

# **The Institution of New Campaign Medals in New Zealand and the United Kingdom- Part 1**

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## **Introduction**

The nature of campaign medals awarded to members of the New Zealand Defence Force has departed from the model formerly followed. Historically, members of the armed forces of the Crown in New Zealand had received medals instituted by the appropriate authorities in the United Kingdom. To a large degree this was because New Zealand rarely if ever embarked on military deployments apart from in consort with the United Kingdom. It also reflected the former view of the Crown as an emblem of imperial unity.

In relatively recent years, with the introduction of New Zealand-based campaign medals, has come the practice of awarding medals, often retrospectively, for operations which fall short of campaigns. This appears to be in pursuance of a deliberate policy of providing medals for each and every occasion when New Zealand servicemen are deployed operationally overseas, whether for a campaign or not.

Two factors appear to have influenced this departure from precedent, and the commensurate enlargement of the range of campaign medals available. Firstly, a great range of United Nations and other international medals are now awarded to New Zealanders and other nationals serving on United Nations missions. Secondly, since until recently few medals or bars have been awarded to New Zealanders (because there were few overseas deployments to war zones). With the recent creation of the New Zealand General Service Medal, the reason for the paucity of bars was apparently forgotten, or perhaps deliberately departed from.

British campaign medals had historically been awarded only to those who had actually been present in a theatre of war. This has not always been the practice in foreign traditions, and particularly in United Nations practice. The newly instituted New Zealand medals have followed United Nations traditions in this respect, and are therefore really service medals rather than campaign medals.

It is worthwhile to look at the procedures which lead to the institution of a new campaign medal or bar in the United Kingdom, and the range of medals and bars which have actually been instituted since 1945. We can then examine the New Zealand situation, and ask whether the range of medals and bars created since 1992 are commensurate with the scale of operations undertaken.

## **The procedures**

The procedures which lead to the institution of a British award have been followed for many years, with only minor changes. In the case of campaign service or an emergency situation, the process starts if the Commander-in-Chief considers that a medal for service in that theatre, or under particularly rigorous circumstances, justifies a medal. His recommendation is passed to

senior military officers who, if they are in agreement, submit the case for a medal to the Chief of Defence Staff.

If the Chief of Defence Staff approves the proposal, the Defence Services Secretary submits the case to the Honours and Decorations (HD) Committee, through the Ceremonial Officer of the Cabinet Office. The HD Committee, consisting of senior officers from several Ministers in London, consider the case and, if it agrees it has merit, submits it to Her Majesty The Queen for approval.

### **The HD Committee**

The HD Committee, rarely referred to by its full title, the Honours Decorations and Medals Committee, evolved from a pre-war organisation, the Committee on the grant of Honours, Decorations and Medals in Time of War. The committee is chaired by the Head of the Civil Service, the Permanent Under Secretary of the Cabinet Office, and the other senior officers. They are the Private Secretary to The Queen, the Principal Private Secretary to the Prime Minister, the Permanent Under Secretary to the Ministry of Defence, the Defence Services Secretary, the Permanent Under Secretary of the Home Office, the Secretary of the Central Chancery of the Orders of Knighthood, and the Ceremonial Officer of the Cabinet Office (the Secretary).

The HD Committee never actually meets, all work being carried out by post, though there is no reason why it should not do so if it deemed necessary. There is no direct ministerial involvement with the Committee, as it reports directly to Her Majesty The Queen. However, Principal Private Secretary to the Prime Minister is responsible for reporting to the Prime Minister matters discussed by the Committee. Similarly, the Private Secretary to The Queen represents the Royal Household and in this way Her Majesty The Queen can be advised of progress throughout all stages of the Committee's deliberation over medal proposals. In view of this, submissions to Her Majesty The Queen are rarely, if ever, rejected. Her Majesty The Queen maintains a keen interest in the work of the Committee.

