



Ministry
of Defence

Defence Business Services

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Ref: FOI2020/09301

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10 September 2020

Dear ,

Thank you for your email of 13 August 2020 requesting the following information:

“DECORATION OF COMMANDO SOLDIER IN 10 INTER ALLIED TROOP, WW2

I am interested in decoration of the Commando soldier in 10 Inter Allied Troop from the Second World War and I would appreciate if you please can answer some questions:

- a) Did UK honour any British or foreign Commando soldiers from No. 10 Inter Allied Troop after WW2?*
- b) If so, what kind of decorations were the soldier honoured with and how many British / foreign Commando soldier were honoured with the different decorations?*
- c) Which rank had these decorations?*
- d) What was the criteria for the different decorations?”*

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

I am writing to confirm that the MOD may hold some of information on the subject you have requested. However, I have to advise you that we will not be able to answer your request without exceeding the appropriate cost limit. Unfortunately, we have been unable to identify a nominal roll for those who served with No. 10 Inter Allied Commando. No 10 Inter Allied Commando was a multinational unit consisting of British, French, Dutch, Czechoslovakian, Belgian, Norwegian, Polish and Mediterranean forces (Italian, Yugoslavian etc.) and without a list of personnel we are unable to check against the data held by the MOD.

To locate, retrieve and extract information in scope of your request, would involve conducting a review of all Service records held for those who served in World War Two (c.2.9 million personnel). If you allowed an estimate of 15 minutes to locate each relevant

record, conduct the checks required to identify the Service person who received the medal, then extract and collate the requested information, this would amount to 725,000 hours and would exceed substantially the cost limit. Furthermore, we would not have access to the service records of allied or partner forces.

Section 12 of the 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, and locating, retrieving and extracting it.

Under section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) I have attached an extract for campaign medal criteria published in the Campaign Stars and Commemorative Medals Instituted for 1939-45, published by The War Office on 11 June 1948, which may be of interest. I apologise for the quality of these documents but hope you appreciate they are very old and not as clear as we would like.

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.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 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

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.

Defence Business Services Secretariat

H.W.2843

4752226 = ACU 027/45



COMMITTEE ON THE GRANT OF
HONOURS DECORATIONS AND MEDALS

THE WAR MEDAL, 1939-45
THE INDIA SERVICE MEDAL, 1939-45
CHANGES IN THE TIME QUALIFICATIONS FOR
THE CAMPAIGN STARS AND
THE DEFENCE MEDAL.
WEARING OF EMBLEMS DENOTING MENTIONS IN
DESPATCHES, KING'S COMMENDATIONS FOR
BRAVE CONDUCT AND KING'S COMMENDATIONS
FOR VALUABLE SERVICE IN THE AIR
WITH
AN APPENDIX CONTAINING A SUMMARY OF THE CONDITIONS
OF AWARD OF THE CAMPAIGN STARS, THE DEFENCE MEDAL,
THE WAR MEDAL AND THE INDIA SERVICE MEDAL

*Presented by the Prime Minister, First Lord of the Treasury and
Minister of Defence, to Parliament by Command of His Majesty
June 1946*

LONDON
HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
SIXPENCE NET

Cmd. 6833

The 1939-45 Star and the Italy Star

(x) In the following operations, service of six or two months qualifies for the award of the 1939-45 Star. Entry into operational service qualifies for the Italy Star.

	<i>From</i>	<i>To</i>
Aegean	11.6.43	8.5.45
Corsica	11.6.43	4.10.43
Dodecanese	11.6.43	8.5.45
Greece	11.6.43	8.5.45
Italy (including Elba)	11.6.43	8.5.45
Pantellaria	11.6.43	—
Sardinia	11.6.43	19.9.43
Sicily	11.6.43	17.8.43
Yugoslavia	11.6.43	8.5.45

(xi) In the following operation entry into operational service qualifies for the award of the 1939-45 Star and for the Italy Star.

	<i>From</i>	<i>To</i>
Sicily	10.7.43	17.8.43

The 1939-45 Star and the France and Germany Star

(xii) In the following operations, service of six or two months qualifies for the award of the 1939-45 Star. Entry into operational service qualifies for the France and Germany Star.

