



Ministry of Defence

UK armed forces Deaths: Operational deaths post World War II

3 September 1945 to 28 February 2023

Published 30 March 2023

This Official Statistic provides summary information on the number of in-service deaths among UK armed forces personnel which occurred as a result of a British, United Nations (UN) or North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) medal earning operation since World War II. This report is updated annually at the end of March and six weeks after the end of each medal earning operation.

Key points and trends

Since the end of World War II, **7,192** UK armed forces personnel have died as a result of operations in medal earning theatres. There have been no operational deaths since the previous publication.

The largest number of deaths among UK armed forces personnel in one operation was the loss of **1,442** lives in Malaya.

NATO or United Nations led operations in Cyprus, the Balkans, Iraq and Syria are ongoing. As at 28 February 2023:

- **Four** UK armed forces personnel have died as a result of operations in Cyprus (UNFICYP).
- **72** UK armed forces personnel have died as a result of operations in the Balkans.
- **Six** UK armed forces personnel have died as a result of Operation SHADER. Four^r deaths occurred in Iraq and two^r in Cyprus.

Responsible statistician: Deputy Head of Defence Statistics Health
Analysis-Health-PQ-FOI@mod.gov.uk

Further information/mailling list: Analysis-Health-PQ-FOI@mod.gov.uk

Background quality report: The Background Quality Report for this publication can be found [here at www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)

Enquiries: Press Office: 020 721 83253

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^r changes to previously reported data

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Introduction

This report provides information on deaths as a result of each medal earning operation since World War II for UK armed forces personnel on a tri-service basis. This includes both regular and reservist personnel. These data do not include members of the Royal Fleet Auxiliary, Merchant Navy or Ministry of Defence (MOD) civilians.

This report is being released to advise MOD and the public of the loss of life to UK armed forces as a result of operations. This report has been developed in response to requests from the public for information to populate local war memorials and for use at public addresses during the Remembrance Day period. By releasing this information, it contributes to the MOD's commitment to release information where possible.

To provide enough time to complete analysis for this publication, the information shown has been compiled from data held by Defence Statistics as at 28 February 2023.

Details of the data sources and methods used to collect and analyse these data are described in the 'Methodology' section of the report.

All tables provided in the release of this report are available in separate web tables. These can be accessed [here at www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk).

Results

Table 1 presents the number of UK armed forces deaths as a result of operations in a medal earning theatre since World War II. The numbers presented are broken down by deaths as a result of hostile action and other causes of death where this level of detail is available. Other causes include: accidents; natural causes; assaults; coroner confirmed suicides; and cause not known.

The majority of operational theatres presented where a death has occurred were awarded the General Service Medal (GSM) or the Operational Service Medal (OSM). A full list of medals awarded can be found at Annex C and more information about each medal can be found [here at www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk).

Table 1: UK armed forces deaths as a result of operations post World War II by medal earning theatre and cause, numbers

3 September 1945 to 28 February 2023

Medal Theatre	Date	Total Deaths	of which Hostile action ⁸	of which Other causes ⁹
All Theatres		7,192	-	-
Palestine (GSM)	3 Sep 1945 to 30 Jun 1948	754	-	-
Malaya (GSM)	16 Jun 1948 to 31 Jul 1960	1,442	-	-
Berlin Airlift (GSM)	25 Jun 1948 to 6 Oct 1949	25	-	-
Yangtze (NGSM)	20 Apr 1949 to 31 Jul 1949	45	-	-
Korea ¹ (UN)	27 Jun 1950 to 27 Jul 1954	1,129	-	-
Canal Zone (GSM)	16 Oct 1951 to 19 Oct 1954	405	-	-
Kenya (AGSM)	21 Oct 1952 to 17 Nov 1956	95	-	-
Cyprus (GSM)	1 Apr 1955 to 18 Apr 1959	358	-	-
Near East (Suez) (GSM)	31 Oct 1956 to 22 Dec 1956	24	-	-
Arabian Peninsula (GSM)	1 Jan 1957 to 30 Jun 1960	60	-	-
Congo (ONUC)	10 Jul 1960 to 30 Jun 1964	2	-	-
Brunei (GSM)	8 Dec 1962 to 23 Dec 1962	7	-	-
Borneo (GSM)	24 Dec 1962 to 11 Aug 1966	140	-	-
Cyprus (GSM)	21 Dec 1963 to 26 Mar 1964	9	-	-
Cyprus ² (UNFICYP)	27 Mar 1964 to present	4	-	-
Radfan (GSM)	25 Apr 1964 to 31 Jul 1964	13	-	-
South Arabia (GSM)	1 Aug 1964 to 30 Nov 1967	160	-	-
Malay Peninsula (GSM)	17 Aug 1964 to 11 Aug 1966	39	-	-
Northern Ireland ^{3,4} (GSM)	14 Aug 1969 to 31 Jul 2007	1,441	722	719
<i>of which outside Northern Ireland</i>		53	53	-
Dhofar (GSM)	1 Oct 1969 to 3 Sep 1976	25	-	-
Rhodesia	1 Dec 1979 to 20 Mar 1980	5	-	-
South Atlantic (Falklands)	2 Apr 1982 to 21 Oct 1982	237	-	-
Gulf 1 (GSM)	2 Aug 1990 to 7 Mar 1991	45	24	21
Air Operations Iraq (OSM)	16 Jul 1991 to 30 Apr 2003	7	0	7
Cambodia (UNAMIC/UNTAC)	1 Oct 1991 to 30 Sep 1993	1	0	1
Balkans ^{5,6} (NATO) (UN)	1 Jul 1992 to present	72	13	59
Sierra Leone (OSM)	5 May 2000 to 31 Jul 2002	5	1	4
Afghanistan ^{5,7} (OSM)	11 Sep 2001 to 28 Aug 2021	457	405	52
Iraq (Op TELIC)	20 Jan 2003 to 22 May 2011	178	135	43
Libya (NATO)	19 Mar 2011 to 31 Oct 2011	1	0	1
Iraq & Syria ⁵ (Op Shader) (OSM)	9 August 2014 to present	6	1	5
Malawi (Op CORDED)	26 February 2019 to present	1	0	1

