



Ministry
of Defence

[REDACTED]

FOI2019/11434

E-mail: Navysec-foimailbox@mod.gov.uk

[REDACTED]

29 October 2019

Dear [REDACTED],

Release of Information

Thank you for your correspondence of 7 October 2019 in which you requested the following information:

'Under the Freedom of Information Act would you please kindly supply the list of RFA ships where the crews qualified for the award of the Naval General Service Medal for duties during Operation Musketeer in 1956 with the clasp 'NEAR EAST' with any qualifying dates applicable in each ships case.'

Your enquiry is being treated as a request for information under the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000.

A search has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and I can confirm that information in scope of your request is held and can be found at Annex A to this letter.

I should explain that the Naval General Service Medal (NGSM) 1915 with Clasp 'Near East' is awarded for one days' service between 31 October and 22 December 1956. Those personnel who served with the ships between the dates specified will, by right be entitled to the award.

Under Section 16 (Duty to Provide Advice and Assistance) of the FOI Act, in addition to the information the MOD has provided you may also wish to contact The National Archives and The National Museum of the Royal Navy who may hold further information to assist you further with your enquiry. Their contact details can be found at the following links:

The National Archives - <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>

The National Museum Royal Navy - <https://www.nmrn.org.uk/research/nmrn-libraries>

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance.

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.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 raise your complaint directly to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website at <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely

Navy Command Secretariat - FOI Section

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The table below shows Royal Fleet Auxiliary (RFA) ships known to qualify for the NGSM 1915 with Clasp 'Near East'.

Ship	In Qualifying Area
RFA Amherst	4/11/1956 – 22/11/1956
RFA Blue Ranger	4/11/1956 – 23/11/1956 28/11/1956 – 22/12/1956
RFA Brown Ranger	4/11/1956 – 21/12/1956
RFA Dewdale	10/11/1956 – 19/11/1956
RFA Eaglesdale	8/11/1956 – 24/11/1956
RFA Echodale	27/11/1956 – 3/12/1956
RFA Eddybeach	4/11/1956 – 21/12/1956
RFA Fort Charlotte	10/12/1956 – 11/12/1956
RFA Fort Dunvegan	10/11/1956 – 16/11/1956
RFA Fort Duquesne	17/11/1956 – 22/12/1956
RFA Fort Sandusky	1/11/1956 – 1/12/1956
RFA Gold Ranger	11/12/1956 – 22/12/1956
RFA Kinbrace	3/12/1956 – 22/12/1956
RFA Olna	31/10/1956 – 29/11/1956
RFA Wave Conqueror	2/11/1956 – 4/11/1956
RFA Wave Laird	4/11/1956 – 20/11/1956
RFA Wave Master	31/10/1956 – 18/11/1956 12/12/1956 – 19/12/1956
RFA Wave Premier	19/11/1956 – 24/11/1956 30/11/1956 – 3/12/1956
RFA Wave Protector	15/11/1956 – 18/11/1956 29/11/1956 – 2/12/1956
RFA Wave Sovereign	31/10/1956 – 13/12/1956
RFA Wave Victor	14/11/1956 – 22/12/1956
RFA Retainer	1/11/1956 – 29/11/1956
RFA Sea Salvor	4/11/1956 – 22/12/1956
RFA Spaburn	7/11/1956 – 22/12/1956
RFA Spapool	6/11/1956 – 22/12/1956
RFA Succour	29/11/1956 – 22/12/1956
RFA Surf Pioneer	5/11/1956 – 22/12/1956
RFA Tiderace	1/11/1956 – 16/11/1956
RFA Tidereach	6/11/1956 – 22/12/1956
RFA Tiderange	1/11/1956 – 29/11/1956 12/12/1956 – 22/12/1956

Notes:

Medal Name - NGSM 1915 with Clasp 'Near East'.

Campaign Dates - 31 October 1956 to 22 December 1956.

Qualifying Criteria - Awarded for the completion of 1 day ashore in Egypt or afloat engaged in operations off the Egyptian coast either in the Mediterranean or the Red Sea.

1. The NGSM 1915 with Clasp 'Near East' is awarded in recognition of service in operations in the Near East in the period 31 October to 22 December 1956 inclusive.
2. Qualifying service in the Royal Navy, Royal Marines or Royal Fleet Auxiliary (RFA) will be under the following conditions: service of one day or more ashore in Egypt or in ships engaged in operations off the Egyptian coast, either in the Mediterranean or the Red Sea, including ships of the RFA Service.
3. For aircrew, one sortie over the operational land area in Egypt or over Egyptian warships off Alexandria.
4. See Transport Officers of the Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation who held temporary commissions in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve and wore the approved uniform, will be eligible provided they satisfy the qualification criteria.
5. For official visits, inspections, etc., on duty in the operational land area in Egypt, the time qualification will be one day.
6. Civilian officers and crews of Dockyard tugs and lifting craft engaged on salvage operations will be eligible provided the qualifying conditions are met.
7. For the purpose of assessing eligibility for the award the time qualification of one day will be deemed to be service of one day or part thereof.