	<i>From</i>	<i>To</i>
France, Belgium, Holland or Germany	6.6.44	8.5.45

(xiii) The reckoning of service in the operations in the above list is subject to the various approved rules including those mentioned in paragraph 9 (vii) relating to the last six months of active hostilities in the European and the Pacific and Burma theatres respectively.

The India Service Medal, 1939-45

14. The India Service Medal will be awarded for three years non-operational service in the Indian Forces in India or elsewhere between the 3rd September, 1939, and the 2nd September, 1945. This will not be given to anyone qualifying for the Defence Medal. It will be granted in addition to the War Medal and the Campaign Stars and will be worn after the War Medal.

Allied and other Foreign Nationals in the British Forces

The Campaign Stars and the War Medal

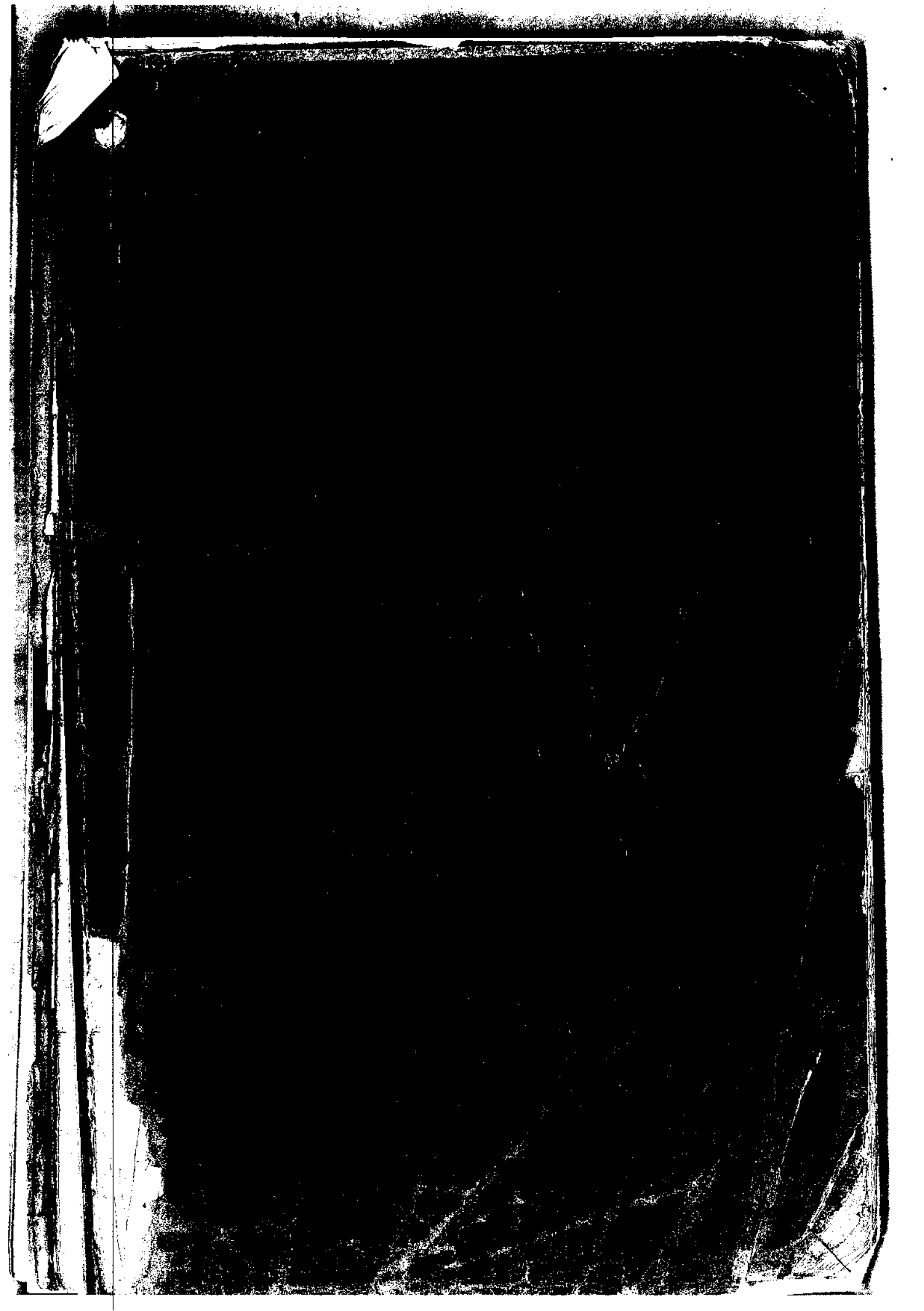
mainly (b) / Her Majesty's / O.H. / Polish Air / of the Commonwealth / can also include / R.A.F.

