



Ministry
of Defence

Defence Statistics (Health)
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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Date: 11 September 2014

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email dated 26 August 2014 where you requested the following information:

“During Operation Banner, how many service personnel died as a result of:

- *Accidents [excluding road traffic accidents]*
- *Natural causes*
- *Assaults*
- *Coroner confirmed suicide*
- *Cause unknown*

Broken down by regiment, year and sex.”

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000.

I am writing to advise you that following a search of our recorded information, I have established that information in scope of your request is held by the Ministry of Defence.

Between 14 August 1969 and 31 July 2007, the start and end date for Operation Banner, **483** UK Armed Forces personnel died as a result of accidents (excluding Road Traffic Accidents), natural causes, assaults, coroner confirmed suicide or open verdicts and cause not known.

Tables 1-3 below present this information by regiment, year of death and gender as requested.

Table 1: UK Armed Forces¹ non hostile² deaths as a result of Operation Banner by regiment and cause, 14 August 1969 to 31 July 2007, numbers

Regiment	All	Natural Causes	Accidents (exc RTA)	Assaults	Suicide or open verdicts ³	Cause not known
All	483	144	209	12	73	45
Royal Navy	1	0	1	0	0	0
Royal Marines	2	0	1	0	1	0
Army	462	139	201	12	65	45
Household Cavalry	1	0	0	1	0	0
The Blues and Royals (Royal Horse Guards and 1st Dragoons)	1	0	0	1	0	0
The Royal Armoured Corps	7	2	5	0	0	0
The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards (Carabiniers and Greys)	1	1	0	0	0	0
4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards	1	0	1	0	0	0
9th/12th Royal Lancers (Prince of Wales's)	0	0	0	0	0	0
14th/20th King's Hussars	0	0	0	0	0	0
The Royal Hussars (Prince of Wales's Own)	0	0	0	0	0	0
13th/18th Hussars (Queen Mary's Own)	0	0	0	0	0	0
15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars	2	0	2	0	0	0
17th/21st Lancers	2	1	1	0	0	0
Royal Tank Regiment	1	0	1	0	0	0
Royal Regiment of Artillery	15	3	7	0	5	0
3rd Regiment Royal Horse Artillery	1	0	0	0	1	0
4th Regiment	1	0	0	0	1	0
5th Heavy Regiment	1	0	1	0	0	0
27th Medium Regiment	0	0	0	0	0	0
32nd Heavy Regiment	1	0	0	0	1	0
40th Regiment	1	0	0	0	1	0
45th Medium Regiment	1	1	0	0	0	0
49th Field Regiment	2	1	0	0	1	0
102nd (Ulster) Air Defence Regiment (Volunteers)	1	0	1	0	0	0
Not known	6	1	5	0	0	0
Corps of Royal Engineers	19	4	11	1	3	0
Royal Corps of Signals	13	4	6	0	3	0
Infantry	345	114	139	8	39	45
Grenadier Guards	3	0	1	0	2	0
Coldstream Guards	3	0	2	0	1	0
Scots Guards	7	2	3	0	2	0
Welsh Guards	0	0	0	0	0	0
The King's Own Scottish Borderers	4	0	4	0	0	0
The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment)	2	1	1	0	0	0
The Royal Highland Fusiliers	0	0	0	0	0	0
The Black Watch	2	0	1	0	1	0
The Gordon Highlanders	1	0	1	0	0	0
The Queen's Own Highlanders	3	0	3	0	0	0
The Highlanders (Seaforth, Gordons and Camerons)	1	0	0	0	1	0
The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders	2	0	2	0	0	0
The Queen's Regiment	2	1	0	0	1	0
The Royal Hampshire Regiment	2	0	1	0	1	0
The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment	3	0	1	0	2	0
The King's Regiment	2	1	1	0	0	0
The King's Own Royal Border Regiment	3	0	2	0	1	0
The Queen's Lancashire Regiment	2	1	0	0	1	0
The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers	3	0	3	0	0	0
The Royal Anglian Regiment	5	0	4	0	1	0
The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire	4	1	1	1	1	0
The Green Howards	0	0	0	0	0	0
The Duke of Wellington's Regiment (West Riding)	5	0	3	0	1	1
The Cheshire Regiment	1	0	1	0	0	0
The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment	1	0	0	0	1	0
The Staffordshire Regiment	2	0	1	1	0	0
The Royal Welch Fusiliers	1	0	0	0	1	0
The Royal Regiment of Wales	1	0	1	0	0	0
The Royal Irish Rangers	1	0	1	0	0	0
The Ulster Defence Regiment	208	88	71	5	2	42
The Royal Irish Regiment	43	16	13	0	13	1
The Parachute Regiment	11	1	8	1	1	0
The Gloucestershire Regiment	0	0	0	0	0	0
The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment	0	0	0	0	0	0
The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment	1	1	0	0	0	0
The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment (Berkshire and Wiltshire)	0	0	0	0	0	0
The Light Infantry	5	0	3	0	2	0
The Royal Green Jackets	11	1	6	0	3	1
Army Air Corps	7	0	6	0	1	0
Royal Corps of Transport	6	1	4	0	1	0
Royal Army Ordnance Corps	3	0	2	0	1	0
Royal Pioneer Corps	4	1	3	0	0	0
Army Catering Corps	3	0	3	0	0	0
Royal Army Pay Corps	2	1	1	0	0	0
The Royal Logistic Corps	7	1	3	1	2	0
Royal Army Medical Corps	4	0	2	0	2	0
Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers	9	4	0	1	4	0
Adjutant General's Corps	12	4	7	0	1	0
Royal Army Veterinary Corps	1	0	0	0	1	0
Intelligence Corps	3	0	1	0	2	0
Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps	1	0	1	0	0	0
Royal Air Force	18	5	6	0	7	0

