



Ministry
of Defence

Defence Statistics-Health
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Reference: FOI [REDACTED] 05-08-2013-120915-007 correspondence dated: 05 August 2013

Date: 02/09/2013

Dear [REDACTED],

1. Your correspondence dated 5th August 2013 has been considered to be a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000. You requested the following information:

*I write under the FOI Act seeking information on the **numbers of deaths and casualties** in all wars, campaigns, stand-offs and altercations, since the end of WW2, whether caused when fighting wars at the behest of the UK Government or in league with NATO or United Nations conflicts, viz, for example, NATO/Afghanistan and UN/Korea.*

Deaths since World War II

2. Defence Statistics 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.
3. 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.
4. Since World War II, **7,136** UK Armed Forces personnel have died as a result of or during conflict, where conflict has been defined as a medal earning theatre, see **Table 1** below. These deaths include those who died as a result of natural causes and accidents as well those who died as a result of hostile action.

Table 1: UK Armed Forces deaths by medal earning theatre, 1948 to 1 September 2013, numbers

Medal Theatre	Date	Number of fatalities
All theatres		7,136
Palestine (GSM)	3 Sep 1945 to 30 Jun 1948	754
Malaya (GSM)	16 Jun 1948 to 31 Jul 1960	1,443
Yangtze (NGSM)	20 Apr 1949 to 31 Jul 1949	45
Korea ¹ (UN)	27 Jun 1950 to 27 Jul 1954	1,130
Canal Zone (GSM)	16 Oct 1951 to 19 Oct 1954	405
Kenya (AGSM)	21 Oct 1952 to 17 Nov 1956	94
Cyprus (GSM)	1 Apr 1955 to 18 Apr 1959	358
Near East (Suez) (GSM)	31 Oct 1956 to 22 Dec 1956	24
Arabian Peninsula (GSM)	1 Jan 1957 to 30 Jun 1960	60
Congo (ONUC)	10 Jul 1960 to 30 Jun 1964	2
Brunei (GSM)	8 Dec 1962 to 23 Dec 1962	7
Borneo (GSM)	24 Dec 1962 to 11 Aug 1966	140
Cyprus ² (UNIFCYP)	27 Mar 1964 to present	2
Radfan (GSM)	25 Apr 1964 to 31 Jul 1964	13
South Arabia (GSM)	1 Aug 1964 to 30 Nov 1967	160
Malay Peninsula (GSM)	17 Aug 1964 to 11 Aug 1966	40
Northern Ireland ³ (GSM)	14 Aug 1969 to 31 Jul 2007	1,441
Dhofar (GSM)	1 Oct 1969 to 3 Sep 1976	25
Rhodesia	1 Dec 1979 to 20 Mar 1980	5
South Atlantic (Falklands)	2 Apr 1982 to 12 Jul 1982	237
Gulf 1 (GSM)	2 Aug 1990 to 7 Mar 1991	45
Air Operations Iraq	16 Jul 1991 to 30 Apr 2003	5
Cambodia (UNAMIC/UNTAC)	1 Oct 1991 to 30 Sep 1993	1
Sierra Leone (OSM)	5 May 2000 to 31 Jul 2002	5
Afghanistan ⁴ (OSM)	11 Sep 2001 to present	444
Balkans ^{4,5}	1 Jul 1992 to present	72
Iraq ⁴	20 Jan 2003 to 22 May 2011	178
Libya	19 Mar 2011 to 31 Oct 2011	1

Notes:

1. Includes: Korea Medal 2 July 1950 - 27 July 1953 and Korea medal (UN) 27 June 1950 – 27 July 1954.
2. As at 31 December 2012.
3. Amended from previous publications due to Defence Statistics (Health) validation exercise on all Northern Ireland deaths.
4. As at 1 September 2013.
5. Includes: the Former Yugoslavia (NATO FRY) 1 July 1992-31 December 2002; Sarajevo Airlift (UN) 3 July 1992 – 12 January 1996; Georgia (UNOMIG) 23 August 1993 to present; Kosovo (NATO) 13 October 1998 – 31 December 2002; Kosovo (UNMIK) 10 June 1999 to present; Macedonia (NATO) 1 June 2001 – 31 December 2002 and Balkans (NATO) 1 January 2003 to present. To identify which deaths occurred on specific operations relating to activities in the Balkans, individual Service records would need to be examined, as such MOD presents the information under the overarching category 'Balkans'.
6. The medals are awarded as:
 - GSM – General Service Medal
 - NGSM – Naval General Service Medal
 - AGSM – Army General Service Medal
 - OSM – Operational Service Medal

Casualties

5. Defence Statistics are able to provide the number of UK Service Personnel and UK entitled civilian casualties as a result of Operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. In order to answer your request for casualties fully, Defence Statistics would have to recall documents including war diaries, commander logs and Situation Reports to identify UK Service Personnel that were casualties in conflicts prior to Afghanistan and Iraq. It is estimated that it would take more than a year to recall, validate and compile the numbers of UK Service Personnel wounded in conflicts prior to Iraq and Afghanistan.
6. Section 12 of the FOI Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit, which for central government is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3.5 working days in determining whether the department holds the information, locating, retrieving and extracting the information.
7. **Table 2** presents the number of UK Service Personnel who suffered an injury/illness whilst deployed on Operations in Afghanistan for the period 7 October 2001 (start of Operations in Afghanistan) to 31 July 2013 (latest casualty data available for Afghanistan).