Source: Defence Statistics Health

- Includes: Korea Medal 2 July 1950 – 27 July 1953 and Korea medal (UN) 27 June 1950 – 27 July 1954
- As at 31 December 2022 as sourced from the Armed Forces Memorial database received at the end of each calendar year.
- Amended from previous releases of information prior to 2013 in UK Defence Statistics, Parliamentary questions and Freedom of Information requests due to Defence Statistics Health validation exercise on all Northern Ireland deaths.
- Includes deaths to personnel targeted outside of Northern Ireland as a result of the troubles (see *Data Coverage* for further information).
- As at 28 February 2023. As part of an ongoing commitment to report deaths for all medium scale and contingent Operations, deaths as a result of these operations are published biannually in: [UK armed forces and UK civilian operational casualty and fatality statistics](#).
- Includes: the Former Yugoslavia (NATO FRY) 1 July 1992 – 31 December 2002; Sarajevo Airlift (UN) 3 July 1992 – 12 January 1996; Georgia (UNOMIG) 23 August 1993 to June 2009; Kosovo (NATO) 13 October 1998 – 31 December 2002; Kosovo (UMNIK) 10 June 1999 to present; Macedonia (NATO) 1 June 2001 – 31 December 2002 and Balkans (NATO) 1 January 2003 to present. To identify which deaths occurred on specific Operations relating to activities in the Balkans, individual Service records would need to be examined, as such MOD presents the information under the overarching category 'Balkans'.
- Includes deaths on Operation VERITAS, Operation HERRICK and Operation TORAL.
- Hostile action is a battle casualty who is killed outright or dies of wounds received in action.
- Other causes are deaths due to: accidents; natural causes; assaults; coroner confirmed suicides; and cause not known

The largest number of deaths among UK armed forces personnel occurred as a result of operations in Malaya between 16 June 1948 and 31 July 1960 (1,442 deaths), see **Table 1**. The British Army was deployed to Malaya when the British Government declared a state of emergency following the formation of the Malay Races Liberation Army.

The second largest number of deaths among UK armed forces personnel occurred as a result of operations in Northern Ireland between 14 August 1969 and 31 July 2007 (1,441 deaths). Operation BANNER was the operational name for the British armed forces operation in Northern Ireland. British troops were initially deployed at the request of the Unionist government of Northern Ireland to support the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC). After the 1998 Belfast Agreement, the operation was gradually scaled down. Its role was to assert the authority of the Government of the UK in Northern Ireland.

The third largest number of deaths among UK armed forces personnel occurred as a result of the United Nations led operations in Korea between 27 June 1950 and 27 July 1954 (1,129 deaths). At the end of the second World War the Korean peninsula had been divided into North and South Korea. In June 1950 North Korean Communist forces invaded South Korea. An American led UN-approved coalition, including a British Commonwealth Brigade, was deployed to support the South against the North's Chinese backed communist forces.

Ongoing operations

NATO or United Nations led operations in Cyprus, the Balkans, Iraq and Syria are ongoing. As at 28 February 2023:

- **Four** UK armed forces personnel have died as a result of operations in Cyprus (UNFICYP).
- **72** UK armed forces personnel have died as a result of operations in the Balkans.
- **Six** UK armed forces personnel have died as a result of Operation SHADER. Four^r deaths occurred in Iraq and two^r in Cyprus.

This report will be updated six weeks after the end of each operation. In the meantime, as part of Defence Statistics ongoing commitment to report casualties from all medium scale operations and contingent operations which are of political and media interest, [deaths as a result of operations](#) are published biannually.

Figure 1 presents the number of UK armed forces deaths by geographical location.

Figure 2 presents the number of UK armed forces deaths by year.

The highest number of deaths to occur in a single year was in 1951, when **829** personnel lost their lives as a result of operations in Malaya, Korea and the Canal Zone.

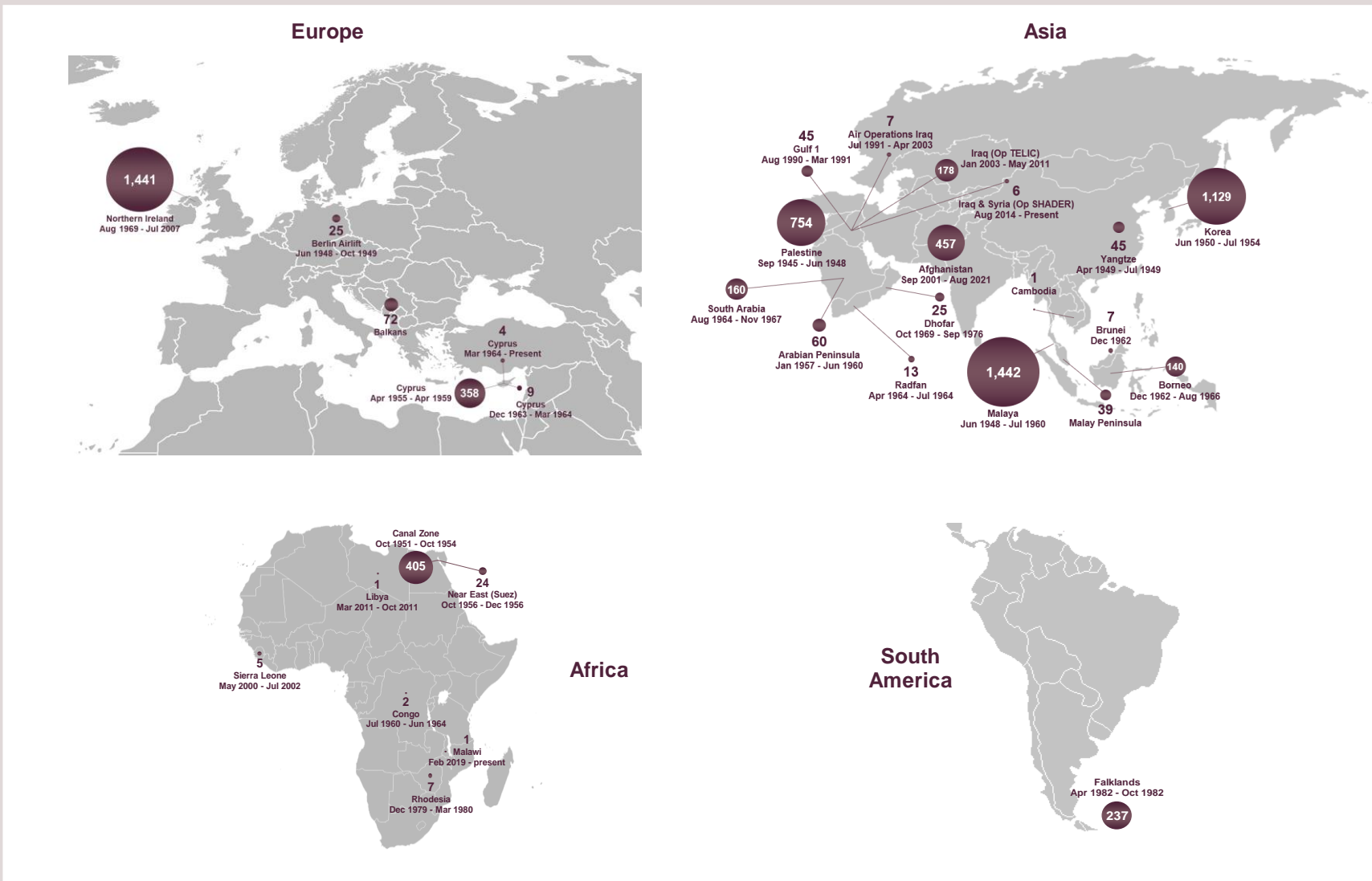
Table 2 found in the accompanying [supplementary tables](#) shows that since 1945; 1968 and 2016 were the only years where no UK armed forces personnel have lost their lives as a result of a medal earning operation.

