

Identification list
of
British & Commonwealth
Medal Ribbons

Compiled by
Richard Harvey
DWR Archives

The Central Chancery of the Orders of Knighthood has, at irregular intervals, notified for general information the positioning of the wearing of Orders, decorations, and medals of the United Kingdom in the *London Gazette*. The **Order of Wear** was last published in 2019, to take into account newer medals and awards.

Order of Wearing

Order of wearing decorations and awards within the United Kingdoms Honours System.

The honours are split into the following several categories, in their order of precedence:

- Victoria Cross.
- George Cross.
- British Orders of Knighthood.
- Decorations, Medals for Gallantry and Distinguished Conduct.
- Badge of Honour.
- Campaign Medals and Stars.
- Polar Medals.
- Imperial Service Medal.
- Police Medals for Valuable Service.
- Jubilee, Coronation and Durbar Medals.
- Efficiency and Long Service Decorations and Medals.
- Commonwealth Realms' Orders, Decorations and Medals.
- Other Commonwealth Members' Orders, Decorations and Medals.
- Foreign Orders, Decorations and Medals.

NB: Several medals from the 1800's use the same ribbon from the Waterloo Medal.

Ribbons for various 'Orders,' such as The Order of the Bath, The Royal Victorian Order, Order of the British Empire, use the same ribbon, with the actual medal showing the Rank within the order – Knight/Lady/ Dame, Grand Commander, Commander, Officer, Companion, Member.

The oldest Order of Medal is the **Most Noble Order of the Garter**, first awarded in May 1348. Instituted by King Edward III. Followed by:-

- **Most Ancient and Most Noble Order of the Thistle** – May 1687, King James VII.
- **Most Honourable Order of the Bath** – June 1725, King George I.
- **Order of Merit** – - June 1902, King Edward VII.
- **Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George** – April 1818, George Prince of Wales.
- **Distinguished Service Order** – September 1816, Queen Victoria.
- **Royal Victorian order** – April 1896, Queen Victoria.
- **Imperial Service Order** – 1902, King Edward VII.
- **Most Excellent Order of the British Empire** – June 1917, King George V.
- **Order of the Companions of Honour** – June 1917, King George V.

Dormant Orders

- **Most Illustrious Order of Saint Patrick** – March 1783, King George III
- **Most Exalted Order of the Star of India** – June 1861, Queen Victoria
- **Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire** – January 1878, Queen Victoria
- **Imperial Order of the Crown of India** – January 1878, Queen Victoria
- **Order of Burma** – May 1940, King George VI

Orders



[Victoria Cross](#) VC



[George Cross](#) GC



[Knight/Lady Companion of the Order of the Garter](#) KG/LG



[Knight/Lady of the Order of the Thistle](#) KT/LT



[Knight of the Order of St Patrick](#) KP – Dormant since 1974



[Knight/Dame Grand Cross of the Order of the Bath](#) GCB



[Member of the Order of Merit](#) OM



[Baronet's Badge](#) Bt/Btss



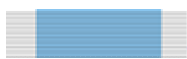
[Knight Grand Commander of the Order of the Star of India](#) GCSI – Inactive since 1947



[Knight/Dame Grand Cross of the Order of St Michael and St George](#) GCMG



[Knight Grand Commander of the Order of the Indian Empire](#) GCIE – Inactive since 1947



[Companion of the Order of the Crown of India](#) CI – Inactive since 1947



[Knight/Dame Grand Cross of the Royal Victorian Order](#) GCVO



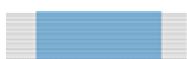
[Knight/Dame Grand Cross of the Order of the British Empire](#) GBE



[Member of the Order of the Companions of Honour](#) CH



[Knight/Dame Commander of the Order of the Bath](#) KCB/DCB



[Knight Commander of the Order of the Star of India](#) KCSI – Inactive since 1947



[Knight/Dame Commander of the Order of St Michael and St George](#) KCMG/DCMG



[Knight Commander of the Order of the Indian Empire](#) KCIE – Inactive since 1947



