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## Summary

Constituents may contact their Member of Parliament seeking advice on eligibility – and how to apply – for a particular military medal. This could include constituents who have served in the armed forces and are seeking advice as to how to claim a medal they believe they are entitled to, or their next of kin.

This paper outlines the eligibility criteria and process to apply for a military medal, as well as background information on some of the medals that may still be applied for.

Medals awarded by both the British government and foreign governments are included.

World War One medals were issued to the recipient or next of kin after the war ended and the MOD Medal Office does not provide replacements. Medals for later conflicts and campaigns may still be applied for, and include the following (a complete list is available on gov.uk: [Medals: campaigns, descriptions and eligibility](#)).

### World War Two medals

Nine stars were issued for the campaigns of World War Two. These are:

- 1939 to 1945 Star
- Atlantic Star
- Air Crew Europe Star
- Arctic Star
- Africa Star
- Pacific Star: Malaya, Singapore and the Pacific Ocean
- Burma Star
- Italy Star
- France and Germany Star

In addition to these stars, the Defence Medal was awarded for non-operational service and the War Medal awarded to all full-time armed forces personnel.

Veterans of the Normandy Landings are also eligible to receive the Légion d'Honneur, issued by the French government (see section 5.3).

A badge formally recognising the contribution of the Women's Land Army and the Women's Timber Corps was announced on 6 December 2007, but is no longer being issued.

## Post-World War Two medals

A series of general service medals were instituted to recognise service in specific geographic areas, as well as medals for specific campaigns, including:

- Korea Medal
- Pingat Jasa Malaysia Medal
- South Atlantic Medal
- Gulf Medal 1990-1991
- Operational Service Medal - Iraq and Syria
- Operational Service Medal – Sierra Leone
- Operational Service Medal – Afghanistan
- Operational Service Medal – Democratic Republic of Congo
- Iraq Medal
- Ebola Medal

In addition, Queen Elizabeth II granted permission for British service personnel to accept, but not wear, the Kuwaiti Liberation Medal and the Saudi Liberation of Kuwait Medal. The governments of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia issued these medals to the allied personnel who had taken part in the liberation of Kuwait in 1990-1991.

# 1 How to apply for a British military medal

## 1.1 Eligibility

### Introduction

Military medals are awarded to serving – and former – members of the armed forces and eligible civilians, to recognise their service in a particular campaign or in time of war.

Next of kin are entitled to receive medals on behalf of deceased service personnel.

### Official and commemorative medals

Official medals are those authorised by the King or his predecessors. Only these medals are allowed to be worn on a service uniform.

Commemorative medals are those which have been produced by organisations or private medal companies to commemorate particular branches of service or areas of operation. These are not official medals and are not issued by the Ministry of Defence Medal Office. They may, however, be purchased from the medal company that produces them or from a medal dealer.

### Criteria for official medals

The Ministry of Defence Medal Office is responsible for issuing medals authorised by His Majesty to British service personnel and veterans. It provides a full list of medals from World War One to the more recent Ebola Medal, including medals for the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts, giving descriptions and eligibility for each campaign medal. This is available on the gov.uk page: [Medals: campaigns, descriptions and eligibility](#).

Medals awarded before World War Two can no longer be issued.

## 1.2

### How to apply

Serving personnel should always apply for medals through their Royal Navy, Royal Marines, British Army or Royal Air Force units and consult their administration staff with any medals queries.

If an individual leaves the armed forces before the medal can be issued, it is their responsibility to claim from the MOD Medal Office.

Service veterans and those applying on behalf of others should submit applications to the MOD Medal Office, using the application form below.

#### Application form

To apply for a medal, constituents should download and fill in the [Ministry of Defence medal form](#). This form is to be used by veterans and their families to apply for military campaign medals. Current serving personnel should speak to their Unit's HR department regarding all medal enquiries.

If a constituent is applying on behalf of someone else, they must also include a copy of either their lasting power of attorney or a death certificate.

All completed application forms should be sent, along with any supporting documents, to the MOD Medal Office:

MOD Medal Office  
Room G36  
Innsworth House  
Imjin Barracks  
Gloucester  
GL3 1HW

To apply for medallic recognition for Home Guard service, constituents must complete the MOD medal application form and the [Home Guard questionnaire](#).

Successful applicants usually receive their medal within 12 weeks of sending their application form.

