



Ministry
of Defence

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16 February 2023

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 29 January 2023 in which you requested the following information:

"It is possible, and to be hoped, that 1968 is not the only year without fatalities, and that, say, in the period 2000-2022 there are other years when this has been the case. Are you able to advise me such years, or point me to the source of such data?"

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 information in scope of your request is held.

For the period 1 January 1948 to 31 December 2022, there were **two** years (1968 and 2016) where there were no operational deaths among UK Armed Forces personnel. Of which there were **13** years where there were no hostile action¹ deaths among UK Armed Forces personnel:

- 1960
- 1968
- 1970
- 1995
- 1998
- 1999
- 2002
- 2014
- 2016
- 2017
- 2019
- 2021
- 2022

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

Defence Statistics Health compiles the Department's authoritative deaths database for all UK Armed Forces personnel who died whilst in Service since 1984. Information is compiled from several internal and external sources from which we release several 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 to identify Service personnel whose names were and continue to be engraved on the Armed Forces Memorial at the National Arboretum in Staffordshire. The AFM database records the deaths of all 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

¹ For hostile action definition, refer to section 16

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.

The AFM roll of honour can be accessed at <https://www.gov.uk/search-armed-forces-memorial-roll-of-honour>. Entries on the roll of honour database include rank, type of service, regiment or corps, date of death, burial place (if known) and whether someone's name is on the Memorial in the National Memorial Arboretum.

Hostile Action (HA) includes deaths categorised as Killed in Action or Died of Wounds:

- Killed in Action (KIA) - A battle casualty who is killed outright or who dies as a result of wounds or other injuries before reaching a medical treatment facility.
- Died of Wounds (DOW) - A battle casualty who dies of wounds or other injuries received in action, after having reached a medical treatment facility. This only includes those who have died of wounds whilst under the care of Defence Medical Services.
- Includes all deaths caused by terrorist activity as a result of The Troubles in Northern Ireland.

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/>.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely

Defence Statistics Health Head (B1)