



Ministry  
of Defence

**Defence Business Services**

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REF: FOI2020/11828

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18 November 2020

Dear Mr

Thank you for your email of 22 October 2020 requesting the following information:

*“May I please request under the Freedom of Information Act the complete medal entitlement and summary of units served in for the following deceased serviceman:*

*4028825 WO2 Archibald Horton, Royal Artillery latterly of the Kings Shropshire Light Infantry.*

*Horton was born on the 30th January 1901 and is thus exempt from the Act as having been born over 119 years ago and having died on the 12th February 1976”.*

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 all information in scope of your request is held. In relation to your request for the medal entitlement of WO2 Horton, unfortunately we are unable to release the information requested without a death certificate. Death certificates can be ordered from the General Register Office (GRO) on payment of a fee. For more information on how to order a certificate please see <https://www.gov.uk/order-copy-birth-death-marriage-certificate>.

As to your request for a summary of units, the information requested falls entirely within the scope of the absolute exemption provided for at Section 21 of the FOIA – information already reasonably accessible to the requester. Section 21 is an absolute exemption and there is therefore no requirement to consider the public interest in making a decision to withhold the information.

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance), you may find it helpful to note that there are a variety of ways members of the public can obtain information from the Ministry of Defence. Some information is released proactively, while other categories of information are only available on request under the MOD publication scheme. For more information please visit <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/request-records-of-deceased-service-personnel>

The MOD is the custodian of the records of service personnel and Home Guard records until they are opened to general public access at The National Archives. Subject to the payment of an administration fee for some information and provision of a copy of a death certificate (except where death was in service) certain information can be provided from the records of service of deceased service personnel on request under the publication scheme.

If you still require the information and can provide a death certificate, we will be able to release the information to you under the Ministry of Defence publication scheme.

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

Defence Business Services Secretariat