Table 2: UK Service Personnel who suffered an injury/illness whilst on Operations in Afghanistan, 7 October 2001 - 31 July 2013, numbers

	All	Battle Injury	Non-Battle Injury	Natural Cause	Disease or Non-Battle Injury ¹	Unknown ²
All	9,937	2,350	3,209	4,283	36	59
2001 ³	0	0	0	0	0	0
2002	21	0	4	17	0	0
2003	13	0	6	6	0	1
2004	53	4	23	21	0	5
2005	53	5	7	9	0	32
2006	698	89	198	397	3	11
2007	1,056	237	328	478	7	6
2008	1,323	255	435	629	3	1
2009	1,613	536	477	594	5	1
2010	1,711	562	523	623	2	1
2011	1,356	332	452	572	0	0
2012	1,354	249	506	584	15	0
2013 ⁴	686	81	250	353	1	1

Source: NOTICAS, J97 Field Hospital Admissions, OpEDAR, Aeromedical Evacuations, JTTR

¹ It has not been possible to determine from electronic records held by Defence Statistics if these personnel were injured or had an illness, so have been recorded as a Disease or Non Battle Injury

² It has not been possible to determine a nature of injury from the information held by Defence Statistics

³ Covers the period 7 October 2001 to 31 December 2001

⁴ Covers the period 1 January 2013 to 31 July 2013

8. **Table 3** presents the number of UK Civilians who suffered an injury/illness whilst in Afghanistan for the period 7 October 2001 (start of Operations in Afghanistan) to 31 July 2013 (latest casualty data available for Afghanistan).

Table 3: UK Civilians who suffered an injury/illness whilst in Afghanistan, 7 October 2001 - 31 July 2013, numbers

	All	Battle Injury	Non-Battle Injury	Natural Cause	Disease or Non-Battle Injury ¹	Unknown ²
All	237	9	62	145	8	13
2001 ³	0	0	0	0	0	0
2002	0	0	0	0	0	0
2003	0	0	0	0	0	0
2004	1	0	1	0	0	0
2005	1	0	1	0	0	0
2006	15	2	5	6	1	1
2007	20	1	6	6	4	3
2008	30	0	9	19	2	0
2009	40	1	5	30	1	3
2010	37	2	8	27	0	0
2011	32	2	6	22	0	2
2012	39	0	12	23	0	4
2013 ⁴	22	1	9	12	0	0

Source: NOTICAS, J97 Field Hospital Admissions, OpEDAR, Aeromedical Evacuations, JTTR

¹ It has not been possible to determine from electronic records held by Defence Statistics if these personnel were injured or had an illness, so have been recorded as a Disease or Non Battle Injury

² It has not been possible to determine a nature of injury from the information held by Defence Statistics

³ Covers the period 7 October 2001 to 31 December 2001

⁴ Covers the period 1 January 2013 to 31 July 2013

Casualties in Iraq

9. The number of UK Service Personnel and UK Civilian casualties in Iraq presented in **Tables 4 and 5** below should be treated as a minimum as in addition to the data presented, Defence Statistics has manually entered over 30,000 hospital admissions records for patients seen in the UK field hospitals in Iraq (from 2003 to 2006). These records have not been validated and so information such as the type of casualty (Battle Injury, Non Battle Injury or Natural Cause) and nationality of casualty (UK Armed Forces, coalition military, civilians) is not known. In order to provide you with the total number of UK Service Personnel and UK Civilians wounded in Iraq for the period 2003-2006, Defence Statistics would have to validate all of these records. In order to answer your request it is estimated that it would take an additional 300 working days to validate and compile the numbers of UK Armed Forces wounded in Iraq.
10. Section 12 of the FOI Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit, which for central government is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3.5 working days in determining whether the department holds the information, locating, retrieving and extracting the information.
11. **Table 4** presents the number of UK Service Personnel who suffered an injury/illness whilst deployed on Operations in Iraq for the period 1 January 2003 (start of Operations in Iraq) to 21 May 2011 (official end of Operation TELIC in Iraq). Please Note: The numbers in the table are to be treated as a minimum.