15. (i) The categories of Allied and other foreign nationals in the British Forces eligible for British Campaign Stars and the War Medal are as follows:

- (a) Foreign nationals commissioned or enlisted as individuals into British Forces.
- (b) Foreign nationals commissioned or enlisted into British Forces by virtue of their membership of Allied Forces.
- (c) Foreign nationals serving as individuals, (i) in British Merchant ships, or (ii) in Foreign vessels chartered on bare-boat (or net) charters by His Majesty's Government, flying the British flag and with crews serving under British conditions.

(ii) The above three categories are eligible provided the individuals do not receive a similar award from their own Government. It is explained to recipients that the British ribbons are issued provisionally, and that their claim to the corresponding Stars (and therefore the right to continue to wear the ribbons) would be invalidated by the acceptance from their own or other Allied Governments of any other medal employed or instituted for general use in this war.

(iii) Foreign nationals in the categories in sub-paragraph (i) above (mainly in (a) and (c)) who subsequently transferred to the Forces or Merchant Navies of their own countries must, in order to qualify, have completed their qualifying service before their own countries declared war.



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93. Deceased Personnel

The Defence Medals earned by officers and other ranks of the Home Guard, who have not lived to receive them will be disposed of in accordance with King's Regulations, 1940, paragraph 1076.

The legal beneficiary of deceased Home Guard personnel may submit a claim to the Headquarters of the County Association concerned.

94. Foreign Subjects (Military)**Forms of Application and Declaration**

(i) Foreign Nationals, commissioned or enlisted as individuals into the British Forces, who apply for the grant of campaign stars/medals, are required to complete A.F. B 2070/2068 and to attach thereto either a declaration as shown below, or a letter from their own government stating that the applicant is not eligible for and has not been granted an award equivalent to the British award(s) claimed.

DECLARATION

" I undertake, by my acceptance of a British award for my services with the British Armed Forces, that I shall not accept from my own Government, or any other Allied Government, a similar award, that is to say, any Allied Campaign Star or Medal instituted for the period for which the above awards have been granted (excluding any personal decorations or medal especially awarded to me).

I understand that the wearing of the ribbon of the British award will be invalidated by my acceptance of any other similar award as above defined "

Signature

No. Rank Unit

Station Date

(ii) Foreign subjects eligible for campaign stars and medals should apply:—

(a) if resident in the United Kingdom, to the War Office (officers) or to the Records Office (other ranks).

(b) if in a British Colony, to the Colonial Secretary; or

(c) if in any other country, to the nearest British Consul.

95. Instructions for Claiming Stars and Medals

(i) Polish officers and other ranks who served under British command, will be required to make a personal application for campaign stars and medals in the manner required for personnel of the British Armed Forces.

(ii) The claim form should be completed in accordance with the instructions on the form and in addition, should show the titles of both Polish and British units of formations with which service was rendered.

(iii) Serving personnel should submit their applications to the O.C. unit for action in accordance with para. 77. Claim Forms should be submitted to H.Q. Polish Resettlement Corps.

96. Civilian Qualifying Service in the United Kingdom—Defence Medal**Preamble**

For the information of personnel overseas the procedure for claiming the Defence Medal on account of civilian qualifying service is given below and the list of the qualifying categories and the authority to whom the forms are to be sent are shown at Appendix D.