

Public Relations Directorate,
ARMED FORCES HEADQUARTERS (I),
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PRESS NOTE.

NATIONALISATION OF OFFICER-RANKS OF INDIAN ARMY

NEW DELHI, Feb.7.— Figures now available at General Headquarters strikingly reveal the rate at which the Indian Army officer-ranks are being nationalised.

Apart from emergency commissioned officers, there are now some 1,600 regular Indian combatant officers (excluding those granted short service commissions) as opposed to just over 2,000 regular British combatant officers of the Indian Army, and it is hoped to increase the number of regular Indian officers to about 2,000 within a month or two. The pre-war figures were about 500 Indian and 3,000 British respectively.

Of the 2,000 regular British combatant officers 1,100 have under 20 years' service, of whom 700 will be absorbed into the British Army, such transfers starting in the near future. Many of the 900 with over 20 years' service are due to retire on pension shortly.

In addition to the above regular officers there are about 7,500 Indian emergency commissioned combatant officers, of whom about 700 have already been granted, or selected for, short service commissions of 3 years or 5 years and it is intended to increase the number granted such commissions to 2,000 in the near future. In contrast there are at present just over 5,000 British emergency commissioned combatant officers, many of whom will shortly leave the Army due to an accelerated release programme.

Serving with these officers of the Indian Army there are at present some 8,000 British officers of the British Army, who are being re-transferred to British units as fast as they can be spared.