In the past 25 years (between 1 March 1998 and 28 February 2023), **24%** (739 out of 3,120 deaths) of all UK armed forces in-service deaths have occurred whilst on operations. The highest number of deaths in a single year within this latest 25-year period was in 2009, where 53% (109 out of 205 deaths) were the result of operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. The ['Deaths in the UK regular armed forces' National Statistic](#) provides further details on all causes of death among UK regular armed forces personnel.

^r changes to previously reported data

Figure 1: UK armed forces deaths as a result of operations post World War II by medal earning theatre, numbers

3 September 1945 to 28 February 2023

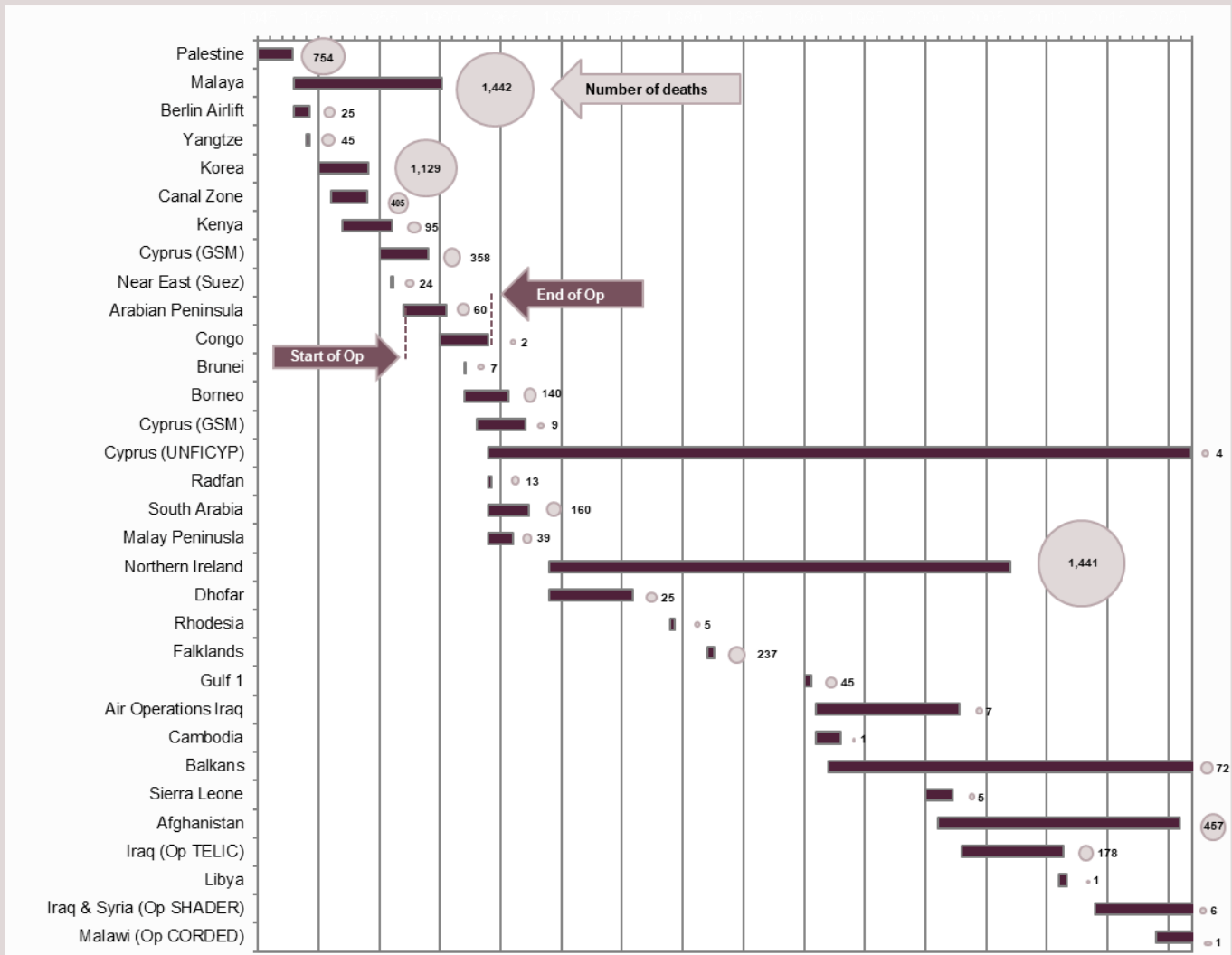
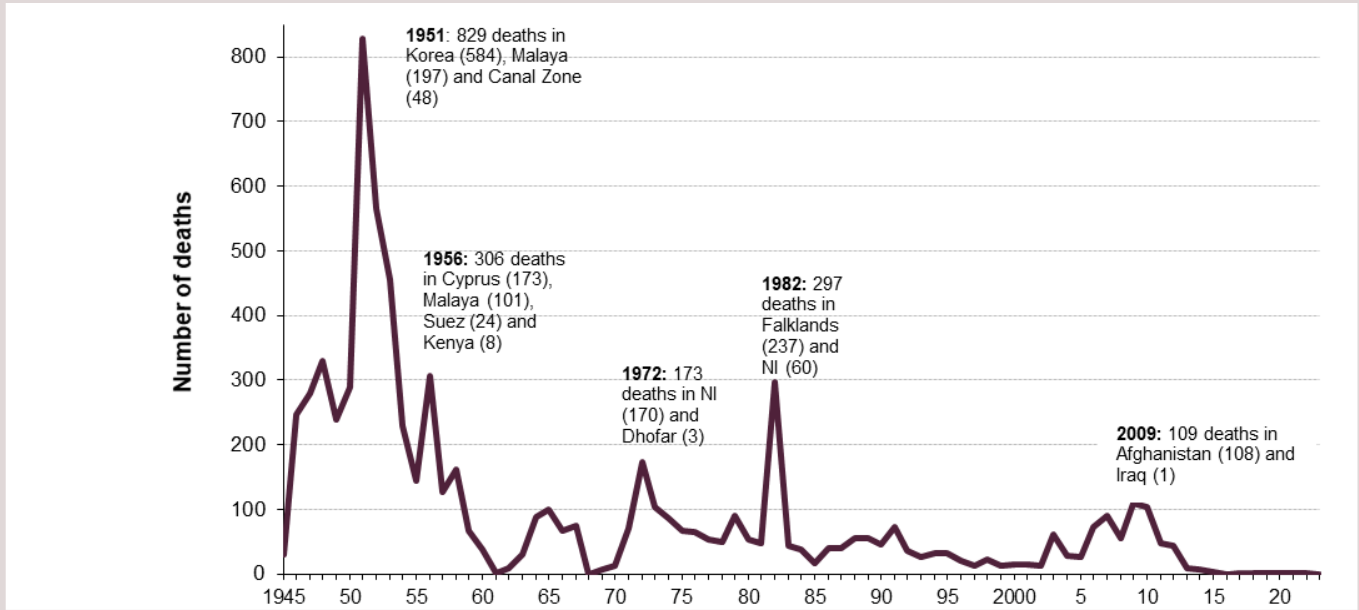