#### Replacement medals

Replacement medals can be issued to service veterans or next of kin who held the medals, but they will only be issued (at cost to the medal recipient) where the loss is completely outside the individual's control, under the following circumstances:

- stolen
- destroyed (for example, in a fire or flood)

Your constituent will need to show proof by providing a copy of either:

- police crime report
- successful insurance claim listing the individual items

If the applicant is currently serving in the armed forces, they should contact their Unit's HR department to claim for replacement medals.

All other applicants should download and fill in the [MOD medal application form](#) to ask for a replacement medal, sending the form to the MOD Medal Office (see address above).

As well as the form itself, applicants must include a letter explaining how the medal was stolen or destroyed, and to also include a copy of the police report or insurance claim.

Applicants can expect a response from the Medal Office within 10 working days and, if successful, they will be told what the fee is and how to pay. The fee will depend on the type of medal.

Once payment has been received, applicants will receive the replacement medal within 4 weeks.

Alternatively, constituents can buy replacement medals from a licensed medal dealer.

## 1.3 Veterans badge

Constituents are eligible to receive an armed forces veterans' badge if they have served in any of the UK armed forces. To be recognised as a veteran, an individual needs only to have served for one day in the armed forces.<sup>1</sup>

They may also apply on behalf of someone who has died, provided they are in receipt of either a war widow(er)'s pension or compensation under the Survivors Guaranteed Income Payment (SGIP).

### How to apply

To receive a veterans badge, constituents should download and fill in the [Armed Forces Veterans Badge](#) application form.

They will need to give as much information as possible, such as:

- type of service (Army, Air Force or Royal Navy)

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<sup>1</sup> [Veterans Factsheet 2020](#) (PDF), Office for Veterans' Affairs [accessed 12 July 2024]

- service number
- period of service

Once completed, the form should be sent by post or email to the Ministry of Defence (MOD) Medal Office. The address is on the form.

Alternatively, call the enquiries freephone line: 0800 085 3600.

Applicants will usually receive their veterans' badge within 6 to 8 weeks of sending the application form.

## Replacement badge

Constituents can apply for a replacement veterans badge by using the same [Armed Forces Veterans Badge](#) application form, indicating they are making a replacement application and noting whether the badge was stolen, broken or lost.

There is no fee if it is first time they have asked for a replacement badge, but there will be charges for any further replacement applications.

## 2 Campaign medals

### 2.1 World War One

All World War One medals were issued to the recipient or next of kin after the war ended. The MOD Medal Office does not provide replacement World War One medals, but individuals can buy replicas or original named medals from a licensed medal dealer.

### 2.2 World War Two

Nine stars were issued for the campaigns of World War Two. These are:

- 1939 to 1945 Star
- Atlantic Star
- Air Crew Europe Star
- Arctic Star
- Africa Star
- Pacific Star: Malaya, Singapore and the Pacific Ocean
- Burma Star
- Italy Star
- France and Germany Star

In addition to these stars, the Defence Medal was awarded for non-operational service and the War Medal awarded to all full-time armed forces personnel.

Veterans of the Normandy Landings are also eligible to receive the Légion d'Honneur, issued by the French government (see below).

A badge formally recognising the contribution of the Women's Land Army and the Women's Timber Corps was announced on 6 December 2007,<sup>2</sup> but is no longer being issued.

## 2.3

### Post-World War Two

A series of general service medals were instituted to recognise service in specific geographic areas, as well as medals for specific campaigns, including:

- Korea Medal
- Pingat Jasa Malaysia Medal
- South Atlantic Medal
- Gulf Medal 1990-1991
- Operational Service Medal - Iraq and Syria
- Operational Service Medal – Sierra Leone
- Operational Service Medal – Afghanistan
- Operational Service Medal – Democratic Republic of Congo
- Iraq Medal
- Ebola Medal<sup>3</sup>

In addition, Queen Elizabeth II granted permission for British service personnel to accept, but not wear, the Kuwaiti Liberation Medal and the Saudi Liberation of Kuwait Medal. The governments of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia issued these medals to the allied personnel who had taken part in the liberation of Kuwait in 1990-1991

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<sup>2</sup> [HC Deb 6 December 2007, c83-4WS](#)

<sup>3</sup> A complete list of military medals that can be applied for is available on the gov.uk page: [Medals: campaigns, descriptions and eligibility](#) [last updated 20 October 2023]

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## 3 Arctic Star and Bomber Command Clasp

Nine stars were issued for the campaigns of World War Two. No more than five stars may be awarded to one person.<sup>4</sup> However, the retrospective introduction of the Arctic Star in 2013, following the Sir John Holmes Independent Medal Review (see section 3.1 below), meant that a sixth star could be worn. In all cases it is only the Arctic Star that is the sixth star that can be worn.

