

COMMITTEE ON THE GRANT OF HONOURS DECORATIONS AND MEDALS
INSTITUTION OF

THE KOREA MEDAL

FOR
SERVICE IN THE KOREA OPERATIONS
SINCE 2ND JULY, 1950

Presented by the Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury to Parliament By Command of
His Majesty July 1951

THE KOREA MEDAL

SERVICE IN THE KOREA OPERATIONS SINCE 2ND JULY, 1950

1.
 - i. The Committee on the grant of Honours, Decorations and Medals have had under consideration the need for the general recognition of service by British Commonwealth Forces on behalf of the United Nations in repelling aggression in Korea, since 2nd July, 1950, with special regard to the exacting nature of the conditions in which duty there is being carried out.
 - ii. Their recommendations have been duly submitted to The King, who has been advised by the Prime Minister on matters likely to give rise to difference of opinion. His Majesty has now graciously approved the recommendations set out below.
2. Approval has been given for the institution of a Korea Medal for specified service in the Korea operations since 2nd July, 1950, inclusive, as described below. While present conditions last service will continue to be a qualification up to a future date to be fixed in due course.
3. The Medal will bear on the obverse the Crowned Effigy of His Majesty, and will be in cupro-nickel. The design of the reverse is under consideration. The ribbon is in blue and yellow, the blue representing that of the United Nations flag.

Navy

4.
 - i. Naval Service Afloat. The qualifying service will be twenty-eight days, since 2nd July, 1950, inclusive, in ships or craft engaged in operations off the Korea coast.
 - ii. Naval Service Ashore. The qualifying period will be service of one day or more on duty ashore in Korea, since 2nd July, 1950, inclusive.

Army

5. The qualification in Army forces will be service of one day or more on the posted strength of a unit or formation in Korea, since 2nd July, 1950, inclusive.

Air Force

6.
 - i. The qualification in Air Forces will be service, since 2nd July, 1950, inclusive, as follows:
 - a. one operational sortie over Korea or Korean waters, or

- b. service of one day or more on land in Korea, or
- c. service of twenty-eight days afloat in Korean waters.
- ii. The term “Korean waters” in this context means those areas of the Yellow Sea and the Sea of Japan over which it has been necessary to operate in support of operations in Korea.

General

7.

- i. Short Service
 - a. The grant to persons described in paragraphs 4(i) and 6(i)(c) above, for gallantry on a specific occasion during the uncompleted qualifying period not amounting to twenty-eight days of a British Honour, Decoration or Medal of the status of the British Empire Medal or above, or a Mention in Despatches or a King’s Commendation, will qualify the recipient for the Korea Medal.
 - b. If qualifying service described in paragraphs 4(i) and 6(i)(c) above, is brought to an end before the completion of twenty-eight days, on account of death or evacuation owing to wounds or other disability due to service, the reduced period of service will be a qualification for the award.
- ii. Visits, Inspections. - For official visits, inspections, &c., on duty by members of Commonwealth Navies or Army or Air Forces in Korea, or in ships or craft engaged in operations off the Korean coast, the time qualification will be thirty days, either continuous or aggregated.
- iii. Service in Japan. - Service on land in Japan, or on the way to Japan from anywhere outside Korea or Korean waters, will not be qualifying operational service for the award of the Korea Medal.

Awards

8. Awards will be approved forthwith for those who have already qualified. For those who enter operational service in the future the award will be approved when they have qualified. The ribbon will be issued as soon as possible. The design of the Medal itself will require further consideration. It will be issued later.

Mentions in Despatches

9. When a Mention in Despatches has been granted for service in the Korea operations the single bronze oak leaf Emblem will be worn on the ribbon of the Korea Medal.

Civilian Categories

10. Members of certain civilian categories named below, who have served with British Commonwealth Forces in the Korea operations, will be eligible for the Korea Medal should their respective Governments so desire.
- i. Under the same rules as for Naval forces. Members of the British Red Cross Society and Order of St. John Voluntary Aid Detachment in a United Kingdom Hospital Ship, who wore the approved uniform.
 - ii. Under the same rules as for Army forces. Members of the following organisations who wore the approved uniform:-
 - a. Cable and Wireless Detachments,
 - b. British Red Cross Society and Order of St. John,
 - c. Salvation Army,
 - d. Y.M.C.A.

Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the Union of South Africa

11. The Governments of Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the Union of South Africa have already been informed of the arrangements, so that the Forces of those countries may participate should their respective Governments so desire.