Source: Defence Statistics Health

See Table 1 footnotes

Figure 2: UK armed forces deaths as a result of operations post World War II by year and medal earning theatre, numbers

3 September 1945 to 28 February 2023



Source: Defence Statistics Health

See Table 1 Footnotes

Glossary

Armed forces – The UK armed forces form the military of the United Kingdom, tasked with defence of the country, its overseas territories and the Crown dependencies; as well as promoting the UK's wider interests, supporting international peacekeeping efforts, and providing humanitarian aid.

Ministry of Defence – The Ministry of Defence (MOD) is the United Kingdom government department responsible for the development and implementation of government defence policy and is the headquarters of the British armed forces. The principal objective of the MOD is to defend the United Kingdom and its interests. The MOD also manages day to day running of the armed forces, contingency planning and defence procurement.

North Atlantic Treaty Organisation – The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) also called the North Atlantic Alliance, is an intergovernmental military alliance based on the North Atlantic Treaty which was signed on 4 April 1949.

United Nations – The United Nations (UN) is an international organisation founded in 1945. It is currently made up of 193 Member States. The mission and work of the United Nations are guided by the purposes and principles contained in its founding Charter.

Methodology

Data Sources

For data prior to 1984, Defence Statistics Health have access to the armed forces Memorial (AFM) database owned by the Defence Business services (DBS) Joint Casualty and Compassionate Centre (JCCC, formerly the single service casualty cells). The AFM database was created 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 personnel who have died in service since 1st Jan 1948, and for those in Palestine only from 1st August 1945 to 31st August 1948.

For data since 1984 (inclusive), Defence Statistics Health receive weekly notifications of all regular armed forces deaths from the JCCC. Defence Statistics Health also receive cause of death information from military medical sources in the single services. At the end of each calendar year, Defence Statistics Health cross-reference the medical information it holds against publicly available death certificate information available from NHS Digital and the General Registrars Office Scotland.

Data Coverage

The information on deaths presented are for all regular and reservist UK armed forces personnel only who died as a result of an operation in a medal earning theatre. Members of the Royal Fleet Auxiliary, Merchant Navy and MOD civilians are not included.

Operational deaths have been defined as a 'theatre of operation where there is or has been the award of a British Operational medal or where there is or has been the award of a UN or NATO medal'. This is in accordance with the [inclusion criteria for the armed forces Memorial](#).

Only those medal earning theatres where a death has occurred have been presented. Brief descriptions of these operations can be found at Annex A along with a full list of all medal earning theatres for UK armed forces personnel at Annex B.

The majority of theatres presented where a death has occurred were awarded the General Service Medal (GSM) or the Operational Service Medal (OSM). A full list of medals awarded can be found at Annex C.

Operations which involved UK armed forces personnel but for which a Foreign and Commonwealth medal was awarded are not included in this publication.

These data presented are for all causes of death; Hostile action (a battle casualty who is killed outright or dies of wounds received in action); accidents; natural causes; assaults; coroner confirmed suicide or open verdicts; and cause not known.

These data presented is not limited to those personnel who died specifically in the theatre of operation. It includes those personnel who may have been aeromedically evacuated from a theatre of operation and subsequently died whilst in-service as a result of injuries sustained in that theatre, for example in a hospital in the UK.

For operations in Northern Ireland, data also includes UK armed forces personnel who were targeted outside of Northern Ireland as a result of the troubles, such as the 1989 bombing at the Royal Marines School of Music in Deal, England. Therefore it is possible that some of these personnel will not have received a GSM for service in Northern Ireland unless they had previously deployed. These deaths have been included as they were directly attributed to Operation Banner and classified as Killed in Action by the MOD.

A breakdown of deaths into those caused by hostile action deaths and other causes is only available for the following theatres of operation since 1984 (inclusive): Gulf 1, Balkans, Sierra Leone, Afghanistan, Iraq and Libya, and pre 1984, for Northern Ireland only. This is because for deaths prior to 1984, Defence Statistics Health use the AFM database which was created 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 and not for statistical purposes. Whilst the name and service number of each individual is validated, this database is not

historically regarded as a validated source of fatality information due to it being populated manually from service files. Therefore, all causes of deaths have been provided without further breakdown for those operational theatres prior 1984 (excluding Northern Ireland).

Methods

For deaths prior to 1984, Defence Statistics Health uses the AFM database and specifically the 'Theatre' field to identify all those personnel who died as a result of operations in a medal earning theatre.

