

The Victory Medal 1914 - 1919

Royal Navy

Admiralty Order 3974/19 – 10/12/1919

His Majesty the King having been pleased to recognise by the grant of a distinctive medal the services rendered by His Majesty's Forces in operations of war since 5th August, 1914, the following regulations for the award of the medal as regards the Navy are issued for information:-.

1. The medal will be designated 'The Victory Medal', will be similar in design to that issued by other Allied and Associated Powers for corresponding services, and will obviate the interchange of Allied Commemorative war medals. It will be in bronze, and will be attached to the riband by a ring. No clasp will be issued with it.
2. The riband will be red in the centre with green and violet on each side, shaded to form the colour of two rainbows.
3. Provided the claims are approved by the Admiralty, the medal will be granted to the under-mentioned classes who were mobilised and rendered approved service either (i) at sea between midnight the 4th /5th August, 1914 and midnight 11th /12th November, 1918, or (ii) on the establishment of a unit *within a theatre of military operations*.
 - (a) All Officers and men of the R.N., R.M., R.N.A.S., R.I.M., R.N.R., R.N.V.R., R.N.A.S.B.R., and Dominion and Colonial Naval Forces. Trained pilots and observers and men of the R.N.A.S. employed in actual flying from Naval Air Stations at home on overseas patrols will be eligible.
 - (b) Mercantile Marine Officers and men serving under special Naval engagements (Form T.124 and its variants, including T.299) in H.M. Ships and Commissioned Fleet Auxiliaries.
 - (c) Members of Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Service and Royal Naval Nursing Service Reserve.
 - (d) Officers and enrolled members of the W.R.N.S.
 - (e) Canteen staffs who served in a ship of war at sea.
4. The following services are not approved as qualifying:-
 - (a) Service in Depot Ships, except those which go to sea; Boom Defence Vessels, Examination Vessels, and other craft employed on harbour service.
 - (b) Service at Shore Bases and Depots, except those within theatres of active military operations.
 - (c) Services of a temporary and special nature at sea, or in theatres of military operations e.g., casual inspections and enquiries, purchase of material, trials, passage &c.

- (d) Service at sea, subsequent to midnight 11-12th November, 1918 except in certain specified cases, with regard to which a further announcement will be made.
- 5. Desertion or dismissal with disgrace since the date of the qualifying service forfeits the decoration.
- 6. The decorations earned by Officers and men deceased will be issued to their legatees or next-of-kin entitled to receive them.
- 7. A further announcement as to the issue of the riband will be made in due course, and no application should be made pending such notification.
- 8. For the purpose of this Order the definition of "theatres of military operations" is at Appendix A.

For the purposes of this order the definition of 'theatres of military operations' is as for the Army, with the addition of the following to section (b), paragraph 2, " Balkan Theatre " :—

" Officers and men of the Plymouth and Chatham Battalions R.M.L.I., who took part in the landing at Seddul Bahr and Kum Kale on 4 March, 1915 are eligible."

Commonwealth Naval Order 108 of 1919

BRITISH WAR MEDAL AND VICTORY MEDAL

Permission is given to Officers and Men possessing the qualifications required by Admiralty Monthly Orders 3973/19 and 3974/19 to wear the ribands of the British War Medal and Victory Medal. As no general issue of the riband can yet be made, the wearing of ribands is optional.

1. With reference to Admiralty Monthly Order 3973/19, the following further instructions in regard to the 28 days' mobilized service referred to in paragraph 3, are promulgated for information:—
 - (i) The classes specified in Clauses (a) and (b) of A.M.O. 3973/19, paragraph 3, will be eligible for the award of the British War Medal, provided they have had 28 days' mobilized service, whether such service was performed in Australia, at sea, or overseas.
 - (ii) With regard to the classes specified in Clauses (c), (d), and (f) of paragraph 3, of the Admiralty Order, the 28 days' service required to qualify for the British War Medal must have been served actually overseas from Great Britain, or in a Hospital Ship at sea, or, in the case of corresponding classes of the Australian Naval Forces, overseas from Australia, or in a Hospital Ship at sea.
 - (iii) The qualifications for Canteen Staffs are as stated in Clause (e), paragraph 3, of the Admiralty Order.
2. This preliminary authority for the wearing of the ribands is to be regarded as provisional only, and does not confirm the title of the recipient to the subsequent award of the Medals. The claims of individual Officers and Men of the Australian Naval Forces are being considered individually, and the Medals and ribands will be distributed in due course when received from the Admiralty.

