Chapter Seventeen

Medals and Awards
Within the British Empire
Medals of the British Empire & Commonwealth

Gallantry & Metorious

Air Force Cross

Conspicuous Gallantry Cross

Distinguished Flying Cross

Distinguished Service Cross

1918 & 1993

1993

1918 & 1993

1901 & 1993

Incorporates the Air Force Medal

Replaces the DSO for gallantry, CGM and DCM

incorporates the DFM (Distinguished Flying Medal)

incorporates the DSM (Distinguished Service Medal)
Gallantry & Meritorious

Distinguished Service Order
- Awarded for gallantry.
- 1886
- 1993

George Cross
- Awarded for 'Leadership' only
- 1940

Military Cross
- Awarded for actions for which military honours would not normally be granted
- 1914 & 1993

Queen's Gallantry Medal
- Awarded for actions not deemed suitable for a military decoration
- 1974
Gallantry

Victoria Cross

1856 introduced as the premier award for gallantry, available to all ranks

The Highest Award
Within the
British Empire
And
British Commonwealth
Gallantry & Distinguished

Air Force Medal
1918 & 1993
replaced by the AFC
(Air Force Cross)

Conspicuous Gallantry Medal
1855 & 1993
replaced by the CGC
(Conspicuous Gallantry Cross)

Distinguished Conduct Medal
1854 & 1993
replaced by the CGC
(Conspicuous Gallantry Cross)

Distinguished Flying Medal
1918 & 1993
replaced by the DFC
(Distinguished Flying Cross)
Gallantry & Distinguished

Distinguished Service Medal

1914 & 1993
replaced by the DSC
(Distinguished Service Cross)

George Medal

1940
awarded for actions for which
military honours would not
normally be granted

Military Medal

1916 & 1993
replaced by the MC
(Military Cross)
Campaign Medals

2nd China War Medal
Awarded to British servicemen for operations against China
1857 - 1860

1914 – 1915 Star
For service in any theatre of war between 5 August 1914 and 31 December 1915
1914 - 1915

1914 Star
For service in France & Belgium between 5 August - 22 November 1914
1914

1939 – 1945 Star
Awarded to personnel who had completed six months' service overseas
1939 - 1945
Campaign Medals

**Abyssinia War Medal**
- **1867 - 1868**
- Awarded for a punitive expedition against King Theodore of Abyssinia

**Afghanistan Medal**
- **1878 - 1880**
- For operations during the Second Afghan War

**Africa Star**
- **1939 - 1945**
- Awarded for operations in North Africa

**Air Crew Europe Star**
- **1939 - 1944**
- For operational flying from UK bases over Europe
Campaign Medals

- **Ashantee Medal**: 1873 - 1874 for operations against King Kalkali of the Gold Coast.
- **Atlantic Star**: 1939 - 1945 Royal Navy for six months' service afloat in Atlantic, home waters & North Russia.
- **Baltic Medal**: 1854 - 1855 for operations against the Russians in the Baltic Sea.
- **Burma Star**: 1941 - 1945 for operational service in the Burma campaign, Bengal and Assam.
Campaign Medals

Canada GSM
1866 - 1870
for operations to put down Fenian Raids of 1866 and 1870

Central Africa Medal
1891 - 1898
awarded for numerous campaigns in Central Africa

China War Medal
1900
instituted for service during the Boxer Rebellion and subsequent expeditions

Crimea Medal
1854 - 1856
for operations against the Russians during the Crimean War
Campaign Medals

- **Defence Medal**: 1939 - 1945, awarded for 3 years' service at home or 6 months' service overseas.
- **Egypt Medal**: 1882 - 1889, for operations against the mutineering army of Egypt.
- **France & Germany Star**: 1944 - 1945, for operational service in France, Belgium, The Netherlands & Germany.
- **General Service Medal**: 1918 - 1962, for numerous campaigns and operations that fell short of full-scale war.
Campaign Medals

General Service Medal (2)

1962 - onwards
for numerous campaigns and
operations that fell short of
full-scale war

Great War Medal

1914 - 1920
awarded for the conclusion of
WW I and for further
operations up to 1920