For deaths since 1984 (inclusive) and for Northern Ireland and Falklands deaths only, the 'Conflict marker' field on the Defence Statistics Health Deaths database is used to identify deaths which occurred as a result of operations in medal earning theatres. This field is derived by using the JCCC and former single service casualty cells 'Operation' field as completed on the weekly notification.

In 2013, Defence Statistics produced a validated dataset of deaths as a result of the troubles in Northern Ireland, using a number of internal and external sources of information. Prior to this, figures for deaths as a result of operations in Northern Ireland were produced in the MOD publication: UK Defence Statistics 2008. These figures were sourced from the Police Service of Northern Ireland and not the MOD and therefore do not match those presented in this report due to differing inclusion criteria.

The MOD does not have any control of figures produced on unofficial websites commemorating those who lost their lives as a result of operations in medal earning theatres. It is entirely possible figures presented in this report differ from those sources due to varying anomalies in inclusion criteria.

Strengths and weaknesses of data presented in this notice

A strength of this publication is that considerable validation is undertaken against military and public records for deaths post 1984 (inclusive) to ensure that the information provided is complete and accurate and users of this publication should be confident that the numbers of fatalities presented are accurate.

For deaths prior to 1984, Defence Statistics Health use the AFM database which was created in 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 and not for statistical purposes. Whilst the name and service number of each individual is validated, this database is not historically regarded as a validated source of fatality information due to it being populated manually from service files.

The information presented in this publication has been structured to release sensitive deaths information into the public domain in a way that contributes to the MOD accountability to the British public, but which does not compromise the operational security of UK armed forces personnel by revealing detail on individual incidents such as mechanism; nor that risk inadvertently revealing individual identities and therefore breaching the rights of the families of the deceased personnel (for which the MOD has a residual duty of care). Defence Statistics are regularly asked to release information such as date of death, location of death, deaths within a unit or rank held by the deceased, however, these requests are assessed on a case by case basis to ensure the information presented is aggregated to a level to ensure individual's cannot be identified and operational security is not compromised.

More detailed information on the methodology used to create this report can be found in the [Background Quality Report \(BQR\)](#).

Changes to previously published data

In preparing this document, Defence Statistics will continually carry out a review of the data recorded on in-service deaths as a result of operations in medal earning theatres among UK armed forces personnel to ensure the highest accuracy of information and that all cases of deaths attributable to an operation are recorded.

The country of death for one fatality on Op SHADER previously categorised as Iraq is now confirmed as Cyprus.

Any revisions to previously released data have been made and republished with the revision marked with an 'r' in the relevant table of data.

References

- a) [Sir John Holmes Independent Medal Review 2014](#)

Further Information

Contact Us

Defence Statistics welcome feedback on our statistical products. If you have any comments or questions about this publication or about our statistics in general, you can contact us as follows:

Defence Statistics Health Email: Analysis-Health-PQ-FOI@mod.gov.uk

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Other contact points within Defence Statistics are:

Defence Expenditure Analysis	Analysis-Expenditure-PQ-FOI@mod.gov.uk
Price Indices	Analysis-Econ-PI-Contracts@mod.gov.uk
Naval Service Workforce	Analysis-Navy@mod.gov.uk
Army Workforce	DefStrat-Stat-Army-Enquiries@mod.gov.uk
RAF Workforce	Analysis-Air@mod.gov.uk
Tri-Service Workforce	Analysis-Tri-Service@mod.gov.uk
Civilian Workforce	Analysis-Civilian-Enquiries@mod.gov.uk

If you wish to correspond by mail, our postal address is:

Defence Statistics Health
Ministry of Defence, Abbey Wood (North)
#6028, Oak, 0, West
Bristol
BS34 8JH

For general MOD enquiries, please call: 020 7218 9000

ANNEX A – QUALIFYING MEDAL EARNING THEATRE DESCRIPTIONS¹

Palestine (GSM) 3 Sep 1945 to 30 Jun 1948

British armed forces were deployed in Palestine in response to a campaign by Jewish underground groups against British forces and officials in Mandatory Palestine between 1939 and 1947. Tensions arose between militant Jewish underground organisations and the British mandatory authorities following publication of the MacDonald White Paper of 1939, which proposed restrictions on Jewish immigration and independence for Palestine with an Arab majority after 10 years. Tensions within Palestine rose towards the end of WW II and the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948.

Malaya (GSM) 16 Jun 1948 to 31 Jul 1960

In the period after the Second World War the Malayan Communist Party, backed by China, sought to overthrow the British Administration in Malaya and to establish a communist republic. Following the formation of the Malay Races Liberation Army, the Federal Government declared a state of emergency following which substantial British Forces were deployed to defeat the insurgency.

Berlin Airlift (GSM) 25 Jun 1948 to 6 Oct 1949

The Berlin Airlift was the first major confrontation between the East and the West during the Cold War. It was known as Operation 'Plainfare' by the British and Operation 'Vittles' by the Americans.

The divided city of Berlin lay deep in Soviet territory and was connected to West Germany by formally agreed road, rail, waterway and air 'corridors'. Anxious to oust their former American, British and French allies, the Soviets embarked on a progressive strangulation of the city, beginning in January 1948.

Currency reforms, opposed by the Russians, were introduced in West Germany in June 1948 and were to be the catalyst that sparked the Berlin Blockade in earnest. Access between West Berlin and West Germany was prohibited on the ground.

Two-and-a-half million Berliners, as well as the Allied garrisons, needed to be supplied with food, fuel and the means to continue production and export. The only way to supply the city was by the three air corridors into Berlin from Hamburg, Hanover and Frankfurt. Britain, the United States and other Western Allies flew aircrafts of supplies into Berlin's Tempelhof, Gatow and Tegel airports.

Initially the situation was improvised and uncoordinated, but soon developed into an efficient operation that at its peak was landing aircraft at three-minute intervals. Realising that the Western half of the city was coping well, the Russians lifted the blockade on 12 May 1949.

Yangtze (NGSM) 20 Apr 1949 to 31 Jul 1949

In 1949 Chinese Communist People's Liberation Army (PLA) were involved in a protracted Civil War with Chiang Kai-Shek's Kuomintang Nationalist forces. On April 20th PLA forces shelled the Royal Navy ship HMS Amethyst as she made her way up the Yangtze towards Nanking. The ship was trapped for three months 100 miles upriver under periodic bombardment before making a night-time escape on 30th July. Earlier attempts by other ships to assist her escape had all failed.