### 3.1 Background

In April 2012 Sir John Holmes was asked by the government to independently review the rules, principles and processes for the medallion recognition of military service, following a number of long-running campaigns by veterans' groups and individuals seeking redress for perceived injustices. Among the most prominent of those campaigns were those seeking recognition for the veterans of the World War Two Arctic Convoys and for those who served with Bomber Command. In his initial findings of July 2012 Sir John recommended that the main long-standing controversies should be re-examined to "try to draw a line under them".<sup>5</sup>

Following a further period of work, on 19 December 2012 the then Prime Minister announced that veterans of the World War Two Arctic Convoys were to be awarded an Arctic Star medal and that the aircrews of Bomber Command would be awarded a Bomber Command Clasp to be worn on the 1939-1945 Star.<sup>6</sup>

Details of the eligibility criteria for each award, and the process of application, were announced on 26 February 2013.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> [Medals: campaigns, descriptions and eligibility](#), Ministry of Defence [last updated 20 October 2023]

<sup>5</sup> [Military Medals Review](#) (PDF), Sir John Holmes, July 2012

<sup>6</sup> [Recognition for veterans of Arctic Convoys and Bomber Command](#), Ministry of Defence, 19 December 2012

<sup>7</sup> [Arctic Star and Bomber Command Clasp eligibility criteria](#), archived Ministry of Defence webpage [accessed 11 July 2024]

## 3.2

# Eligibility criteria

## Arctic Star

The qualifying period for the Arctic Star is “service of any length” north of the Arctic Circle between 3 September 1939 and 8 May 1945. More specifically:

- **Navy and Merchant Navy** – Naval and Merchant Navy service anywhere at sea north of the Arctic Circle to include, but not limited exclusively to, those ships participating in, and in support of, the convoys to Northern Russia. Fleet Air Arm personnel, not qualified by sea service may qualify under the conditions applying to the Royal Air Force.
- **Air Force** – Aircrew of the Royal Air Force will be eligible if they landed north of the Arctic Circle or served in the air over this area. Non aircrew on operational service in the area, for example ground crew or those sailing with Catapult Aircraft Merchant Ships, will also be eligible.
- **Army** – Army personnel serving on His Majesty’s ships or in defensively equipped Merchant ships will qualify under the rules applying to the Navy or Merchant Navy. In addition, personnel taking part in land operations north of the Arctic Circle will also be eligible.
- **Civilians serving with the Forces** – Members of the few approved categories of civilians who qualify for Campaign Stars will be eligible if, in support of military operations, they meet any of the above qualifying criteria.

Foreign nationals commissioned or enlisted into the British or, the then, Dominion Forces (for example the Royal Canadian Navy or the Royal Australian Navy) are also eligible, provided that they did not receive a similar award from their own government.

## Bomber Command Clasp

Eligibility for the Bomber Command Clasp requires prior qualification for the 1939-1945 Star, with the additional requirement that veterans must have flown at least one operational sortie with a Bomber Command operational unit between 3 September 1939 and 8 May 1945.

The 1939-1945 Star was awarded for six months service (a completed tour of operations), or 2 months for operational aircrew, under operational command between 3 September 1939 and 2 September 1945. A Battle of Britain clasp was awarded to the aircrew of fighter aircraft engaged in the Battle of Britain between 10 July and 31 October 1940.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> Cm 6833, June 1946

Eligibility for the Bomber Command Clasp was also extended to those aircrew who did not meet the qualifying criteria for the 1939-1945 Star due to service being ended by death, wounds or other service-related disability, service marked by a gallantry award or by being taken as a prisoner of war.

Like the Arctic Star, foreign nationals commissioned or enlisted into the British or, the then, Dominion Air Forces are also eligible, provided they did not receive a similar award from their own government.