Source: Defence Statistics (Health)

Notes:

1. Figures are for regular and reservist personnel.
2. Excludes Road Traffic Accidents (RTA).
3. As confirmed at a coroner's inquest.

Table 2: UK Armed Forces¹ non hostile² deaths as a result of Operation Banner by year of death and cause, 14 August 1969 to 31 July 2007, numbers

Year	All	Natural Causes	Accidents (exc RTA)	Assaults	Suicide or open verdicts ³	Cause not known
All	483	144	209	12	73	45
1969 ⁴	4	1	2	0	1	0
1970	9	3	3	1	1	1
1971	8	1	4	0	1	2
1972	24	3	14	0	2	5
1973	22	7	13	1	0	1
1974	20	6	8	1	0	5
1975	25	8	12	1	0	4
1976	21	5	13	0	0	3
1977	15	5	9	0	0	1
1978	15	8	6	0	1	0
1979	27	9	8	1	2	7
1980	20	5	14	0	0	1
1981	16	3	11	0	0	2
1982	16	8	4	1	1	2
1983	17	8	7	1	0	1
1984	14	5	4	0	4	1
1985	6	3	3	0	0	0
1986	17	9	5	0	3	0
1987	16	5	9	0	0	2
1988	14	3	4	0	5	2
1989	19	6	7	0	4	2
1990	13	3	4	1	3	2
1991	13	3	7	1	2	0
1992	21	5	10	1	5	0
1993	12	3	8	0	1	0
1994	11	2	6	0	3	0
1995	14	3	3	0	8	0
1996	7	0	2	0	5	0
1997	5	1	1	1	2	0
1998	7	6	0	0	1	0
1999	2	1	0	0	1	0
2000	4	1	2	0	1	0
2001	5	0	2	1	1	1
2002	6	1	0	0	5	0
2003	8	2	2	0	4	0
2004	5	0	2	0	3	0
2005	2	1	0	0	1	0
2006	2	1	0	0	1	0
2007 ⁵	1	0	0	0	1	0

Source: Defence Statistics (Health)

Notes:

1. Figures are for regular and reservist personnel.
2. Excludes Road Traffic Accidents (RTA).
3. As confirmed at a coroner's inquest.
4. From 14 August 1969.
5. Up to 31 July 2007.

Table 3: UK Armed Forces¹ non hostile² deaths as a result of Operation Banner by gender and cause, 14 August 1969 to 31 July 2007, numbers

Gender	All	Natural Causes	Accidents (exc RTA)	Assaults	Suicide or open verdicts ³	Cause not known
All	483	144	209	12	73	45
Male	473	140	206	11	72	44
Female	10	4	3	1	1	1

Source: Defence Statistics (Health)

Notes:

1. Figures are for regular and reservist personnel.
2. Excludes Road Traffic Accidents (RTA).
3. As confirmed at a coroner's inquest.

Defence Statistics (Health) compiles the Department's authoritative deaths database for all **UK Armed Forces personnel who died whilst in Service** going back to 1984. Information is compiled from several internal and external sources from which we release a number of internal analyses and external National Statistics Notices.

For data prior to 1984, Defence Statistics have access to the Armed Forces Memorial (AFM) database owned by the tri-Service Joint Casualty and Compassionate Centre. The AFM database was created in order to identify Service personnel whose names were to be, and continue to be engraved on the Armed Forces Memorial at the National Arboretum in Staffordshire. The AFM database records the deaths of all personnel who have died in Service since 1st Jan 1948, and for those who were killed or who died in Palestine from 1st Aug 1945 to 31st Aug 1948. Please note, the AFM database is not regarded as a validated source of historical fatality information, therefore, it cannot be guaranteed to be 100% complete or accurate due to it being populated manually from Service files.

The data presented is not limited to those personnel who died specifically in Northern Ireland. It also includes those personnel who may have been aeromedically evacuated to other countries and subsequently died from their injuries.

The statistics provided on suicide include both coroner-confirmed suicides and open verdict deaths, in line with the definition used by the Office for National Statistics (ONS), since research has shown that these deaths share many similarities with suicides except that in the case of open verdict deaths, the intention of the deceased to take their life has not been sufficiently proven to the satisfaction of the coroner.

Would you like to be added to our contact list, so that we can inform you about updates to our statistical publications covering Deaths in the UK Armed Forces and consult you if we are thinking of making changes? You can subscribe to updates by emailing: DefStrat-Stat-Health-PQ-FOI@mod.uk

If you are not satisfied with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, 1st Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, <http://www.ico.gov.uk>.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Defence Statistics (Health) Head (B1)