Korea (UN) 27 Jun 1950 to 27 Jul 1954

At the end of the Second World War the Korean peninsula had been divided into North and South Korea. In June 1950 North Korean Communist forces invaded South Korea. An American led UN-approved coalition, including a British Commonwealth Brigade, was deployed to support the South against the North's Chinese backed communist forces.

Canal Zone (GSM) 16 Oct 1951 to 19 Oct 1954

In October 1951, the Egyptian government pulled out of the Anglo-Egyptian Treaty of 1936, the terms of which granted Britain a lease on the Suez base for a further 20 years. Britain refused to withdraw from Suez and this resulted in a steady escalation of hostility towards Britain and increasing acts of sabotage and violence against British troops stationed in Egypt.

Kenya (AGSM) 21 Oct 1952 to 17 Nov 1956

Kenya was put under a state of emergency from October 1952 to December 1959, due to the Mau Mau rebellion against British colonial rule.

Cyprus (GSM) 1 Apr 1955 to 18 Apr 1959

In 1955 the guerilla movement, EOKA, led by Colonel Georgios Grivas, sought the unification of Cyprus under Greek rule which led to an escalation of guerrilla attacks on the island's Turkish minority population, British Forces and property. A state of emergency was declared, following which Field Marshal Sir John Harding was appointed Governor of the island.

Near East (Suez) (GSM) 31 Oct 1956 to 22 Dec 1956

In 1956, President Gamel Abdel Nasser decided to nationalise the Suez Canal after an offer by Britain and the United States to fund the building of the Aswan Dam was withdrawn. French, British and Israeli forces then invaded Egypt. British troops were deployed primarily to regain Western control of the Suez Canal but were withdrawn under intense American diplomatic pressure.

Arabian Peninsula (GSM) 1 Jan 1957 to 30 Jun 1960

Historic disagreements about land and associated oil rights, and resentments over the Sultan's authority led Imam Ghalib and his brother Talib to rebel against the Sultan of Muscat. After initial setbacks, in 1955 the Sultan called for assistance from UK forces. It was not until British Forces were deployed that the rebels were dislodged from their territory in the Jebel Akhbar mountains.

Congo (ONUC) 10 Jul 1960 to 30 Jun 1964

Opération des Nations Unies au Congo, abbreviated to ONUC, was a United Nations peacekeeping force established after the United Nations Security Council Resolution 143 of 14 July 1960. The formation of troops was a response to the Congo Crisis.

Brunei (GSM) 8 Dec 1962 to 23 Dec 1962

British Forces were deployed by air and sea following an attempted coup against the Sultan of Brunei led by the North Kalimantan National Army which enjoyed strong covert support from Indonesia. The coup was successfully suppressed.

Borneo (GSM) 24 Dec 1962 to 11 Aug 1966

The Indonesian–Malaysian confrontation erupted into a violent conflict which stemmed from Indonesia's opposition to the creation of Malaysia. Initial Indonesian attacks into East Malaysia relied heavily on local volunteers who had been trained by the Indonesian Army. However, when the infiltration forces became more organised, the British responded in 1964 by launching their own operations.

Cyprus (GSM) 21 Dec 1963 to 26 Mar 1964

By December 1963 relations between the majority Greek-Cypriot and the minority Turkish-Cypriot communities had deteriorated. There were armed clashes between the two sides, particularly in Nicosia. Forces from Greece, Turkey and Britain were deployed to keep the peace and a 'Green Line' was established to keep the two sides apart.

Cyprus (UNFICYP) 27 Mar 1964 to present

UN Security Council Resolution 186 recommended the formation of UNFICYP on 4 Mar 1964 following inter-communal fighting between the Greek and Turkish communities on Cyprus. The Force became operational on 27 Mar 1964 as a joint civilian/military security corps and remains ongoing today.

Radfan (GSM) 25 Apr 1964 to 31 Jul 1964

This uprising was thought to be a result of the Federation of South Arabia preventing the collection of tolls from passing camel caravans resulting in a loss in income and led to local Qutaibi inhabitants attacking the British on the Aden to Mecca caravan route, which passed through Dhala. This conflict led to the deployment of British troops.

South Arabia (GSM) 1 Aug 1964 to 30 Nov 1967

This campaign is related to the Radfan Campaign, because both were Egyptian-inspired attempts to end not only the British presence in Aden but also the embryonic Federation of South Arabia. This three year long campaign was to see many terrorist attacks on both civilian and military targets.

Malay Peninsula (GSM) 17 Aug 1964 to 11 Aug 1966

This campaign was an extension of the conflict in Borneo where British and Malaysian troops were operating against Indonesian insurgents. In 1964, the Indonesian President decided to attack the Malaysian mainland. Parachute landings were made in Johore while other troops managed to land across the Malacca Straits from Indonesian Sumatra. Between November 1964 and March 1965 there were five attempts to establish guerrilla groups in Johore, all of which failed.

Northern Ireland 14 Aug 1969 to 31 July 2007

Operation Banner was the operational name for the British armed forces operation in Northern Ireland from August 1969 to July 2007. British troops were initially deployed at the request of the Unionist government of Northern Ireland to support the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC). After the 1998 Belfast Agreement, the operation was gradually scaled down. Its role was to assert the authority of the Government of the UK in Northern Ireland.

Dhofar (GSM) 1 Oct 1969 to 3 Sep 1976

The Dhofar Rebellion was launched in the province of Dhofar against the Sultanate of Muscat and Oman. British troops were deployed alongside Omani and Iranian forces, which led to the defeat of the rebels.

Rhodesia 1 Dec 1979 to 20 Mar 1980

Operation AGILA was the multi-national force tasked with keeping the peace between 22,000 guerrilla fighters and the Rhodesian forces during the ceasefire in the run-up to the 1980 elections.

South Atlantic (Falklands) 2 Apr 1982 to 21 Oct 1982

On 2 April 1982, Argentinean forces invaded the British overseas territory of the Falkland Islands. A UK Task Force was swiftly dispatched to regain the islands sovereignty. British forces landed on 21 May 1982 and after a series of engagements culminating in the liberation of Port Stanley, the Argentineans surrendered on 14 June 1982.

Gulf War (GSM) 2 Aug 1990 to 7 Mar 1991

The first Gulf War (2 Aug 1990 to 28 Feb 1991), codenamed Operation Desert Shield, encompassed operations leading to the build-up of troops and air power for the defence of Saudi Arabia. Operation Desert Storm (17 Jan 1991 to 28 Feb 1991) was a war waged by coalition forces from 34 nations led by the United States against Iraq in response to Iraq's invasion and annexation of Kuwait.

