



Heroes Return 2 Scheme

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Following on from the success of the initial Heroes Return Fund programme in 2004 the Heroes Return 2 Scheme was launched by the Big Lottery Fund on 1 April 2009.

Under this scheme funding will be provided for veterans, spouses, widows and carers wishing to return to those places where they fought during the Second World War and mark any relevant anniversaries in 2009 and 2010.

This note sets out the principles of the scheme, eligibility and how to apply for funding.

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Contents

1	Background	2
2	Heroes Return 2 Scheme	2
3	Eligibility	3
4	Further Information and How to Apply	3

1 Background

In February 2004 the Heroes Return Fund was launched as part of the wider Veterans Reunited programme. The intention of that fund was to provide national lottery funding for veterans who wished to travel back to the countries in which they had served during the Second World War as part of the 60th anniversary commemorations marking the end of the war. Further information on the HRF is available in Library Standard Note SN/IA/2920, *Heroes Return Fund*.

The 6 June 2009 will mark the 65th anniversary of the D Day landings.

2 Heroes Return 2 Scheme

Following on from the success of the initial Heroes Return Fund programme the Heroes Return 2 Scheme was launched by the Big Lottery Fund on 1 April 2009.

Under this scheme funding will be provided for veterans, spouses, widows and carers wishing to return to those places where they fought during the Second World War and mark any relevant anniversaries in 2009 and 2010. Funding is not limited to just those personnel who fought in Normandy but also those who saw active service in other overseas theatres during 1944 and 1945, including Monte Cassino, Arnhem, Okinawa, Burma, Libya and the Far East. Support will also be offered to veterans that wish to attend recognised commemorative events in the UK.

Applicants can apply for a fixed grant of between £150 and £5,500 for travel and accommodation and insurance costs depending upon the number of people taking part and the destination concerned. Each veteran or widow/widower may also be accompanied by a spouse and/or a carer. The following chart sets out the available funding per destination:

Destination	Individual (one person)	Individual plus spouse or carer (two people)	Individual plus spouse and carer (three people)
United Kingdom	£150	£225	£330
Northern and Western Europe	£500	£875	£1,300
Mediterranean and North Africa	£800	£1,425	£2,200
Egypt, Libya and the Middle East	£1,500	£2,825	£4,250
Far East and Rest of World	£2,000	£3,700	£5,500

If there are more than 10 people travelling as part of an organised visit, an additional grant of £250 to cover the administrative costs of organising the visit will also be made.

These grant allowances were agreed following consultation with Poppy Travel, the travel company of the Royal British Legion.

3 Eligibility

Veterans who saw active service during World War Two with, or alongside, the British and Allied forces, and are resident in the UK, Channel Islands or the Republic of Ireland are eligible for funding. Widows/widowers of World War Two veterans will also be eligible in most cases. Exceptions will apply if the widow has already received a grant to visit her husband's grave or memorial overseas in either 2009 or 2010 under the government-sponsored War Widows Grant-in-Aid Scheme.

Former prisoners of war will also be eligible along with veterans of the Merchant Navy. Foreign nationals who served alongside British and Allied forces will only be eligible if they are currently resident in the UK or the Republic of Ireland.

In order to ensure as many veterans benefit as possible, only one visit per veteran, widow or widower will be funded under this scheme.

Grants will be made available to cover the cost of trips already booked or paid for provided that the individuals concerned are planning to travel between 1 April 2009 and 31 December 2010.

It should be noted that lottery grants under this scheme will not be awarded to veterans of other conflicts such as Suez and Aden.

4 Further Information and How to Apply

Further information for veterans is available either via the Heroes Return 2 helpline on 0845 000 0121 or online at:

http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/prog_heroesreturn_qa.pdf

In order to apply for funding veterans must fill out the Heroes Return 2 application form which is available online at: http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/prog_heroesreturn_application.pdf

Only one form will be required for group visits being arranged by a veteran's organisation or charity.

That form must then be returned to:

Heroes Return 2
Big Lottery Fund
2 St James Gate
Newcastle Upon Tyne
NE1 4BE

Applicants are advised to retain a copy of their completed application form for their own records. Applications will be prioritised by the Big Lottery Fund according to date of travel.

Veterans who live in the Republic of Ireland and wish to apply for funding are advised to contact the Royal British Legion in Dublin on (+ 353) 01671 3044 for more information.

The final date for applications is 31 January 2011, although the last date for travel is 31 December 2010.