## 4 Bevin Boys Badge

### 4.1 Background

In 1943 the Minister of Labour and National Service, Ernest Bevin, introduced a ballot scheme for compulsory conscription of national service personnel into the mining industry, in order to meet the production demands of the war effort. Under the ballot scheme 48,000 men of call-up age, nicknamed the Bevin Boys, were selected for service in the coal mines in lieu of service in the armed forces. Not all Bevin Boys were drafted via the ballot, however, as all national service conscripts were given the option when called-up. Approximately 57% of the Bevin Boys opted for service in the mines on this basis. Some members of the armed forces also volunteered to become miners during this period. The scheme ran until 1948.

In addition to various campaign stars instituted by the HD Committee in 1946 for service during World War Two, the Committee also recommended the institution of three awards for general operational or non-operational service. However, national service conscripts who did not serve in the armed forces were not eligible for the awards under the criteria set out. No official medal recognising national service wherever it was undertaken was instituted either.

Therefore, the Bevin Boys did not receive a medal recognising their service during the war.

### 4.2 The campaign for recognition

In February 1995 Martin Redmond MP tabled an Early Day Motion calling for recognition of the contribution made by the Bevin Boys. EDM 677 stated:

That this House, on the 50th anniversary of the end of the Second World War, demands recognition for the Bevin Boys whose service in the coalmines contributed equally with Servicemen to winning the war. (Relevant registered interest declared)<sup>9</sup>

The issue was raised again in the House of Lords on 5 July 2000:

**Lord Mason of Barnsley** asked Her Majesty's Government:

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<sup>9</sup> [EDM 677 of 1994-95 \(Bevin Boys\)](#), Tabled on 27 February 1995

What consideration they have given to the presentation of the National Service Medal to those Bevin Boys who were conscripted to serve in the coal mines during the 1939-45 war.

**Lord Sainsbury of Turville:** A public memorial to all those who served during the 1939-1945 war on the Home Front, including those who were conscripted to serve in the coal mines, was unveiled by the Queen in a service of commemoration at Coventry Cathedral on 3 March 2000.

The National Service Medal is not an official award. It is produced for sale by a commercial company.<sup>10</sup>

In May 2004 the MOD announced its intention to award a Veterans Badge as part of initiatives to raise awareness of veterans within the wider community (see above). In January 2006 Gordon Banks MP tabled an EDM calling for recognition of the Bevin Boys. EDM 1417 states:

That this House acknowledges the role played by the Bevin Boys, who served this nation during the period 1943 to 1948; notes that many paid the ultimate price in their endeavour to rid Europe of Nazi tyrants; and calls upon the Government officially to recognise by the way of an award similar to that available to military veterans the importance of the Bevin Boys to victory in the Second World War.<sup>11</sup>

In answer to a parliamentary question on 27 March 2006 the then Minister for Veterans, Don Touhig, commented in response to this issue:

Our success in prosecuting and winning the last war was the result of the whole nation's efforts, and I am sure that the whole House recognises that. Our responsibilities, however, relate to those who served in His Majesty's armed forces at the time. That is why the veterans badge is awarded in the way that it is. I am aware of the contribution of the Bevin boys, the land army and others and I understand that some people believe that they should also qualify – a matter for my ministerial colleagues in other Departments as well as myself – but I certainly share the sentiment behind the hon. Gentleman's point.<sup>12</sup>

Gordon Banks again raised this issue during an armed forces personnel debate on 6 July 2006.<sup>13</sup>

In January 2007 the then Prime Minister acknowledged that plans for recognition of the Bevin Boys were being examined by the government. He stated:

Q12. [110685] Mr. Neil Turner (Wigan) (Lab): This Government's decision to overturn the stance of the previous Administration in respect of compensation for former miners has meant payments of more than £50 million to miners and their families in the Wigan borough. During the war, many men were conscripted into the pits and performed a vital role in the war effort. Will my right hon. Friend ensure that that is recognised by the award of a medal for

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<sup>10</sup> HL Deb 5 July 2000, c136WA

<sup>11</sup> EDM 1417, Session 2005-06

<sup>12</sup> HC Deb 27 March 2006, c526

<sup>13</sup> [HC Deb 6 July 2005, cc1057-9](#)

these Bevin boys—and as quickly as possible, so that they can wear it with deserved pride?