### **Qualifying Periods**

Qualifying periods for each award or medal are determined by consideration of the rigours of the campaign. This is not standardised. In some circumstances, the qualifying period agreed has been as short as one day's service, whereas other medals or clasps require 90 days' continuous service. The case for each medal is considered on its own merits.

### **Retrospective Awards**

Since the end of World War II, the HD Committee has maintained a policy that it will not consider the belated institution of awards and medals for service given many years earlier. The reason for this policy is that the present HD Committee cannot put itself in the place of the Committee which made the original decision and which would have been able to take account of the views of the Government and of other interested parties at the time of the decision. The HD Committee has made it clear on a number of occasions in response to requests for the institution of belated awards that it will not reconsider this policy.

Quite apart from this, in practical terms, the more distant the event to be re-considered, the more difficult would be the task of verifying individual eligibility. Similarly, if an exception were to be made for one case, then it would be almost impossible to refuse to re-consider every other claim for retrospective institution of an award or medal.

### **Wearing of foreign awards**

Decisions on the acceptance and wearing by British servicemen of awards, instituted by overseas nations, are always a matter for Her Majesty The Queen, who, in turn, relies on the advice and guidance of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

The ruling applied by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office is that when that award is offered more than five years after the period of service which it recognises, or if Her Majesty The Queen has awarded a British medal for the same campaign or particular period of service, the award offered by another nation may be accepted, but may not be worn. This reflects Her Majesty The Queen's view that British servicemen should only wear awards granted to them by their Queen.

This practice has been followed since World War Two, when it was agreed between the Allied nations that there should be no interchange of awards instituted by each country for service in the Second World War. Following this, a Special Committee was set up which examined the plethora of awards offered to British armed forces and ruled out the wearing of foreign campaign awards where individuals receiving those awards were entitled to the relevant British decoration or medal.

Exceptions are made for medals awarded by the United Nations for a particular campaign or operation in which British servicemen have participated, or for medals awarded by overseas nations when no British medal has been instituted for the same period of service.

As normally there is no British award for the same period of service as the United Nations medals, these may be accepted and worn by British servicemen. These awards are worn in chronological order and therefore can take precedence over British campaign and General Service Medals.

British subjects may accept a decoration or award from overseas countries in recognition of acts of gallantry, or for particularly good or outstanding service given by an individual to a foreign head of State. In these cases, any head of State intending to award a honour to a British subject must apply to Her Majesty The Queen, through diplomatic channels, for approval to present the award.

Although it is normal practice for agreement to be given to accept awards offered by a foreign head of State for good or outstanding service, Her Majesty The Queen may rule that the awards may only be worn on particular occasions, for example, in the presence of the head of State giving the award, or when the recipient is visiting the nation or country from which he has received the award. This practice is known as "Restricted" wearing of an award.

However, gallantry awards offered by foreign heads of State may normally be worn by the recipient at all times. This is known as "Unrestricted" wearing of an award.

In summary, Her Majesty The Queen's permission must be sought and granted to both receive and wear each and every new medal, whether it be a British medal, or one instituted by the United Nations, a foreign Government, or, as happened recently, NATO. It is Her Majesty The Queen's prerogative rather than "legal authority" which dictates whether a medal or award may, or may not, be worn.

### **British campaign medals since 1945**

The actual operation of the system of campaign medals awarded for British forces may be seen in an examination of medals awarded since 1945. The campaign medals, and bars to general service medals which have been awarded since 1945 are numerous. They reflect the multitude of operations of different nature which the British, and New Zealand armed forces have been engaged in. The medals, and the respective bars or clasps, are as follows:

The Africa General Service Medal (1902) "Kenya" (1952-56).

The Naval General Service Medal (1915) "South East Asia 1945-48"; "Minesweeping 1945-51"; "Palestine 1945-48"; "Yangtse 1949"; "Bomb and Mine Clearance 1945-53"; "Bomb and Mine Clearance 1945-56"; "Malaya"; "Bomb and Mine Clearance Mediterranean" [1953-60]; "Cyprus" [1955-59]; "Near East" [1956]; "Arabian Peninsula"; "Brunei" [1962].