Gulf War Medal

1990 - 1991
awarded for operations to
liberate Kuwait and the
subsequent invasion of Iraq

India GSM

1908 - 1931
for minor campaigns and
operations in India
before and after WW I
Campaign Medals

India GSM

1936 - 1939
introduced when change of effigy from George V to George VI became necessary

India Medal

1895 – 1902
replaced the India GSM to cover minor campaigns and operations in India

Indian Mutiny Medal

1857 - 1858
awarded for the suppression of the Indian Mutiny

Iraq War Medal

2003
awarded for operations in the invasion of Iraq, and subsequent operations
Campaign Medals

- **Italy Star**
  - 1943 - 1945
  - for operations in Italy, Sicily, Corsica, Sardinia, Greece & Yugoslavia

- **King’s South Africa Medal**
  - 1901 - 1902
  - 2nd Boer War, South Africa (King Edward VII)

- **Korean Medal**
  - 1950 - 1953
  - awarded for operations during the Korean War

- **Mercantile Marine War Medal**
  - 1914 - 1918
  - awarded by the Board of Trade to members of the Merchant Navy
Campaign Medals

- **Nato Medal - Yugoslavia**
  - 1994
  - Yugoslavia - awarded to those who took part in the Alliance co-operations in Yugoslavia

- **Nato Medal - Kosovo**
  - 1994
  - Kosovo - awarded to those who took part in the Alliance co-operations in Kosovo

- **Nato Medal - Macedonia**
  - 1994
  - Macedonia - awarded to those who took part in the Alliance co-operations in Macedonia

- **Naval GSM Medal**
  - 1915 - 1962
  - for service in minor operations for which no separate medal might be issued
Campaign Medals

- **New Zealand Medal**
  - 1860 - 1866
  - First and Second Maori Wars

- **Operation Service Medal Afghanistan**
  - 2000
  - Afghanistan - intended for minor campaigns for which a separate medal is not awarded

- **Operation Service Medal Sierra Leone**
  - 2000
  - Sierra Leone - intended for minor campaigns for which a separate medal is not awarded

- **Pacific Star**
  - 1941 - 1945
  - for operations in the Pacific theatre of war
Campaign Medals

- **Queen’s South Africa Medal**
  - 1899 - 1902
  - 2nd Boer War, South Africa (Queen Victoria)

- **Queen’s Sudan Medal**
  - 1896 - 1897
  - for operations against the Sudanese

- **South Africa Medal**
  - 1877 - 1879
  - for operations against the Galeka, Gaika and Zulu tribes

- **South Atlantic Medal**
  - 1982
  - awarded for operations to liberate South Georgia & the Falkland Islands
Campaign Medals

Victory Medal
Awarded for the successful conclusion of WW I.

Victory Medal
With Mentioned in Dispatches
1914 – 1919

Vietnam Medal
Awarded to Australian and New Zealand forces who served in Vietnam.

War Medal
1939 - 1945
Awarded to all full-time personnel of the armed forces.
British Honours

A pictorial selection

KG

The Most Noble
Order of the Garter

1327 onwards

The honour system is very extensive within the British Empire. Full details can be found at the end of this Chapter.
British Honours

A pictorial selection

**KT**
The Most Ancient and Most Noble Order of the Thistle
1687 - onwards

**KP**
The Most Illustrious Order of St. Patrick
1783

**GB, KCB, CB**
The Most Honourable Order of the Bath
1725

**OM**
Order of Merit
1902
British Honours

A pictorial selection

GCSI, KCSI, CSI
The Most Exalted Order of the Star of India
1861

GCMG, KCMG, CMG
The Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael & St. George
1818