The Prime Minister: I can tell my hon. Friend that over the next few weeks we will be announcing proposals to give recognition to the Bevin boys and the extraordinary work that they did in service of their country in the second world war. They often worked in very dangerous and difficult conditions underground, and as a result of their work we were able to sustain our war effort, so it is entirely right to find an appropriate way of recognising their service.<sup>14</sup>

In 1998 the Government gave permission for the Bevin Boys to take part in the Remembrance Sunday parade.

## 4.3 The Bevin Boys Badge

On 20 June 2007 the government announced that a lapel badge would be established in recognition of the contribution this group of individuals made to the war effort and in the post war reconstruction of the UK.

As with the Veterans Badge, the Bevin Boys Badge is intended to be a survivor's badge. It is only be awarded posthumously to the widows of men who were conscripted into the coalmines as set out above and who have died on or after the 20 June 2007.

Announcing the award, then DTI Minister, Malcolm Wicks, stated:

Following the Prime Minister's statement on 24 January this year in relation to the recognition of the contribution made by the Bevin Boys who worked in the UK coalfields during and immediately after World War II I would like to update the House on the recent developments. Members will be aware that the Bevin Boys scheme was introduced in 1943 by then Minister for Labour and National Service, Ernest Bevin, in response to an increasing shortage of labour in the coal mining industry. The scheme ran between 1943 and 1948 and involved recruiting men aged between 18 and 25 years to work in coal mines rather than serve in the armed forces. Some 48,000 men worked in the mines under the scheme.

I am delighted to announce that the DTI is launching today a lapel badge in recognition of the contribution this group made to the war effort. Of the 48,000 some 43 per cent were conscripted directly into the mines and are known more generally as "ballotees". The remaining 57 per cent. were those who opted for mine work in preference to joining the armed forces or those who were in the armed forces and volunteered to become miners. Only those who fall into these categories will be eligible for the badge. The Bevin Boys Badge is a survivors badge and I would encourage Bevin Boy veterans to wear it in public in order visibly to raise awareness of the important role they played during World War II and in the postwar reconstruction of the UK. Widows and estates will not eligible [...]

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<sup>14</sup> [HC Deb 24 January 2007, c1419](#)

The DTI have worked closely with the Bevin Boys Association, who have expressed their extreme pleasure at the introduction, to ensure that the design of the badge suitably reflects the work they carried out. It is important that we never forget the sacrifices that were made both at home and abroad during the war, and this badge is a fitting way to remember the Bevin Boys' work to keep the coalfields going.<sup>15</sup>

## 4.4 Application process

Applications for the Bevin Boys Badge are processed by the Coal Liabilities Unit, within the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero.

An application form is available on gov.uk, at [Bevin Boys veterans badge application](#). Applications can be sent by email or post to the Coal Liabilities Unit:

Coal Liabilities Unit  
Department for Energy Security and Net Zero  
Bay 359, Level 3, Orchard 2  
1 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1H 0ET

Applicants can expect to receive their badges 2 to 3 weeks after sending in their form.

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<sup>15</sup> [HC Deb 20 June 2007, c101-2WS](#)

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## 5 Foreign orders, decorations and medals

Successive UK governments have adopted very strict rules on the acceptance and wearing of foreign medals and awards by British citizens.

### 5.1 Rules Governing the Acceptance and Wearing of Foreign Orders, Decorations and Medals

The 'Rules Governing the Acceptance and Wearing of Foreign Orders, Decorations and Medals' were originally contained in the Foreign and Commonwealth Orders Regulations 1969. They have since been re-issued, in more detail, and include medallic recognition from Commonwealth nations of which the Sovereign is not Head of State. These rules are available online: [Rules governing the acceptance and wearing of foreign and Commonwealth orders, decorations and medals by citizens of the United Kingdom and her Overseas Territories.](#)

In summary, the rules set out the following principles and guidelines:

1. No UK citizen may accept or wear a foreign or Commonwealth award without The Sovereign's permission. Such permission must be sought as soon as there is an indication that an award may be offered.
2. The granting of permission for a UK citizen to accept an award offered by a foreign or Commonwealth state will only be considered if the award recognises specified services rendered to the interests of that foreign or Commonwealth state.
3. Permission will not normally be given for UK citizens to accept a foreign or Commonwealth award if they have received, or are expected to receive, a UK award for the same services but consideration can be given to requests where it would be in the national interest to do so.
4. Acceptance of a foreign or Commonwealth award does not mean that the UK will make a reciprocal offer directly or indirectly associated with the UK recipient.
5. Permission will not be given for a UK citizen to accept a foreign or Commonwealth award if it is considered that it would not be in the national interest to do so.
6. Permission will not be given for a UK citizen to use any title associated with a foreign or Commonwealth award in the UK.