General Service Medal (1923) "Palestine"; "South East Asia 1945-46"; "Bomb and Mine Clearance 1945-49"; "Bomb and Mine Clearance 1945-56"; "Palestine 1945-48"; "Malaya" [1948-60]; "Cyprus" [1955-59]; "Near East" [1956]; "Arabian Peninsula" [1957-60]; "Brunei" [1962].

Korea Medal [1950-53]

Campaign Service Medal (1964, to replace the Naval General Service Medal 1915 and the General Service Medal 1918). "Borneo" [1962-66]; "Radfan" [1964]; "South Arabia" [1967]; "Malay Peninsula" [1964-66]; "South Vietnam" [1962-64]; "Northern Ireland" [1969-]; "Dhofar" [1969-76]; "Lebanon" [1983-84]; "Mine Clearance- Gulf of Suez" [1984]; "Gulf" [1986-89]; "Kuwait" [1991]; "Northern Iraq and Southern Turkey" [1991].

Rhodesia Medal [1979-80]

South Atlantic Medal 1982

Gulf Medal 1990-91

Accumulated Campaign Service Medal 1994

The Accumulated Campaign Service Medal 1994 was created to recognise 36 or more months of aggregate service since 1969 in those theatres where the Campaign Service Medal is awarded.

As an example of the criteria for the award of a campaign medal or bar, that of the Northern Ireland bar of the Campaign Service Medal 1962 is 30 days service, not necessarily continuous, while on posted or attached strength of any regular naval, military or air force unit or formation in that area, excluding recruits, and junior soldiers under training. Additionally,

30 days service in Ulster Defence Regiment or Reserves on call out or emergency service afloat in the Royal Navy or army vessels on duty in waters adjacent (which may include service on land) qualifies for recognition. Shorter service is allowed if this is due to death or evacuation owing to wounds or other disability due to service. The award of the BEM or above for gallantry, or the Queen's Commendation, or Mention in Despatches, also qualifies. Specially hazardous operations is also considered.

### **United Nations Organisation Medals**

The British campaign medals and bars must be contrasted with the range of United Nations medals awarded. The following is a list of the various service medals introduced by the United Nations Organisation. Not all were conferred upon British, or New Zealand, servicemen.

Service Medal for Indo-China [from 1954; for the International Commission for Supervision and Control]

Service Medal for Vietnam [from 1973; for the International Commission for Supervision and Control]

United Nations Service Medal for Korea [1950-54, including the United Kingdom and New Zealand]

United Nations Emergency Force Medal, Egypt and Israel (UNEF I) [1956-67]

United Nations Truce Supervision Organisation in Palestine and Observer Group in Lebanon (UNTSO) [from 1948; including New Zealand] and the same medal to members of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNOGIL) [1958], and the United Nations Operations in the Congo (ONUC) [1960-64]

United Nations Military Observation Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) [from 1949; including New Zealand] and the same medal to members of the United Nations India-Pakistan Observer Mission (UNIPOM) [1965-66]

United Nations Temporary Executive Authority in West New Guinea (UNITEA) [1962-63]

United Nations Yemen Observer Mission (UNYOM) [1963-64; including New Zealand]

United Nations Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) [from 1964; including the United Kingdom, New Zealand]

United Nations Emergency Force Middle East (UNEF II) [1973-79]

United Nations Disengagement Observation Force Golan Heights (UNDOF) [from 1974]

United Nations Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP) [1988-90, assigned to UNTSO, UNDOF or UNIFIL as parent missions] and the same medals to members of the Office of the Secretary-General in Afghanistan and Pakistan (OSGAP) [from 1990]

United Nations Military Observer Force in Iran and Iraq (UNIIMOG) [1988-91; including New Zealand]

United Nations Angola Verification and Monitoring Mission (UNAVEM) [1989-91]

