

WORLD WAR 2 GALLANTRY MEDALS

George Cross



Created 24 September 1940.

Recognises acts of extreme bravery carried out by civilians and military personal when not under enemy fire.

The act which earns the award must be witnessed by several individuals

Named after King George VI, who personally designed many details on the medal
inscription reads 'For Gallantry'

Distinguished Service Order



Awarded to officers who have performed meritorious or distinguished service in War.

The decoration, instituted by Queen Victoria in 1886, entitles recipients to add D.S.O. after their names.

Military Cross



The Military Cross (MC) is the third-level military decoration awarded to officers and (since 1993) other ranks of the British Armed Forces; and formerly also to officers of other Commonwealth countries.

The MC is granted in recognition of "an act or acts of exemplary gallantry during active operations against the enemy on land to all members, of any rank in Our Armed Forces"

Distinguished Conduct Medal



The oldest British award for gallantry and second only to the Victoria Cross, the Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM) was awarded to enlisted personnel, non-commissioned officers and warrant officers of any nation, in any branch of the service, for distinguished conduct in battle. Instigated by the British as a means of recognising acts of gallantry performed by 'other ranks' (i.e. non-commissioned officers)

Military Medal



The Military Medal (or MM) was a medal awarded for exceptional bravery. It was awarded to the Other Ranks (N.C.O.'s and Men) and was first instituted in 25 March 1916 during The First World War, to recognise bravery in battle. The Military Medal was the equivalent to the Military Cross (MC) which was awarded to commissioned officers. The MM ranked below the Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM). The Military Medal was discontinued in 1993.

Mentioned in Despatches



A member of the armed forces mentioned in despatches (MiD) is one whose name appears in an official report written by a superior officer and sent to the high command, in which his or her gallant or meritorious action in the face of the enemy is described. Some were mentioned on multiple occasions. Soldiers were entitled to receive a certificate and wear a decoration of a spray of oak leaves in bronze which could be displayed on the ribbon of the Defence Medal.

WORLD WAR 2 CAMPAIGN MEDALS

1939 to 1945 Star



The 1939 to 1945 Star was awarded to personnel who completed operational service overseas between 3 September 1939 and 8 May 1945 (2 Sept 1945 in Far East). Qualification period for the Army was:

180 days operational service in the Army

The colours of the ribbon represent the 3 services. The star is worn with the dark blue stripe furthest from the left shoulder.

Africa Star.



The Africa Star was awarded to personnel who served in North Africa, Malta or Egypt between 10 June 1940 and 12 May 1943. Qualification period for the army was:

1 Day of operational service in the Army.

The colours of the ribbon symbolise the desert and the 3 services.

Pacific Star: Malaya, Singapore and the Pacific Ocean.



The Pacific Star was awarded for operational service in Malaya, Singapore, China, Hong Kong or Sumatra between 8 December 1941 and 2nd September 1945.

Qualification period for the army was:

1 Day of operational service in the Army.

The colours of the ribbon represent the jungle, the beaches and the 3 services.

If qualified for the Burma Star, only the first star earned was awarded. A clasp with the title of the second star earned, which is worn on the ribbon of the first Star issued.

Burma Star.



The Burma Star was awarded for operational service in Burma between 11 December 1941 and 2 September 1945. Those serving in Bengal and Assam in India and China, Hong Kong, Malaya or Sumatra between other specified dates may also have qualified. Qualification period for the Army was:

1 day of operational service in the Army.

The colours of the ribbon represent the sun, British and Commonwealth forces. If also qualified for the Pacific Star, only the first star earned will be

awarded. A clasp with the title of the second star earned, which is worn on the ribbon of the first, was issued.

Italy Star.



The Italy Star was awarded for operational service in Sicily or Italy between 11 July 1943 and 8 May 1945. Those who served in Yugoslavia, Greece, Corsica or Sardinia between certain other specified dates also qualified. Qualification period for the Army was: 1 Day of operational service in the Army. The colours of the ribbon represent the national colours of Italy

France and Germany Star.



The France and Germany Star is awarded for operational service in France, Belgium, Luxembourg, The Netherlands or Germany between 6 June 1944 and 8 May 1945. Qualification period for the Army was: 1 day of operational service in the army. The colours of the ribbon represent the national colours of the United Kingdom, France and the Netherlands.

Defence Medal.



The Defence Medal was awarded for non-operational service such as those service personnel working in headquarters, on training bases and airfields and members of the Home Guard. The medal is also awarded for non-operational service overseas for example in India or South Africa.

Qualification period for the Army was:

1080 days (3 years) service in the UK between 3 Sep 1939 and 8 May 1945

360 days (1 year) non operational service overseas between 3 Sep 1939 and 2 Sep 1945.

180 days non operational service in an overseas area deemed to be closely threatened or subject to air attack between 3 September 1939 and 8 May 1945.

The colours of the ribbon symbolise enemy attacks on Britain's 'green and pleasant land' and the black out.

War Medal 1939 to 1945.



The War Medal was awarded to all full time personnel of the armed forces wherever they were serving. The medal was granted in addition to campaign stars and the Defence Medal.

Qualification period for the Army was:

Service of at least 28 days between 3 September 1939 and 2nd September 1945.