Permission to accept and wear a foreign award will be granted on either:

- Unrestricted basis: allowing the award to be worn on any occasion where the wearing of awards is appropriate, or
- Restricted basis: allowing the award to be worn only on particular occasions associated with the foreign or Commonwealth state that conferred it.

However, unrestricted permission will only be considered for foreign awards conferred for services under the following circumstances:

1. Relating to saving, or attempting to save, a life.<sup>16</sup>
2. By any member of the UK armed forces or other UK official on exchange, loan or attachment to a foreign state who is involved in a military operation or emergency on behalf of that country, state or organisation.
3. By any member of the UK armed forces serving in a UK unit within a bi-lateral force under the command of another country who renders special service to the country's forces in a military operation or emergency.
4. In military operations under the auspices of an international organisation such as the UN or NATO.

The granting of restricted permission will also only be considered in the case of foreign awards conferred in the following circumstances:

1. On the occasion of, and in connection with, a state or official visit by a Head of State or Government.
2. In connection with a state visit by the Sovereign.
3. To members of special missions when the Sovereign is represented at a coronation, wedding or funeral or other similar occasion; or on any diplomatic representative when specially accredited to represent the Sovereign on such occasions.
4. Where there is a national interest case for a Ministerial colleague, following advice from the FCDO and recommended by the Prime Minister.

In all other circumstances permission (unrestricted or restricted) will not be granted to: Crown servants generally; to Heads or other members of HM Diplomatic or Consular establishments abroad; and senior officials, whether military or civilian, visiting foreign states.

Applications by a foreign government to confer a medal must be made in the first instance to the Honours Secretariat at the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office. The Secretariat, in conjunction with the Ceremonial

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<sup>16</sup> This includes medals issued by life-saving societies and institutions, although any medals conferred must be worn on the right breast.

Secretariat of the Cabinet Office through the Committee on the Grant of Honours, Decorations and Medals will then take the decision on whether to seek approval from The King.

Overall, approval for the conferral of a foreign medal is rarely given and any foreign medals that are conferred are generally acknowledged to be regarded as ‘keepsakes’ and are not generally intended to be worn.

## Examples of Conferred Foreign Medals

There are a number of examples since World War Two where countries have been given approval to confer medals on British service personnel or ex-service personnel. In a letter placed in the Library of the House in July 1990 the MOD set out those countries that, at that point in time, had been granted permission to confer an award. The letter did not provide any detail on the medals concerned, but listed the countries as follows:

Brunei  
Ceylon  
Ghana  
India  
Jamaica  
Kenya  
Malawi  
Malaya  
Malaysia  
Nigeria  
Oman  
Pakistan  
Sierra Leone  
Singapore  
Uganda  
United Arab Emirates  
Vanuatu

Zimbabwe<sup>17</sup>

Since then, veterans of the Normandy Landings have become eligible to receive the Légion d'Honneur, issued by the French government, and permission was granted for British service personnel to accept, but not wear, the Kuwaiti Liberation Medal and the Saudi Liberation of Kuwait Medal.

Permission was also granted for British veterans of the Arctic Convoys to accept and wear the Russian Ushakov Medal. However, the deadline for applications for this medal was 13 October 2013.<sup>18</sup>

## 5.2 Pingat Jasa Malaysia Medal

### Background

In March 2005 the Malaysian government approached the then Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) to request permission to award its new commemorative Pingat Jasa Malaysia (PJM) Medal to British veterans who served in operations in Malaya or Malaysia between August 1957 and August 1966.