Commonwealth Naval Order 110 of 1920

EMBLEM TO BE WORN ON THE RIBAND OF VICTORY MEDAL DENOTING MENTION IN DESPACHES.

His Majesty the King has been graciously pleased to approve of an emblem being worn on the Riband of the Victory Medal by all personnel of the R.N. and of the Commonwealth Naval Forces who have been awarded this Medal, and who have also received a Certificate to the effect that their names had been published in the *London Gazette* as having been Mentioned in Despatches for service during the War.

2. The emblem will be an oak leaf in bronze.
3. Additional emblems will not be worn in respect of a second or subsequent Mention in Despatches.
4. Two emblems will be supplied in due course to each approved applicant.
5. A further announcement will be made when the emblems are ready for issue. In the meanwhile, Commanding Officers of H.M.A. Ships and Establishments are requested to furnish lists of Officers and Men who claim to be entitled to the emblem. Commanding Officers should, where possible, confirm each applicant's claim by inspection of the Certificate of Mention, and notation should be made upon the lists of applicants forwarded, stating in each case whether the Certificate has been inspected.
6. This Navy Order may be regarded as provisional authority for the wearing of the emblem by Officers and Men entitled thereto under the above regulations.

(20/3660.)

(This Order will be reprinted for posting on Notice Boards.)

Army

MO 560/1919

The following copy of Army Order No. 301, dated 30th August, 1919, is promulgated for information:-

1. His Majesty the King has been graciously pleased to recognise by the grant of a distinctive medal the services rendered by His Majesty's military forces in theatres of war since 5th August, 1914.
2. The medal will be designated 'The Victory Medal', will be identical in design with that issued by other Allied and Associated Powers for service in theatres of war, and will obviate the interchange of Allied Commemorative war medals.
3. The medal will be in bronze, and will be attached to the riband by a ring.
4. No clasp will be issued with the medal.

5. The riband will be red in the centre with green and violet on each side, shaded to form the colour of two rainbows.
6. Provided the claims are approved by the competent military authorities, the medal will be granted to all officers, warrant officers, non-commissioned officers and men of the British, Dominion, Colonial and Indian Forces, members of women formations who have been enrolled under a direct contract of service for service with His Majesty's Imperial Forces, civil medical practitioners, nursing sisters, nurses, and other employed with military hospitals, who actually served on the establishment of a unit in a theatre of war and within the periods as defined in Appendix 'A'.
7. Instructions as to the submission of claims and the disposal of the medals will be issued in due course.

Appendix A

THEATRES OF WAR

[Explanatory note: Appendix 'A' published in MO 560/1919, and amended by MO 375/1920, was cancelled and republished in MO 36/1923. This version is shown below.]

GRANT OF THE VICTORY MEDAL

Appendix 'A' to Army Order 301 of 1919 is hereby cancelled and the following substituted:-

For the purpose of this Army Order, "theatres of war" are defined as under :-

1. ***Western European Theatre.***—To include all operations in:-
 - (a) France and Belgium, between midnight 4th/5th August, 1914, and midnight 11th/12th November, 1918.
 - (b) Italy, between midnight 17th/18th April, 1917 and midnight 11th/12th November, 1918.
2. ***Balkan Theatre.***— To include all operations in:-
 - (a) Greek Macedonia, Serbia, Bulgaria and European Turkey, between midnight 4th/5th October, 1915 and midnight 11th/12th November, 1918.
 - (b) Gallipoli and Islands of Aegean Sea, between midnight 24th/25th April, 1915 and midnight 9th/10th January, 1916.
3. ***Russian Theatre.***—To include all operations which took place in Russia^{1*}, between midnight 4th/5th August, 1914 and midnight 1st/2nd July, 1920.
4. ***Egyptian Theatre.***— To include all operations: -

¹ * The term "Russia" is to be considered to cover the geographical area of the pre-war Russian Empire.

- (a) In Egypt, between midnight 4th/5th November, 1914 and midnight 18th/19th March, 1916, but excluding operations for which the Sultan's Sudan medal has been awarded.
- (b) Conducted by the Egyptian Expeditionary Force, between midnight 18th/19th March, 1916 and midnight 11th/12th November 1918, but excluding operations for which the Sultan's Sudan medal has been awarded.

