trainees and drafted to Technical Colleges, where they undergo an intensive course of general fitting. On completion of this fitting course they are passed to Air Force training establishments, where they undergo a further course in aircraft and aero engine maintenance, before being drafted to operational units of the Air Force. The wireless operators are selected from young men who possess suitable qualifications for training as W/T. Operators. These trainees do a course of instruction in Technical Colleges and in Royal Australian Air Force Signal Schools.

The Royal Australian Air Force, therefore, offers to technical men the opportunity to improve their skill and knowledge of their particular trade. A young man who joins the Air Force not only serves his country, but is prepared for his return to civilian life as a more highly skilled tradesman. Thus the community as a whole, and the individual in particular, will benefit as a result of Air Force training.

APPENDIX A.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE RECRUITING CENTRES  
ARE STATIONED AT:

MELBOURNE,  
SYDNEY,  
BRISBANE,  
PERTH,  
ADELAIDE,  
HOBART,

and Mobile Units will visit Country Centres to a prearranged itinerary.

APPENDIX B.

PHYSICAL FITNESS OF CANDIDATES FOR ENLISTMENT.

The following are the major requirements in physical fitness of candidates for enlistment in the Air Force:

A minimum height of 5 ft. 4 ins.

A minimum chest measurement of 32 ins.

A minimum chest expansion of 2 ins.

Normal hearing.

Normal eyesight, though the use of glasses under certain circumstances is not a cause of rejection.

Sound condition of lungs, heart and kidneys.

Freedom from physical deformities.

Freedom from the after effects of serious illnesses or operations.

A family history showing no inherited diseases.