GCIE, KCIE, CIE
The Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire
1878

GCVO
The Royal Victorian Order
1896
British Honours

A pictorial selection
Awarded by
The British Monarch

Victoria Cross VC
George Cross GC
Knight (or Lady) of the Most Noble Order of the Garter KG/LG
Knight (or Lady) of the Most Ancient and Most Noble Order of the Thistle KT/LT
Knight of the Most Illustrious Order of St. Patrick KP
Knight Grand Cross in The Most Honourable Order of the Bath GCB
Order of Merit OM
Baronet’s Badge Bt
Knight Grand Commander of The Most Exalted Order of the Star of India GCSI
Knight Grand Cross of The Most Distinguished Order of St Michael and St George GCMB
Knight Grand Commander of The Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire GCB
The Order of the Crown of India CI
Knight Grand Cross of The Royal Victorian Order GCVO
Knight (or Dame) Grand Cross of The Most Excellent Order of the British Empire GBE
Order of the Companions of Honour CH
Knight (or Dame) Commander of The Most Honourable Order of the Bath KCB/DBB
Knight Commander of The Most Exalted Order of the Star of India (KCSI)
Knight (or Dame) Commander of The Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George KCMG/DCMG
Knight Commander of The Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire KCIE
Knight (or Dame) Commander of The Royal Victorian Order KCB/DBC
Knight Commander of The Most Excellent Order of the Bath KBE/DBE
Knight Bachelor’s Badge
Companion of The Most Honourable Order of the Bath CB
Companion of The Most Exalted Order of the Star of India CSI
Companion of The Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George CMG
Companion of The Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire CIE
Commander of The Royal Victorian Order CVO
Commander of The Most Excellent Order of the British Empire CBE
Companion of Distinguished Service Order DSO
Lieutenant of The Royal Victorian Order LVO
Officer of The Most Excellent Order of the British Empire OBE
Imperial Service Order ISO
Member of The Royal Victorian Order MVO
Member of The Most Excellent Order of the British Empire MBE
Indian Order of Merit (Military) IOM
Conspicuous Gallantry Cross CGC
Royal Red Cross (Member or First Class) RRC
Distinguished Service Cross DSC
Military Cross MC
Distinguished Flying Cross DFC
Air Force Cross AFC
Royal Red Cross (Associate or Second Class) ARRC
Order of British India OBI
Kaisar-I-Hind Medal
Order of St. John
Union of South Africa Queen’s Medal for Bravery (Gold)
Distinguished Conduct Medal DCM
Conspicuous Gallantry Medal CGM
George Medal GM
Queen’s Police Medal for Gallantry QPM
Queen’s Fire Service Medal for Gallantry QFSM
Royal West African Frontier Force Distinguished Conduct Medal DCM
King’s African Rifles Distinguished Conduct Medal DCM
Indian Distinguished Service Medal ISDM
Union of South Africa Queen’s Medal for Bravery (Silver)
Distinguished Service Medal DSM
Military Medal MM
Distinguished Flying Cross DFC
Air Force Medal AFM
Royal Ulster Constabulary Medal
Medal for Saving Life at Sea SGM - The Sea Gallantry Medal (Officially The Board of Trade Medal for Gallantry in Saving Life at Sea)
Indian Order of Merit (Civil) IOM
Indian Police Medal for Gallantry
Seychelle Police Medal for Gallantry
Colonial Police Medal for Gallantry
Queen’s Gallantry Medal QGM
Meritorious Service Medal MSM
Royal Victorian Medal RVM
British Empire Medal BEM
Canada Medal CM, or M du C
Queen’s Police Medal for Distinguished Service QPM
Queen’s Fire Service Medal for Distinguished Service QFSM
Queen’s Medal for Chiefs
British Campaign Medals
Polar Medals
Imperial Service Medal ISM
Mentioned in Despatches MID
Police medals for valuable service
Jubilee, Coronation and Durbar medals
Efficiency and long service medals
Territorial Decoration (TD)
Efficiency Medal
Volunteer and Reserve Service Medal (VRSM)
Commonwealth orders, decorations, and medals
Non-Commonwealth orders, decorations, and medals
**Awarded by**

**The Canadian Monarch**

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<td>Officer of the Order of Military Merit OMM</td>
<td>Meritorious Service Cross MSC</td>
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<td>Lieutenant of the Royal Victorian Order LVO</td>
<td>Medal of Bravery MB</td>
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<td>Member of the Order of Military Merit MMM</td>
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<td>Member of the Order of Merit of the Police Forces MOM</td>
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<td>Long Service and Good Conduct Medal RCMP</td>
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<td>Saskatchewan Order of Merit SOM</td>
<td>Canadian Forces Decoration CD</td>
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<td>Order of Ontario OOnt</td>
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<td>Order of British Columbia OBC</td>
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Awarded by
The Australian Monarch