[Knight/Dame Commander of the Royal Victorian Order](#) KCVO/DCVO



[Knight/Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire](#) KBE/DBE



[Knights Bachelor](#)



[Companion of the Order of the Bath](#) CB



[Companion of the Order of the Star of India](#) CSI – Inactive since 1947



[Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George](#) CMG



[Companion of the Order of the Indian Empire](#) CIE – Inactive since 1947



[Commander of the Royal Victorian Order](#) CVO



[Commander of the Order of the British Empire](#) CBE



[Companion of the Distinguished Service Order](#) DSO



[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



[Member of the Indian Order of Merit](#) IOM – Inactive since 1947

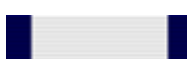
Decorations



[Conspicuous Gallantry Cross](#) (1993- Present) CGC



[Distinguished Conduct Medal](#) DCM



[Conspicuous Gallantry Medal](#) (1855-1993) CGM



[Conspicuous Gallantry Medal \(Flying\)](#) (1943-1993)CGM



[George Medal](#) GM



[Royal West African Field Force Distinguished Conduct Medal](#) Replaced with DCM in 1942



[King's Police Medal for Gallantry](#) KPM – 1909-1940 – replaced by QPM in 1954



[King's Fire Service Medal for Gallantry](#) KFSM– 2022 – Present (prior was QFSM)



[Member of the Royal Red Cross](#) RRC



[Distinguished Service Cross](#) DSC



[Military Cross](#) MC



[Distinguished Flying Cross](#) DFC



[Air Force Cross](#) AFC



[Associate of the Royal Red Cross](#) ARRC



[Member of the Order of British India](#) OBI – Inactive since 1947



[Kaisar-i-Hind Medal](#) – Inactive since 1947



[Order of Saint John](#)– 1988 to present



[Union of South Africa Queen's Medal for Bravery, Gold](#) – Inactive since 1961



[Kings African Rifles Distinguished Conduct Medal](#) – Replaced by DCM in 1941



[Indian Distinguished Service Medal](#) IDSM – Inactive since 1947



[Union of South Africa Queen's Medal for Bravery, Silver](#) – Inactive since 1961



[Distinguished Service Medal](#) DSM



[Military Medal](#) MM



[Distinguished Flying Medal](#) DFM



[Air Force Medal](#) AFM



[Constabulary Medal](#)



[Sea Gallantry Medal](#) SGM



[Member of the Indian Order of Merit](#) (Civil) IOM – Inactive since 1947



[Indian Police Medal for Gallantry](#) – Inactive since 1951



[Ceylon Police Medal for Gallantry](#) – Inactive since 1972



[Sierra Leone Police Medal for Gallantry](#) – Inactive since 1971



[Sierra Leone Fire Brigades Medal for Gallantry](#) – Inactive since 1971



[Colonial Police Medal for Gallantry](#) – 1938-2012, replaced by OTPMG



[Overseas Territories Police Medal for Gallantry](#)



[King's Gallantry Medal](#) KGM



[Royal Victorian Medal](#) RVM



[British Empire Medal](#) BEM



[King's Police Medal for Distinguished Service](#) KPM – replaced QPM



[King's Fire Service Medal for Distinguished Service](#) – 1954 - 2022



[King's Ambulance Service Medal](#) KAM – replaced QAM



[King's Volunteer Reserves Medal](#) KVRM – replaced QVRM



[Queen's Medal for Chiefs](#) – Obsolete since late 1950's

Badge of Honour



[Badge of Honour](#) A British Overseas territories Award. Two types exist, one for Africa and non African. Some South East Asian Ribbons use Red White and Blue.