Air Operations Iraq 16 Jul 1991 to 30 Apr 2003

1991 witnessed the start of coalition air patrols over the Northern Iraqi No-Fly Zone designed to protect Iraq's Kurdish minority. The RAF contributed detachments of Jaguars, Harriers and Tornados to this operation over a period of nearly twelve years. In August 1992, the RAF based a detachment of six Tornado GR1s at Dhahran in Saudi Arabia to contribute to the maintenance of the Southern No Fly Zone, which was created to protect the Iraqi Shiite community. This detachment was later moved to Prince Sultan air base, Al Kharj.

In late 1997, Iraq's failure to comply with the requirements of the United Nations Special Commission on disarmament led to the dispatch of carrier-borne Harrier GR7s and more GR1s were deployed to Ali Al Salem air base, Kuwait, from where twelve aircraft eventually participated in Operation Desert Fox in December 1998. Soon afterwards, the Saudi commitment was taken over by Tornado F3s. Tornado GR1s and GR4s operating from Ali Al Salem continued to patrol the Southern No Fly Zone until 2003.

Cambodia (UNAMIC/UNTAC) 1 Oct 1991 to 30 Sep 1993

The United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) was a United Nations peacekeeping operation in 1992–93. The UN deployed to Cambodia to help maintain the ceasefire and provide experience in training the civilian population in how to avoid injury from land mines and booby traps.

Balkans 1 Jul 1992 to present

The NATO intervention in Bosnia and Herzegovina comprised of a series of actions undertaken by NATO to establish and then preserve peace during and after the Bosnian War. NATO's intervention began largely as political and symbolic, but gradually expanded to include large-scale air operations and the deployment of approximately 60,000 soldiers under Operation Joint Endeavour.

Sierra Leone (OSM) 5 May 2000 to 31 Jul 2002

The UK began a military intervention in Sierra Leone in May 2000, codenamed Operation Palliser, following the outbreak of the Sierra Leone Civil War. The Civil War had erupted in early May 2000 when the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) advanced on the country's capital, Freetown, which prompted the British government to dispatch an Operational Reconnaissance and Liaison Team to prepare to evacuate foreign citizens. On 6 May 2000 the RUF blocked the road connecting Freetown to the country's main airport Lungi. The next day, British soldiers began to secure the airport and other areas essential to the planned evacuation.

British Forces subsequently assisted the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) and the Sierra Leone Army (SLA). The Sierra Leonean government eventually signed a ceasefire with the RUF that obliged the latter to enter the Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration (DDR) process. By September 2001, when the British training teams were replaced by an international force, the DDR process was almost complete. British forces continued to be involved in Sierra Leone by providing the largest contribution of personnel to the international training team and advising on a restructuring of the country.

Afghanistan 11 Sep 2001 to 28 Aug 2021

NATO and Allied forces intervened in the ongoing Afghan civil war following the September 11 attacks, with the aim of dismantling al-Qaeda and preventing it having a safe base of operation in Afghanistan by removing the Taliban from power. This includes the UK operations Operation VERITAS, Operation HERRICK, Operation PITTING and Operation TORAL.

Iraq (Operation TELIC) 20 Jan 2003 to 22 May 2011

A joint resolution of the US Congress, known as the Iraq Resolution, led to the 2003 invasion of Iraq under the authority of the UN Security Council Resolutions 678 and 687, essentially to use all necessary means to compel Iraq to comply with its international obligations. Prior to the invasion, the US and UK indicated that Iraq was developing weapons of mass destruction, which presented a world-wide threat. As a consequence, on 8 September 2002, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 1441, which effectively provided Iraq with a final opportunity to comply with its obligations and disarm. Resolution 1441 strengthened the mandate of the UN Monitoring and Verification Commission (UNMOVIC) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and led, ultimately, to a combined NATO invasion on 19 March 2003.

Libya 19 Mar 2011 to 31 Oct 2011

On 19 March 2011, a multi-state coalition began a military intervention in Libya to implement United Nations Security Council Resolution 1973, which authorised the creation of a No-Fly Zone in response to the Gaddafi regime's efforts to suppress the mass uprising sparked by the so-called Arab Spring. The British contribution, codenamed Operation Ellamy, principally consisted of RAF air power and naval forces, which enforced the accompanying arms embargo. All operations were conducted under NATO command from 31 March 2011. The conflict in Libya ended in late October 2011, following which NATO confirmed it would end operations on 31 October 2011.

Iraq and Syria (Operation SHADER) 9 Aug 2014 to present

Operation SHADER is the UK's contribution to the global coalition committed to defeating Daesh. The MOD is providing military support which includes training Kurdish and Iraqi security forces with over 320 tonnes of UK gifted weapons, UK gifted machine guns, ammunition and other military equipment. Since the Parliamentary vote, the RAF has flown successful strikes and provided valuable intelligence and surveillance.

Malawi (Operation CORDED) 26 Feb 2019 to present

Operation CORDED is the UK's contribution to counter-poaching in Malawi and Zambia who are affected by the illegal wildlife trade. UK Armed Forces personnel are partnered with the local Ranger Forces to train and support their anti-poacher patrols.