NOTES :—

- (i) Personnel of the Egyptian Army, including British personnel thereof, and personnel of the British Army stationed in Egypt, prior to midnight 4th/5th August, 1914, were eligible for the award of the Victory Medal only if they were employed in Egypt (exclusive of the Sudan), up to midnight 18th/19th March, 1916, on duties which were outside of the normal peace-time work of the Egyptian Army, or of the British Army in Egypt respectively, and for which the need arose from the fact of the above operations being in progress.
- (ii) Troops which arrived in Egypt subsequent to midnight 4th/5th August, 1914, and prior to midnight 4th/5th November, 1914, were eligible for the award of the Victory Medal if they served on the establishment of a unit (exclusive of a unit referred to in (i) of these notes) in Egypt (exclusive of the Sudan) between midnight 4th/5th November, 1914 and midnight 18th/19th March, 1916.
- (iii) Troops which arrived in Egypt between midnight 4th/5th November, 1914 and midnight 18th/19th March, 1916, are eligible for the award of the Victory Medal if they served on the establishment of a unit (exclusive of a unit referred to in (i) of these notes) in Egypt (exclusive of the Sudan) between these dates.
- (iv) The term Egypt (exclusive of the Sudan) is held to mean Egypt north of a line east and west through, but including Assouan.

5. *African Theatre*.—To include all operations as set forth below, but excluding local military operations against native tribes or rebels, for which the Africa General Service Medal is awarded:

- (a) In British East Africa, German East Africa, Portuguese East Africa, Rhodesia, Nyasaland and Uganda, between midnight 19th/20th August, 1914 and midnight 25th/26th November, 1918, within an area bounded as follows:

On the north by the Uganda Railway from the sea to Port Florence (including the whole of all towns actually on the railway), thence along the northern shore of Lake Victoria to the mouth of the Katonga River, thence in a straight line to Mubendi. From Mubendi along the line of the Muzissi River to Lake Albert and along the southern Shore of that lake to the Congo-Uganda boundary.

On the west by the Congo-Uganda boundary and along the western shores of Lake Edward, Lake Kivu and Lake Tanganyika to Moliro; thence by the Northern Rhodesian-Congo boundary to Lake Mweru and along the Luapula River as far as the 12th parallel.

On the south by the 12th parallel to Lake Nyasa, along the western shore of Lake Nyasa to Fort Johnson, and thence by the Shire River to the Zambesi River, and by that river to the sea.

- (b) In the Caprivi Zipfel, South-West Africa, by the troops assembled at Sesheke in 1914, under the command of Lieut-Colonel A. E. Capell,

D.S.O., and by the scouts on duty about the Okovango River, under the command of Major R. Gordon, D.S.O., in July, 1915.

- (c) In German South-West Africa and the 12th and 13th military districts of the Union of South Africa, provided that service was performed on the establishment of a unit in any one of the following forces between midnight 19th/20th August, 1914 and midnight 9th/10th July, 1915.

Northern Force.—Commanded by General the Right Honourable Louis Botha.

"A" Force.—Commanded by Brigadier General H. T. Lukin, C.M.G., D.S.O.

"B" Force, Southern Force and Southern Army. Commanded on different dates by Major-General the Honourable J. C. Smuts and Brigadier-General J. L. van Deventer.

Central Force. Commanded by Brigadier-General Sir D. McKenzie, K.C.M.G., C.B., D.S.O.

Eastern Force.—Commanded by Colonel S. A. L. Berrange, C.M.G.

- (d) In Kamerum and that part of Nigeria east of a line from the southern extremity of Lake Chad through Maiduguri, Yola, Bakundi, Takum and Ikom (these five places inclusive) and thence eastwards along the Cross River to the Nigeria Cameroons Frontier, between midnight 23rd/24th August, 1914 and midnight 18th/19th February, 1916.
- (e) Conducted in French West Africa to the north of the Northern Nigeria Frontier by the Sokoto and Katsena Columns, under the command of Captain J. G. Bruxner-Randall and LieutColonel R. G. Coles, respectively, between midnight 4th/5th January, 1917 and midnight 15th/16th May, 1917.
- (f) Within the boundaries of Togoland from midnight 6th/7th August, 1914 to midnight 26th/27th August, 1914.