In a written answer on 14 June 2005 the then Foreign Secretary, Jack Straw, indicated that a review of the rules on the acceptance and wearing of foreign medals and awards by British citizens, and in particular the five-year rule and the rules regarding awards with a British equivalent,<sup>19</sup> would be undertaken with regards to the potential awarding of this medal. He stated:

The question of seeking permission for the Pingat Jasa Malaysia Medal to be accepted and worn by British citizens was raised formally by the Malaysian authorities in March, when their Deputy Prime Minister spoke to me about it. We have subsequently received more details about the proposal from the Malaysian High Commission. In the light of the Malaysian Government's request to present the Pingat Jasa Malaysia medal to British Citizens, I have asked for certain principles of the Government's rules governing the accepting and wearing of foreign awards to be reviewed.<sup>20</sup>

### The Pingat Jasa Malaysia Medal (PJM)

On 31 January 2006 the Foreign and Commonwealth Office announced that, on review of the rules regarding the acceptance and wearing of foreign medals, approval would be given on this occasion for the Pingat Jasa

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<sup>17</sup> Letter from The Earl of Arran to Derek Conway, 26 July 1990

<sup>18</sup> [FAQ: Can I still apply for the Ushakov medal?](#) Arctic Convoy Museum [accessed 11 July 2024]

<sup>19</sup> The General Service Medal 1918-1962 and the Naval General Service Medal 1914-1962 with the Malaya bar, and the General Service Medal 1962 with the Borneo or Malay Peninsula bar has been awarded for service in these theatres of operation.

<sup>20</sup> HC Deb 14 June 2005, c326-7W

Malaysia medal to be awarded to eligible veterans. However, permission for recipients to wear the medal was not initially granted.<sup>21</sup>

The decision not to allow the medal to be worn was heavily contested by many of the veterans concerned, particularly as recipients from other Commonwealth countries were allowed to wear it. In November 2011 the British government approved the medal to be worn, with veterans able to wear their PJM on Remembrance Day a few days later.<sup>22</sup>

## How to Apply

Applications for the PJM Medal are processed by the Malaysian Government. All applications must be endorsed by an official organisation such as the Ministry of Defence or veterans associations before the medal can be issued.

To gain endorsement from the MOD, eligible applications should complete the [Pingat Jasa Malaysia \(PJM\) medal application form](#) and send to the MOD Medal Office.

Applicants will need details on their approximate dates of service in Malaysia, and whether they have already been awarded a British General Service Medal with the appropriate clasp for service in Malaya or Borneo.

[The National Malaya & Borneo Veterans Association](#) (NMBVA) has also agreed to co-ordinate applications for the PJM on behalf of both its own members and those veterans who are not members of any other veterans' organisation or association.

## 5.3

## Légion d'Honneur

In 2014, in conjunction with events to mark the 70th anniversary of D-Day, the French Government announced it would award the Légion d'Honneur to all surviving veterans of the Normandy Landings, as well as the wider campaigns to liberate France.<sup>23</sup>

The award is available for living veterans, including those who operated in support of the landings during June 1944 and who have not already received the award from the French Government. The medal cannot be awarded posthumously.<sup>24</sup>

UK veterans can apply for the award using the [application form for the D-Day 70 award of the Légion d'Honneur](#). This application form will be processed by the Ministry of Defence (MOD), with the details forwarded to the French authorities who will then make all final decisions on the awards. In the section

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<sup>21</sup> HC Deb 31 January 2006, c11-12WS

<sup>22</sup> [Military Medals Review](#) (PDF), Sir John Holmes, July 2012, para 50

<sup>23</sup> [Légion d'honneur for British World War II veterans](#), French Embassy in London, 17 January 2023

<sup>24</sup> [MOD, Application form for the D-Day 70 award of the Legion d'Honneur](#), [accessed 28 May 2024]

headed “reasons justifying the proposal”, applicants should give brief details of their service in France.

The application form can be submitted electronically to the following email address: [People-DSSec-DMETMailbox@mod.gov.uk](mailto:People-DSSec-DMETMailbox@mod.gov.uk). Postal applications are accepted, but it is recommended that applicants submit an electronic form as emailed applications will be dealt with immediately and applicants will receive confirmation of receipt. If submitting a postal application, the address to send it to is:

Legion d'Honneur Team  
Floor 6 Zone C  
Ministry of Defence  
Main Building  
London  
SW1A 2HB

In the decade since the scheme began, the French Government has awarded more than 6,000 medals to British veterans.<sup>25</sup>

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<sup>25</sup> [Légion d'honneur for British World War II veterans](#), French Embassy in London, 17 January 2023; Jo Makel and Chloe Laversuch, [East Yorkshire veteran, 100, to get France's highest honour](#), BBC News Online, 5 December 2023

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