United Nations Angola Verification and Monitoring Mission (UNAVEM II) [1991-95; including New Zealand] and the same medal to members of the United Nations Angola Verification and Monitoring Mission (UNAVEM III) [from 1995; including New Zealand]

United Nations Transition Assistance Group Namibia (UNTAG) [1989-90; including the United Kingdom, and New Zealand]

United Nations Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA) [1989-92]

United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM) [from 1991; including the United Kingdom]

United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL) [from 1991]

United Nations Mission for Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) [from 1991; including the United Kingdom]

United Nations Assistance Group in Cambodia (UNAMIC) [1991-93; including the United Kingdom, New Zealand]

United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) [1992-93; including the United Kingdom, New Zealand] and the same medal to members of the United Nations Military Liaison Team Cambodia (UNMLT)

United Nations Operations in Somalia (UNOSOM) [1992-93] and the same medal to members of the United Nations Operations in Somalia (UNOSOM II) [1993-95; including New Zealand]

United Nations Operations in Mozambique (ONUMOZ) [from 1992; including New Zealand]

Observer Mission in Uganda-Rwanda (UNOMUR) [from 1993]

Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) [from 1993; including the United Kingdom]

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL) [from 1993]

United Nations Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR) [from 1993; including the United Kingdom]

United Nations Protection Force, Yugoslavia (UNPROFOR) [from 1992; including the United Kingdom, New Zealand] and the same medal to members of the United Nations Peace Force Headquarters [from 1995]

United Nations Headquarters (UNHQ)

United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH) [from 1993; including New Zealand]

United Nations Prevention Deployment Force Macedonia (UNPREDEP) [from 1995]

United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan (UNMOT) [from 1994]

United Nations Mission of Observers in Prevlaka (UNMOP)

United Nations Special Services Medal [from 1995]

Most of the these medals are for military observer missions, and some are for peacekeeping missions. Traditionally the UN was not involved in peace-enforcement missions, though this also has occurred. What is clear, however, is that generally speaking a medal will be available for any servicemen (and in some cases civilians also) deployed on UN duty. A medal is available for service in the United Nations Headquarters. And the last medal in the list is for military and civilian personnel serving at the UN in capacities other than peace-keeping missions or UN HQ.

Thus UN medals are not confined to campaigns and wars, however generously defined. They are in fact more akin to long service medals than campaign medals as traditionally understood in British usage.

As they are awarded by the UN, they have always been available to subjects of The Queen. In all instances approval must first be given by the Sovereign, though this does not have to be sought by individual servicemen, but rather is granted for the award of a particular medal.

### **Other international medals**

The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation stood for forty years like the Knights Templars and Hospitallers as a bulwark against the heathen hordes of the east. A large host was maintained in Germany and other parts of Europe to help preserve the independence of the west against the ever-real and present threat from the former Soviet Union and its minions in the Warsaw Pact. Yet is was only with the ending of the Cold War and the lifting of the Iron Curtain

that divided Europe between good and evil that the western alliance instituted any service or campaign medals.

NATO Medal was instituted by North Atlantic Council in December 1994, for military and civilian personnel active in operations, or in direct support of operations, relating to the former Yugoslavia. In May 1996 eligibility was extended to personnel from non-NATO member troop-contributing nations. Minimum 30 days in theatre of NATO operations, or 90 days in adjacent areas in direct support of operations. Approved by Her Majesty for unrestricted wear by members of the New Zealand Defence Force was given in August 1996. Forces involved have included *Deny Flight*, Airborne Early Warning aircraft, Standing Naval Force Mediterranean, and the Standing Naval Force Atlantic.

The European Community Monitoring Mission, Yugoslavia 1991, also had a medal.

The Multi-national Force and Observers Medal, for the force in the Sinai, dates from 1987. Its acceptance by servicemen in the employ of the Crown was never approved.

In the second part of this article the actual overseas deployments of the armed forces of the Crown are listed, and the range of awards conferred analysed for underlying principles. The New Zealand medals and bars are then compared and contrasted with the British. Conclusions, if any, are then drawn.