6. Asiatic Theatres.—To include all operations :—

- (a) In Hedjaz, between midnight 4th/5th November, 1914 and midnight 11th/12th November, 1918.
- (b) Carried out by the Mesopotamia Expeditionary Force between midnight 5th/6th November, 1914 and midnight 11th/12th November, 1918, and by the Bushire Garrison, as part of such, between midnight 27th/28th June, 1915 and midnight 11th/12th November, 1918.
- (c) In South Persia and the Persian Gulf Ports, &c., between midnight 5th/6th November, 1914 and midnight 11th/12th November, 1918.
- (d) At Shaik Said (South-West Arabia) on the 10th and 11th November, 1914; and at Persia, on the 14th/15th June, 1915.
- (e) Conducted by the Aden Field Force between midnight 2nd/3rd July, 1915 and midnight 11th/12th November, 1918.
- (f) In the frontier regions of India, carried out by Forces which actually took the field:—

- (i) In the Tochi Valley, including the whole of the North Waziristan Political Agency, between midnight 27th/28th November, 1914 and midnight 27th/28th March, 1915.
- (ii) Near Hafiz Kor within the area bounded on the south by the left bank of the Kabul River and on the east by a line from Adozai to Tangi, both places included, under the command of Major-General C. F. G. Young, between midnight 13th/14th and midnight 19th/20th April, 1915; under the command of Major-General F. Campbell, C.B., D.S.O., between midnight 28th/29th August and midnight 10th/11th October, 1915; at Hafiz Kor on 15th November, 1916; and on the Mohmand Blockade line between midnight 29th/30th September, 1916 and midnight 19th/20th July, 1917.
- (iii) Carried out by the troops at Katsang, Rastam and Swati, under the command of Brigadier-General N. C. Woodyatt, between midnight 16th/17th August and midnight 31st August/1st September, 1915.
- (iv) On the Landakai Ridge north of a line east and west from, but exclusive of, Malakand (a) under the command of Brigadier-General W. G. L. Beynon, C.B., D.S.O., between midnight 20th/21st August and midnight 31st August/1st September, 1915 and (b) on 27th October, 1915, by the Malakand Moveable Column which advanced from Chakdara Camp.
- (v) Carried out by the troops which took part in the operations against the Mahsuds in the North and South Waziristan Political Agencies, the Bannu and Dera Ismail Khan Civil Districts and that portion of the Mainwali district which lies Trans-Indus, between midnight 1st/2nd March and midnight 10/11th August, 1917.
- (vi) Carried out by troops which took part in operations against the Marris between midnight 17th/18th February and midnight 8th/9th April, 1918, within the following zone:-

Northern Boundary.—From Mangi inclusive (on BostanHarnai Sibi Railway) along railway inclusive to Harnai inclusive; thence along the road Harnai-Loralai-Mekhtar-Kingri-Rakhni Fort Munro-Dera Chazi Khan inclusive, including all parts along the road, except Loralai and troops moving up and down the road from and to Loralai and Fort Sandeman.

Eastern Boundary. River Indus.

Southern Boundary.—Railway Lines from Kashmor inclusive to Jacobabad inclusive.

Western Boundary.—Jacobabad inclusive along railway line all stations inclusive, via Sibi to Mach inclusive; thence a line drawn across country from Mach station to Mangi station. (The troops moving on ordinary relief along line Jacobabad to Quetta will not be considered as having entered the sphere of operations).

(vii) Carried out by troops which took part in the operations in the Chin and Kuki Hills (a) between 30th November/1st December, 1917 and midnight 1st/2nd June, 1918, (b) between midnight 31st October/1st November, 1918 and midnight 15th/16th May, 1919, within the following zones:

Northern Boundary. A line joining Manipur Road Station to Kohima, thence east to Tusu River at point of junction 42 miles east by north from Kohima, thence follow river to junction with Chindwin. Troops at Kindat, Mawlaik and Monywa are also included.

Eastern Boundary. Left bank of Chindwin River.

Southern Boundary.—Latitude 22° from the Chindwin River west to Longitude 93°, with the addition of the tract of country known as the Pakokku Hill Tracts and lying between Latitude 20° and 22° and on both sides of Longitude 94°.

Western Boundary.—Longitude 93° to Lakhipur, thence a line joining Lakhipur to Manipur Road Station.

(viii) At and south of Mastung in the Kalat State between midnight 31st May/1st June, and midnight 10th/11th July, 1915, and between midnight 4th/5th June and midnight 18th/19th August, 1916.

(ix) In the Kachin Hills within an area bounded on the north by latitude 26° 30" on the east by the River Mali Kha from where it cuts 26° 30" to the confluence, and thence by the Irrawaddy until it cuts 25° 15" on the west by longitude 96°; on the south by latitude 25°; between midnight 30th/31st December, 1914 and midnight 28th February/1st March, 1915.

(g) At Tsing-Tau, between midnight 22nd/23rd September and midnight 7th/8th November, 1914.

