



Ministry
of Defence

Defence Statistics (Health)
Ministry of Defence
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Reference: **FOI2014/05694**

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Date: **22 October 2014**

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email dated 8 October 2014 where you requested the following information:

"I have read that there has been only 1 year since the 2nd World War in which British Troops have not been killed on active service. However, I have not been able to discover what that year is: can you help please?"

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.

The only year since WWII in which no UK Armed Forces personnel died whilst on, or as a result of a medal earning operation was in 1968.

Further information on deaths in the UK Armed Forces can be found in the following link;

[Deaths in the UK Regular Armed Forces: 2013](#)

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.

Operational deaths have been defined as a 'theatre of Operation where there is or has been the award of a British Operational medal or where there is or has been the award of a UN or NATO medal'. This is in accordance with the inclusion criteria for the Armed Forces Memorial, further details are available at: <http://www.veterans-uk.info/afm/index.htm>

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)