



Ministry
of Defence

Ministry of Defence
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Ref: FOI2015/08986

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██████████
Email: ██████████

21 October 2015

Dear ██████████

Thank you for your email of 14 October 2015 requesting the following information:

“I wish to submit an application under the provisions of the UK *Freedom of Information Act 2000* for access to copies of the authorities under which the British Government established the awards of the Arctic Star and the Bomber Command Clasp to the 1939-45 Star.

Past practice has been to announce the institution of campaign awards by way of an official 'legal' authority such as a Royal Warrant, Command Paper or similar, that notifies the conditions under which the award may be granted. My request therefore is for the Royal Warrant, Command Paper or equivalent document. Please note that I am not seeking information on the eligibility criteria for the Arctic Star and the Bomber Command Clasp to the 1939-45 Star, which is freely available on the GOV.UK website, but the official legal authority under which these awards exist.

If this information is not held by the Ministry of Defence, can I please ask you to refer this inquiry to the appropriate UK government agency for consideration.”

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

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that information in scope of your request is held.

You are correct in stating that new medals are usually announced with a Command Paper or Royal Warrant. However, the Arctic Star medal and the Bomber Command clasp did not receive a Command Paper or Royal Warrant as they were introduced as a result of the recommendation made by Sir John Holmes in his medal review and those recommendations were approved by HM The Queen.

Under section 16 of the FOI Act (Advice and Assistance) I can advise both medals were announced to the British Parliament in a Written Ministerial Statement on 26 February 2013:

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130226/wmstext/130226m0001.htm#13022658000002>

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.org.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

Defence People Secretariat