7. *Australasian Theatre*.— Included all operations against the German Pacific Dependencies, as follows :-

- (a) New Britain, from midnight 10th/11th September to midnight 21st/22nd September, 1914.
- (b) New Ireland, from midnight 15th/16th September to midnight 18th/19th October, 1914.
- (c) Kaiser Wilhelm-Land, on 24th September, 1914.
- (d) Admiralty Islands, on 21st November, 1914.
- (e) Nauru, on the 6th November, 1914.
- (f) German Samoa, on 29th August, 1914.

Army Orders 421 of 1919 and 183 of 1920 are hereby cancelled.

1. In view of the above quoted Army Order, the riband of the Victory Medal may be worn by all ranks who are entitled to the award of the medal under the conditions laid down in the Army Order.

2. Medal rolls of all personnel entitled to the above medal are being prepared by Administrative Headquarters A.I.F. London, and Base Records.
3. Supplies of the riband are not yet to hand, but the riband will be issued at the same time as the Medal.
4. The Stars and Medals approved for service during the war, also their ribands, will be worn in the following order:-
 - 1914 Star, or
 - 1914-15 Star.
 - British War Medal.
 - Mercantile Marine War Medal.
 - Victory Medal.
5. Military Order No 454/1919 is hereby cancelled.

MO 3/1920 – 3/1/20

With reference to M.O. 560/1919, promulgating Army Order No. 301/1919, relative to the grant of the Victory Medal, advice has been received from the War Office authorities that it has also been decided to award this medal to Draft Conducting Officers who were duly gazetted as such and who landed in one of the theatres of war laid down in Appendix 'A', and within the dates specified in the Army Order quoted, in charge of a draft.

MO 292/1920 – 3/7/20 - British War and Victory Medals

It is anticipated that preliminary supplies of the above will be available in Australia at an early date, and as soon as the necessary machines arrive inscribing will be put in hand at once.

It has been decided to adhere to the British Army practices in connexion with the inscriptions on the medals. Briefly these are:-

- a. Where members are eligible for both medals the rank shown will be the highest recorded rank held in a theatre of war for any period whatever, either substantive, acting or temporary, unless reverted for misconduct, while the unit will be that with which the member first entered a theatre of war.
- b. Where members are eligible for the British War Medal only the rank shown will be the highest recorded rank held during service overseas, either substantive, acting or temporary, unless reverted for misconduct, while the unit will be that with which the member first served overseas.

No applications are necessary for these medals, which will be distributed, as they become available, in order of embarkation of units of the A.I.F. from Australia.

MO 36/1923 – 27/1/23

This MO published a revised Appendix 'A' – Theatres of War' which is included under the earlier MO 560/1919 above.

MO 182/1920 – 1/5/20

EMBLEM TO BE WORN ON THE RIBAND OF VICTORY MEDAL DENOTING THAT THE WEARER HAS BEEN MENTIONED IN DESPATCHES.

The following is an extract from Army Order No.3 of 1920 is published for information:-

1. His Majesty the King has been graciously pleased to approve of an emblem being worn on the riband of the Victory Medal by all personnel borne on the strength of the British, Dominion, Colonial and Indian Expeditionary Forces, who have been "Mentioned" one or more times in the military despatches during the recent war by a Commander in the Field.
2. The emblem will be an oak leaf in bronze.
3. Two emblems will be supplied in each case. Additional emblems will not be worn in respect of a second or subsequent mention in despatches.

Action has already been taken to obtain the above emblems for those entitled to receive, and they will be distributed by the Officer i/c Base Records when to hand from A.I.F. Headquarters.

No applications are necessary, and it is not anticipated the emblems will be available for at least three or four months.

Officers and others concerned should keep the Officer i/c Base Records, Victoria Barracks, Melbourne, fully posted as to any changes of address.

MO 266/1920 – 19/6/20

ISSUE AND WEARING OF EMBLEM TO DENOTE THE WEARER HAS BEEN MENTIONED IN DESPATCHES.

With reference to Military Order No. 182/1920, the following extract from Army Council Instruction No. 196 of 1920 is published for information:-

1. With reference to A.O. 3 of 1920 the emblem denoting the wearer has been mentioned in despatches will shortly be ready for issue to approved claimants.
2. The emblem will be issued in two sizes. The larger, to be worn on the Victory Medal, will be affixed to the centre of the riband at an angle of 60 degrees from the inside of the riband, stem to the right. The smaller will be worn, when in service dress, transversely across the riband, stem to the right.