ANNEX B – LIST OF QUALIFYING MEDAL EARNING THEATRES FOR THE ELIZABETH CROSS

Theatre	Dates
UK & Pacific (Minesweeping 45/51) (Navy)	09-May-45 to 30-Sep-51
UK (Bomb & Mine Clearance GSM)	09-May-45 to 30-Sep-53
Palestine (GSM)	03-Sep-45 to 30-Jun-48
Malaya (GSM) (Singapore)	16-Jun-48 to 31-Jan-59
Malaya (GSM) (Malaya)	16-Jun-48 to 31-Jul-60
Berlin Airlift (GSM)	25-Jun-48 to 06-Oct-49
Yangtze (NGSM)	20-Apr-49 to 31-Jul-49
Korea Medal	02-Jul-50 to 27-Jul-53
Korea Medal (UN)	27-Jun-50 to 27-Jul-54
Canal Zone (GSM)	16-Oct-51 to 19-Oct-54
Kenya (AGSM)	21-Oct-52 to 17-Nov-56
Bomb & Mine Clearance (Med) (GSM)	01-Jan-55 to 31-Dec-60
Cyprus (GSM)	01-Apr-55 to 18-Apr-59
Near East (Suez) (GSM)	31-Oct-56 to 22-Dec-56
Arabian Peninsula (GSM)	01-Jan-57 to 30-Jun-60
Congo (ONUC)	10-Jul-60 to 30-Jun-64
Brunei (GSM)	08-Dec-62 to 23-Dec-62
Brunei (GSM) (Navy)	08-Dec-62 to 20-Dec-62
Borneo (GSM)	24-Dec-62 to 11-Aug-66
Cyprus (GSM)	21-Dec-63 to 26-Mar-64
Cyprus (UNFICYP)	27-Mar-64 to present
Radfan (GSM)	25-Apr-64 to 31-Jul-64
South Arabia (GSM)	01-Aug-64 to 30-Nov-67
Malay Peninsula (GSM) (All services)	17-Aug-64 to 12-Jun-65
Malay Peninsula (GSM) (Navy)	17-Aug-64 to 11-Aug-66
Malay Peninsula (GSM) (RAF)	13-Jun-65 to 11-Aug-66
Northern Ireland (GSM)	14-Aug-69 to 31-Jul-07
Dhofar (GSM)	01-Oct-69 to 03-Sep-76
Rhodesia Medal	01-Dec-79 to 20-Mar-80
South Atlantic Medal (Falklands)	02-Apr-82 to 21-Oct-82
South Atlantic Medal (Falklands) (Ascension Island)	02-Apr-82 to 12-Jul-82
Lebanon (GSM)	07-Feb-83 to 09-Mar-84
Gulf of Suez (GSM Mine Clearance)	15-Aug-84 to 15-Oct-84
Gulf (GSM)	17-Nov-86 to 28-Feb-89
Peshawar (UNOCHA)	1989 to 1990
Namibia (UNTAG)	01-Apr-89 to 31-Mar-90
The Gulf Medal	02-Aug-90 to 07-Mar-91
Kuwait (GSM)	08-Mar-91 to 30-Sep-91
Iraq/Kuwait (UNIKOM)	01-Apr-91 to 06-Oct-03
Western Sahara (MINURSO)	10-Apr-91 to present
Northern Iraq & South Turkey	06-Apr-91 to 17-Jul-91
Air Operations Iraq (RESINATE SOUTH)	16-Jul-91 to 18-Mar-03
Air Operations Iraq (RESINATE NORTH)	16-Jul-91 to 30-Apr-03
Cambodia (UNAMIC/UNTAC)	01-Oct-91 to 30-Sep-93
Former Yugoslavia (NATO FRY)	01-Jul-92 to 31-Dec-02
Sarajevo Airlift (UN Special Service)	03-Jul-92 to 12-Jan-96
Georgia (UNOMIG)	23-Aug-93 to 30-Jun-09
Rwanda (UNAMIR)	01-Oct-93 to 31-Mar-96
Angola (UNAVEM 3)	01-Feb-95 to 01-Jun-97
Sierra Leone (UNOMSIL)	01-Jun-98 to 31-Dec-02
Kosovo (NATO)	13-Oct-98 to 31-Dec-02
East Timor (UNAMET/UNTAET)	07-Jun-99 to 20-May-05
Kosovo (UNMIK)	10-Jun-99 to present
Congo (MONUC/MONUSCO)	30-Nov-99 to present
Sierra Leone (OSM)	05-May-00 to 31-Jul-02
Theatre	Dates

Ethiopia/Eritrea (UNMEE)	15-Sep-00	to	30-Jul-08
Macedonia (NATO)	01-Jun-01	to	31-Dec-02
Afghanistan (OSM)	11-Sep-01	to	28-Aug-21
Balkans (NATO)	01-Jan-03	to	present
Iraq (Op TELIC)	20-Jan-03	to	22-May-11
Democratic Republic of Congo (OSM)	14-Jun-03	to	10-Sep-03
Southern Asia (Op LEEWAY) (GSM 08)	01-Jan-08	to	06-May-15
Arabian Peninsula (Op QUANTAM) (GSM 08)	01-Jan-09	to	31-May-12
Eastern Africa (Op PRESIDUM) (GSM 08)	10-Feb-10	to	present
Libya (NATO)	23-Mar-11	to	31-Oct-11
Northern Africa (Op DEFERENCE) (GSM 08)	21-Feb-11	to	22-Mar-11
Northern Africa (Op VOCATE) (GSM 08)	01-Nov-11	to	01-Nov-14
East Africa (Op BACKWELL) (GSM 08)	24-Apr-12	to	present
Arabian Peninsula (Op ICENI) (GSM 08)	01-Jun-12	to	02-Dec-13
Western Africa (Op NEWCOMBE- Phase 1) (GSM 08)	13-Jan-13	to	22-May-13
East Africa (Op MODEST) (GSM 08)	24-Jan-13	to	present
West Africa (Op GRITROCK) (Ebola medal)	23-Mar-14	to	29-Mar-16
East Africa (Op PRASER) (GSM 08)	16-Dec-14	to	present
East Africa (Op TANGHAM HQ) (GSM 08)	01-Nov-13	to	present
East Africa (Op CATAN) (GSM 08)	03-Mar-16	to	present
Iraq & Syria (Op SHADER)	09-Aug-14	to	present
Malawi (Op CORDED)	26-Feb-19	to	present

ANNEX C – QUALIFYING MEDAL ABBREVIATIONS

AGSM	– Africa General Service Medal
GSM	– General Service Medal
MINURSO	– Mission des nations unies pour le referendum dans le Sahara Occidental
MONUC	– Mission des Organisation des Nations Unies en République démocratique du Congo
NATO	– North Atlantic Treaty Organisation
NATO FRY	– North Atlantic Treaty Organisation Former Republic of Yugoslavia
NGSM	– Naval General Service Medal
ONUC	– Operation des Nations Unies au Congo
OSM	– Operational Service Medal
UN	– United Nations
UNAMET	– United Nations Assistance Mission in East Timor
UNAMIC	– United Nations Advanced Mission in Cambodia
UNAMIR	– United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda
UNAVEM	– United Nations Angola Verification Mission
UNFICYP	– United Nations Force in Cyprus
UNIKOM	– United Nations Iraq/Kuwait Observer Mission
UNOCHA	– United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
UNMEE	– United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea
UNMIK	– United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo
UNOMIG	– United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia
UNOMSIL	– United Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone
UNTAC	– United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia
UNTAET	– United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor
UNTAG	– United Nations Transition Assistance Group