

ANNEX: CLAIMS FOR MEDALLIC RECOGNITION

The Arctic Convoys

There are a number of exceptional circumstances which justify reconsideration of previous decisions not to award a separate medal to those who served on the Arctic Convoys (most received the Atlantic and/or the 1939-45 Star). The issue was not properly considered at the time and the facts previously relied on have been shown to be unsound: the Arctic Convoy operation was a separate campaign from everything that was happening in the Atlantic but it was never considered in that light; and some personnel who served on the Convoys have received no recognition at all. The Arctic Convoy veterans are therefore receiving a new medal called the Arctic Convoy Star.

Bomber Command

Those who served in Bomber Command were treated inconsistently with those who served in Fighter Command, who were awarded a separate clasp for their role in the Battle of Britain. The aircrews of Bomber Command are therefore being awarded a Bomber Command clasp, to be attached to the medal ribbon of the 1939-45 Star (with the insignia "B" attached when the ribbon alone is worn). The service of other aircrews who took part in bombing raids across Europe but who were not part of Bomber Command is fully recognised but does not render them eligible for this specifically Bomber Command clasp.

HMS Concord

Consideration has been given as to whether the crew of HMS Concord should be eligible for the Naval General Service Medal with clasp Yangtze 1949. Other crews who took part in the action in the Yangtze involving a Chinese attack on the RN destroyer HMS Amethyst in 1949 were awarded the clasp. The crew of the Concord, which escorted the Amethyst into international waters at the end of the operation, were not. However there is insufficient reason to overturn this decision, given that the issues appear to have been considered at the time and that, although the Concord entered the river, she was not fired on and was at risk for only a few hours.

Suez

There will be no retrospective issue of a General Service Medal for service in Egypt before 16 October 1951 or between 19 October 1954 and 16 June 1956. There is insufficient evidence to justify overturning the decisions made at the time, as amended following recommendations from Sir Charles Guthrie in 2002.

Korea

There will be no retrospective issue of a British Korea Medal or clasp for service after the ceasefire on 27 July 1953. There was a certain amount of rigour endured at the time, but insufficient risk to warrant the award of a medal.

Aden

There will be no retrospective issue of a General Service Medal for service in Aden between July 1960 and April 1964. There is insufficient evidence to justify overturning the decisions made at the time.

South Atlantic

The qualifying period for the award of the South Atlantic Medal without the Rosette will be extended from 12 July to 21 October 1982. The original decision to end the qualifying period on 12 July 1982 was taken too hastily: those who served beyond that date experienced both risk and rigour until the airfield at Mount Pleasant was completed on 21 October.

Cyprus 1955-59

Those who participated in the suppression of acts of terrorism in Cyprus between 1 April 1955 and 24 December 1959 should qualify for the General Service Medal 1918 – 62 with clasp CYPRUS if they served for 90 days or more. The qualifying period has been reduced from the uniquely long period of 120 days, bringing it into line with the qualifying period for service during the Kenya anti-terrorism campaign.

Cyprus 1963-64

Those servicemen who served in Cyprus during the period 21 December 1963 to 26 March 1964 will be awarded the General Service Medal with clasp "CYPRUS 1963-64". Their case was not properly considered, if at all, at the time and the requirements for both risk and rigour were met.

Cyprus 1974

Those who served in Cyprus between 15 July and 16 August 1974 will not be awarded the Campaign Service Medal 1962 with a new clasp "CYPRUS 1974". The requirements for risk and rigour were not met.

Falkland Islands: the "North Campers"

There should be no separate medallic recognition to the Falkland Islanders known as the "North Campers": it would be divisive to single out individuals from such a small community.

Malta

Consideration was given to awarding those who served on the island, including naval personnel and merchant seamen who reached Malta, for at least one day between 1 June 1940 and 12 May 1943, a small Malta Cross emblem, to be attached to the Africa Star ribbon. The requirements for risk and rigour were met, but it was decided

that there was no satisfactory way of distinguishing between the service of those who were on Malta and others involved in the defence of the island in the wider Mediterranean area, particularly naval forces, which meant that clear eligibility criteria could not be established.

Berlin Airlift

The General Service Medal 1918 - 62 with clasp BERLIN AIRLIFT should be awarded for at least one day's service to all aircrew, RAF and civilian, who took part in the Berlin Airlift operation from 25 June 1948 to 6 October 1949 inclusive. The issue was not properly considered at the time and both the requirements for risk and rigour were met.

Other claims

A number of other claims were considered, but were not considered suitable for detailed review, for a variety of reasons. These will be listed, with brief explanations, in a paper to be laid in the Libraries of both Houses. No other historic claims for medallic recognition will now be reviewed, unless significant new evidence is produced that suggests that an injustice has been done. Revised guidance on the criteria for military campaign medals and other relevant considerations, which will also aid the future consideration of any new claims, will be published by the Cabinet Office.