Victoria Cross for Australia VC
George Cross GC
Cross of Valour CV
Knight/Lady of the Garter KG/LG
Knight/Lady of the Thistle KT/LT
Knight/Dame Grand Cross of the Order of the Bath GCB
Order of Merit OM
Knight/Dame of the Order of Australia AK/AD
Knight/Dame Grand Cross of the Order of St Michael and St George GCVO
Knight/Dame Grand Cross of the Royal Victorian Order GCVO
Knight/Dame Grand Cross of the Order of the British Empire GBE
Companion of the Order of Australia AC
Companion of Honour CH
Knight/Dame Commander of the Order of the Bath KCB/DCB
Knight/Dame Commander of the Order of St Michael and St George KCMG/DCMG
Knight/Dame Commander of the Royal Victorian Order KCVO/DCVO
Knight/Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire KBE/DBE
Knight Bachelor (NB: Confers title of "Sir"—no post-nominals)
Officer of the Order of Australia AO
Companion of the Order of the Bath CB
Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George CMG
Commander of the Royal Victorian Order CVO
Commander of the Order of the British Empire CBE
Star of Gallantry SG

Star of Courage SC
Companion of the Distinguished Service Order DSO
Distinguished Service Cross DSC
Member of the Order of Australia AM
Lieutenant of the Royal Victorian Order LVO
Officer of the Order of the British Empire OBE
Companion of the Imperial Service Order ISO
Member of the Royal Victorian Order MVO
Member of the Order of the British Empire MBE
Conspicuous Service Cross CSC
Nursing Service Cross NSC
Royal Red Cross (Member or 1st Class) RRC
Distinguished Service Cross DSC
Military Cross MC
Distinguished Flying Cross DFC
Air Force Cross AFC
Royal Red Cross (Associate or 2nd Class) ARRC
Medal for Gallantry MG
Bravery Medal BM
Distinguished Service Medal DSM
Public Service Medal PSM
Australian Police Medal APM
Australian Fire Service Medal AFSM
Ambulance Service Medal ASM
Emergency Services Medal ESM
Medal of the Order of Australia OAM
Order of St John
Distinguished Conduct Medal DCM
Conspicuous Gallantry Medal CGM
George Medal GM
Conspicuous Service Medal CSM
Australian Antarctic Medal AAM
Queen's Police Medal for Gallantry QPM
Queen's Fire Service Medal for Gallantry QFSM

Distinguished Service Medal DSM
Military Medal MM
Distinguished Flying Medal DFM
Air Force Medal AFM
Queen's Gallantry Medal QGM
Royal Victorian Medal RVM
British Empire Medal BEM
Queen's Police Medal for Distinguished Service QPM
Queen's Fire Service Medal for Distinguished Service QFSM
Commendation For Gallantry
Commendation For Brave Conduct
Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct
Commendation For Distinguished Service
War medals, campaign medals, active service medals and service medals
Police Overseas Service Medal
Humanitarian Overseas Service Medal
Civilian Service Medal 1939–1945
Polar Medal
Imperial Service Medal
Coronation, Jubilee, Remembrance and Commemorative medals
Defence Force Service Medal
Reserve Force Decoration RFD
Reserve Force Medal
Defence Long Service Medal
National Medal
Australian Defence Medal
Australian Cadet Forces Service Medal
Champion Shots Medal
Long Service Medals
Anniversary of National Service 1951–1972 Medal
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<td>Knight or Lady of the Order of the Garter KG/LG</td>
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<td>Knight or Dame Grand Cross of the Order of the Bath GCB</td>
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<td>Member of the Order of New Zealand ONZ</td>
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<td>Baronet's Badge (Bt. or Bart.)</td>
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<td>Principal Companion &amp; Knight or Dame Grand Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit PCNZM &amp; GNZM</td>
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<td>Knight or Dame Grand Cross of the Order of St Michael and St George GCMG</td>
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