Table 4: UK Service Personnel who suffered an injury/illness whilst on Operations in Iraq, 1 January 2003 - 21 May 2011, numbers

	All	Battle Injury	Non-Battle Injury	Natural Cause	Disease or Non-Battle Injury ¹	Unknown ²
All	13,952	576	4,283	7,945	29	1,119
2003	5,597	62	1,786	3,329	0	420
2004	2,317	120	623	1,366	0	208
2005	1,704	41	400	981	0	282
2006	1,630	118	483	852	18	159
2007	1,446	211	539	653	0	43
2008	910	24	312	571	0	3
2009	314	0	125	174	11	4
2010	25	0	14	11	0	0
2011 ³	9	0	1	8	0	0

Source: NOTICAS, J97 Field Hospital Admissions, OpEDAR, Aeromedical Evacuations, JTTR

¹ It has not been possible to determine from electronic records held by Defence Statistics if these personnel were injured or had an illness, so have been recorded as a Disease or Non Battle Injury

² It has not been possible to determine a nature of injury from the information held by Defence Statistics

³ Covers the period 1 January 2011 to 21 May 2011

12. **Table 5** presents the number of UK Civilians who suffered an injury/illness whilst in Iraq for the period 1 January 2003 (start of Operations in Iraq) to 21 May 2011 (official end of Operation TELIC in Iraq). Please Note: The numbers in the table are to be treated as a minimum (see paragraph 3).

Table 5: UK Civilians who suffered an injury/illness whilst in Iraq, 1 January 2003 - 21 May 2011, numbers

	All	Battle Injury	Non-Battle Injury	Natural Cause	Disease or Non-Battle Injury ¹	Unknown ²
All	1,000	52	421	460	4	63
2003	63	0	23	25	0	15
2004	158	0	64	81	0	13
2005	157	0	61	78	0	18
2006	182	19	76	74	4	9
2007	197	14	89	86	0	8
2008	202	17	88	97	0	0
2009	41	2	20	19	0	0
2010	0	0	0	0	0	0
2011 ³	0	0	0	0	0	0

Source: NOTICAS, J97 Field Hospital Admissions, OpEDAR, Aeromedical Evacuations, JTTR

¹ It has not been possible to determine from electronic records held by Defence Statistics if these personnel were injured or had an illness, so have been recorded as a Disease or Non Battle Injury

² It has not been possible to determine a nature of injury from the information held by Defence Statistics

³ Covers the period 1 January 2011 to 21 May 2011

Background Notes

13. The figures on the number of casualties presented are sourced from Defence Statistics four main casualty reporting systems (the Notification of Casualty (NOTICAS) system, field hospital

admissions data, the Aeromedical Evacuation data and the Joint Theatre Trauma Registry) and have been merged to determine the total number of casualties on Operations in Iraq and in Afghanistan. It does not include personnel who attend a UK or Coalition Medical Field Hospital Facility but who are not admitted. These figures also do not include those who are seen in primary health care.

NOTICAS

14. NOTICAS is the name for the formalised system of reporting casualties within the UK Armed Forces. The NOTICAS reports raised for casualties contain information on how seriously medical staff in theatre judge their condition to be. They are not strictly medical categories but are designed to give an indication of the severity of the injury to inform what the individual's next of kin are told.

Field Hospital Admissions

15. The EpiNATO J97 returns are used to identify field hospital admissions for UK personnel treated at the UK field hospital as well as those treated at coalition medical facilities in Iraq and Afghanistan.
16. Defence Statistics also received information on admissions at the UK Field Hospital from the electronic Operational Emergency Department Attendance Register (OpEDAR).
17. In addition Defence Statistics have sourced the UK field hospital admission books for the early phases of operations in Iraq. Over 30,000 patients have been entered into a database. The data holds minimal information on the casualty, but does give an indication of the numbers of patients treated for battle injuries (WIA), non battle injuries and disease; these include UK Armed Forces, coalition forces, Iraqi civilians and detainees.

Aeromedical Evacuations

18. Aeromedical Evacuation is the medically supervised movement of patients to and between medical facilities by air transportation. The RAF Aeromedical Evacuation Service provides the worldwide patient air movement capability for Defence 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Patients are risk assessed prior to flight, and when necessary, trained medical teams are provided to deliver care in the air.
19. Defence Statistics receive Aeromedical Evacuation records fortnightly from the Aeromedical Evacuation Control Centre (AECC) at RAF Brize Norton for Operations in Afghanistan and previously, Iraq.

Joint Theatre Trauma Registry (JTTR)

20. The Joint Theatre Trauma Registry (JTTR) commenced during 2003 to improve the care of the seriously injured patient from the point of injury to the point of discharge from hospital treatment.
21. Operational casualties in this response are classified as:
 - A **Battle Injury** includes those wounded as a result of hostile action. This includes injuries sustained whilst avoiding direct and indirect fire.
 - A **Non-Battle Injury** is any injury that is not caused by a hostile act and includes any accidental injuries such as sports injuries, road traffic accidents etc.
 - **Natural Causes** includes illness, disease and pregnancy.
 - **Disease or Non Battle Injury** includes those where it has not been possible to determine whether they were injured or had an illness.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Defence Statistics (Health) Head (B1)

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