



Ministry
of Defence

Defence Statistics Health
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9 December 2024

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 25 November 2024 in which you requested the following information:

“.. We have a list of those who fell in WW1 and WW2 but no details of or if anyone from our village [Oakenshaw in County Durham] who fell in subsequent conflicts e.g. Korea, Aden, NI or the Gulf etc. Would you be able to assist me in my research or be able to point me towards someone who could assist.”

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.

To answer requests of this type, MoD use an individual's place of birth or burial location which is tangible and not subject to change. MoD record the place of birth of an individual as recorded on the Armed Forces Memorial database (AFM) or death certificate and for burial location which is sourced solely from the AFM.

From 1 January 1948 to 25 November 2024, **none** of the UK Armed Forces personnel who died on operations were identified as having a birthplace or burial location in Oakenshaw, County Durham.

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 Official 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 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.

Defence Statistics Health compile information on birthplace using data held on historic administrations systems, the Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) system, and information entered on the death certificate. Burial location is taken from the Armed Forces Memorial (AFM) database, which holds burial location for approximately 67% of its records.

Deaths where birthplace or burial location is not recorded on the Armed Forces Memorial (AFM) database, death certificate or administration systems held by the MOD have been excluded from this response.

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.

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)