



The Vietnam Medal

Elizabeth R

Royal Warrant

ELIZABETH THE SECOND, by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom, New Zealand and Her other Realms and Territories Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith, To all to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting;

WHEREAS We have given consideration to the need for recognition of the service of members of the New Zealand Armed Forces and by duly accredited members of approved philanthropic organisations serving with these forces in assisting the forces of the Republic of Vietnam to repel aggression;

AND WHEREAS We are desirous of recognising this service to Our Realm of New Zealand; We do by these presents for Us, Our Heirs and Successors institute and create a new Medal.

1. The Medal shall be designated and styled "The Vietnam Medal".
2. The Medal shall be of silver and circular in shape bearing on the obverse Our Royal Effigy Crowned, and, on the reverse, the word "Vietnam" inscribed above a symbol representation of the ideological war in Vietnam, depicting the figure of man in the centre of the Medal, standing between spherical shapes.
3. The Medal shall be worn on the left breast suspended by a yellow ribbon one and one quarter inches in width bordered on the left with a dark blue strip, representing the Navy and on the right a light blue strip, representing the Air Force, both being one quarter of an inch wide and edged on the inner side with strips of red, representing the Army, each one eighth of an inch wide. Within a space of one sixth of an inch in the centre of the ribbon, three vertical stripes in red of a lighter hue, each of equal width are super-imposed on the yellow, the distance between each stripe being equal to the width of the stripe.
4. The Medal shall be awarded to those members of Our New Zealand Armed Forces who, on or after 29 May 1964, have rendered service in operations in Vietnam in accordance with the conditions specified hereinafter.
5. Accredited members of approved New Zealand philanthropic organisations attached to the Forces in Vietnam in an official capacity for full-time duty in uniform shall also be eligible for the Medal.

6. Eligibility shall not be affected by the grant of any other award for service in Vietnam.
7. The conditions of award of the Medal shall be common to members of the three Services and shall be:
 - i. Service of twenty-eight days, continuous or aggregated, in ships or craft employed in operations on inland waters or off the coast of Vietnam;
 - ii. Service of one day or more on the posted strength of a unit or formation on land in Vietnam;
 - iii. One operational sortie over Vietnam or Vietnamese waters by aircrew on the posted strength of a unit allocated for direct support of operations in Vietnam; or
 - iv. Service of thirty days, continuous or aggregated, for official visits, inspections or other occurrences of a temporary nature on duty in Vietnam, or in ships or craft engaged in operations off the Vietnamese coast.
8. The qualifying period of service as described in subparagraphs 7(i) and 7(iv) will be waived where a member's service is brought to an end because of death or evacuation owing to wounds or other disability due to service, or the member is awarded a British Honour, Decoration or a Medal of the status of the British Empire Medal or above, a Mention-in-Despatches or a Queen's Commendation for gallantry on a specific occasion during the uncompleted qualifying period.
9. Accredited members of philanthropic organisations, as defined in paragraph 5, qualify for the award if they have service of one day or more with forces engaged in the operations in Vietnam from 29 May 1964.
10. When a Mention-in-Despatches or a Queen's Commendation has been granted for service in operations in Vietnam, the appropriate Emblem will be worn on the ribbon of the Vietnam Medal.
11. The respective Service Boards are granted the authority to approve awards of the Medal to those who have already qualified, and to those who render service in the future when they have qualified.
12. It shall be competent for Our Governor-General in and over Our Realm of New Zealand to cancel and annul the award of the Medal to any member of Our Armed Forces or to any member of an accredited organisation attached to these Forces.

Given at Our Court of St. James's this eight day of June one thousand nine hundred and sixty-eight, in the seventeenth year of Our Reign.

By Her Majesty's Command,

D.S. Thomson,
Minister of Defence.