



Ministry  
of Defence

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FOI2018/15721

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email dated 3 December 2018 requesting the following information:

*"I am currently working on a personal project on UK defence services and how they have changed over the last century.*

*I was wondering if there was anyway i could access statistics on deaths of personnel of the last century for all of the three services."*

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that some of the information in scope of your request is held.

Between 1 January 1948 and 30 November 2018 (the latest full month available), **36,710<sup>1</sup>** UK Armed Forces personnel have died whilst in Service.

In addition, **555** UK Armed Forces personnel died in the operational theatre of Palestine between 1 August 1945 and 31 December 1947.

Under section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance), you may find it useful to note the following:

Details on deaths which occurred in the UK Armed Forces prior to 1948 are held by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) who can be contacted at:

[www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org)

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

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<sup>1</sup> The data in this response includes deaths to tri-Service regular personnel and only those reserve personnel who have died whilst on duty or as a result of operations.

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.

Further information on deaths in the UK Armed Forces can be found in the annual National Statistic publication: [Deaths in the UK Armed Forces](#)

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

If you wish to complain about the handling of your request, or the content of this response, you can request an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, Ground Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail [CIO-FOI-IR@mod.gov.uk](mailto:CIO-FOI-IR@mod.gov.uk)). Please note that any request for an internal review should be made within 40 working days of the date of this response.

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)