

**These are an extract from the regulations relating to all campaign stars and medals for World War Two.**

## **The Atlantic Star**

### **20. General**

The Atlantic Star is intended to commemorate the Battle of the Atlantic during the period 3rd September, 1939, to 8th May, 1945, and is designed primarily for convoys and their escorts and anti-submarine forces, as well as for fast merchant ships that sailed alone.

#### Sea-going Service

- i. The qualification for army personnel posted for duty in sea-going vessels (para.7) is 12 months' (360 days') operational service, any six months of which were in the areas defined in para. 21. The Atlantic Star may not be awarded unless the 1939-45 Star has been qualified for by 180 days' operational service on land or afloat in addition to the 180 days' afloat required for the Atlantic Star, except for special awards under para. 10.
- ii. Those who were awarded the 1939-45 Star for less than six months' service in the land operations listed at para. 15, or for a special award under para. 10 (other than in the Atlantic Star areas), must complete the remaining portion of six months in order to aggregate a total of 360 days.
- iii. Last six months:- Personnel (as defined in para 7) who entered operational service in the qualifying area between 10th November, 1944, and 8th May, 1945, and did not subsequently serve in any other area of active operations may (subject to the rule as to casual entry at para. 7 (ii) (b)), qualify for the Atlantic Star by "entry into the area" and the six months' time qualification is waived. In such cases, except for a special award under para. 10(i), the 1939-45 Star may not be awarded for service of less than six months.
- iv.

### **21. Qualifying Areas**

- i. The qualifying areas for the Atlantic Star are:-
  - a. The Atlantic and Home waters (excluding any time served in the Mediterranean).
  - b. The south Atlantic between longitude of Cape Horn (South America) and longitude 20° East (South Africa).
  - c. The convey routes to ports in North Russia.
- ii. Service which, in the opinion of the Admiralty was not service in the Battle of the Atlantic, will not be a qualification, e.g.:-
  - a. Service in sea-going boom defence and in examination vessels employed solely for the defence of a port (such service is recognised by the 1939-45 Star).
  - b. Service in vessels which are employed in, or in the vicinity of estuarial waters, or in particular localities, such as pilot cutters light vessels, tugs engaged in port work and barges working in and around the mouth of the Thames.
  - c. Service in Force H, after 9th November, 1942.
  - d. Service afloat on or after 6th June, 1944, South of a line from the Firth of Fourth to Kristiansand (South), in the English Channel or in the Bay of Biscay, East of longitude 6° West (since it qualifies for the alternative award of the France and Germany Star or Clasp).

### **22. Airborne Service**

- i. The qualification for army personnel who were posted for aircrew duties (para. 6) is four months' (120 days') service in an air operational unit, 60 days of which was service in an air operational unit engaged in operations against the enemy over the areas defined in para. 21 (i) above. At least one qualifying sortie must have been made

during the period of the 60 days. The Atlantic Star may not be awarded unless the 1939-45 Star has been qualified for by either (a) 60 days' service in an air operational unit in addition to the 60 days required for the Atlantic Star, or (b) 180 days' operational service elsewhere in addition to the 60 days' air operational service required for the Atlantic Star.

- ii. Where (notwithstanding the grant of the special award under paras. 10 and 15) operational service of over four months (but under 180 days) has been rendered elsewhere, before joining an air operational unit, service in the air operational unit may be added to this former service in order to qualify for the 1939-45 Star under the 180 days' rule, and service may then be aggregated to qualify for the Atlantic Star. Note.—Although air service may be added to army service to qualify for the 1939-45 Star under the 180 days' rule, army service may not be added to air service to qualify for this award under the 60 days, rule.
- iii. Last two months. - Air Crew unable to complete the 60 days required for the Atlantic Star under para. 22 (i) above, who entered operational service at any time between the 9th March, 1945 and 18 May, 1945, inclusive, and did not subsequently serve in any other operational area, will qualify for the Atlantic Star if they flew in operations against the enemy and the two months' time qualification will be waived. In such cases, except for a special award under para. 10, the 1939-45 Star may not be awarded for service of less than two months.

Note.—The rules for counting time spent as a prisoner of war, or evading capture, or after escape or liberation, and the conditions for the special award of this star are stated in Section I.

### **23. Clasps (Alternative Awards)**

- i. Personnel qualifying for the Atlantic Star, the Air Crew Europe Star or the France and Germany Star, or two for these stars will be awarded only the campaign star for which they first qualified. They will, however, be awarded a clasp to show that they rendered qualifying service for a second star. A further clasp will not be awarded to those who rendered service which would have qualified for the third star.
- ii. A silver rose emblem denoting the clasp will be worn on the ribbon of the campaign star awarded, when the star itself is not worn.
- iii. Personnel who made air sorties against targets on land and at sea from the same unit, do not thereby qualify for both the Atlantic Star and the Air Crew Europe Star. In such cases, the star appropriate to the normal function of the unit of the material time will be awarded without a clasp, except where the latter has been earned by other service. Cases of difficulty in applying this rule will be referred to the War Office (A.G. 4 (Medals)), for decision before an award is made.