Campaign Medals

18th century



[Naval Gold Medal](#) (1794)

19th century



[Army Gold Medal](#) - [Army Gold Cross](#) - [Peninsular Gold Medal](#) (1810) Officers only



[Waterloo Medal](#) (1815)



[Ghuznee Medal](#) (1839)



[Candahar, Ghuznee, Cabul Medal](#) (1842)



[Jellalabad Medals](#) (1842)



[Medal for the Defence of Kelat-I-Ghilzie](#) (1842)



[China War Medal](#) (1842)



[Scinde Medal](#) (1843)



[Gwalior Star](#) (1843)



[Sutlej Medal](#) (1846)



[Naval General Service Medal](#) (1847)



[Military General Service Medal](#) (1847)



[Punjab Medal](#) (1849)



[Army of India Medal](#) (1851)



[India General Service Medal](#) (1854)



[South Africa Medal](#) (1854)



[Crimean War Medal](#) (1854)



[Baltic Medal](#) (1856)



[Indian Mutiny Medal](#) (1858)



[Second China War Medal](#) (1861)



[New Zealand War Medal](#) (1869)



[Abyssinian War Medal](#) (1869)



[Canada General Service Medal](#) (1866–70)



[Ashantee Medal](#) (1873–74)



[South Africa Medal \(1880\)](#) (1877–1879)



[Afghanistan Medal](#) (1878–1880)



[Kabul to Kandahar Star](#) (1880)



[Egypt Medal](#) (1882–1889)



[Royal Niger Company's Medal](#) (1886–1897)



[British South Africa Company Medal](#) (1890–1897)



[East and West Africa Medal](#) (1892)



[Central Africa Medal](#) (1895)



[India Medal](#) (1896)



[Ashanti Star](#) (1896)



[Queen's Sudan Medal](#) (1899)



[East and Central Africa Medal](#) (1899)



[Queen's South Africa Medal](#) (1899)



[Queen's Mediterranean Medal](#) (1899) (South African War)

20th century

Pre World War I



[China War Medal](#) (1900)




[Ashanti Medal](#) (1901)



[King's South Africa Medal](#) (1902)

 [Africa General Service Medal \(1902\)](#)

 [Transport Medal \(1902\)](#) (for South Africa or China)

 [Tibet Medal \(1905\)](#)

 [Natal Native Rebellion Medal \(1906\)](#)

 [India General Service Medal \(1909\)](#)

World War I

During [World War I](#) (1914–1918) the following campaign medals were issued:

 [1914 Star](#)

 [1914–15 Star](#)

 [British War Medal](#)

 [Mercantile Marine War Medal](#)

 [Victory Medal](#)

 [Territorial Force War Medal](#)

The most frequent combinations are "trios" of either the 1914 or 1914–15 Star, the British War Medal and Victory Medal; and "pairs" of the British War and Victory Medals, these generally for servicemen who joined the war after 1915. A Memorial Plaque was issued to the next-of-kin of deceased service personnel.

Inter World Wars

 [General Service Medal \(1918\)](#)

 [Naval General Service Medal \(1915\)](#)

 [India General Service Medal \(1936\)](#)

Campaign Medals

World War II

During World War II (1939–1945) the following were issued (with authorised Clasp or Emblem (if awarded) in brackets)—the first eleven are listed in the authorised Order of Wearing.



[1939–1945 Star](#) (Battle of Britain *or* Bomber Command)



[Atlantic Star](#) (Air Crew Europe *or* France and Germany)



[Arctic Star](#)



[Air Crew Europe Star](#) (Atlantic *or* France and Germany)



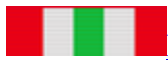
[Africa Star](#) (8th Army *or* 1st Army *or* North Africa 1942–43)



[Pacific Star](#) (Burma)



[Burma Star](#) (Pacific)



[Italy Star](#)



[France and Germany Star](#) (Atlantic)



[Defence Medal](#) (Silver laurel leaves (King's Commendation for brave conduct; civil))



[Canadian Volunteer Service Medal](#) (Overseas, Dieppe, Hong Kong, Bomber Command)



[Newfoundland Volunteer War Service Medal](#)



[War Medal 1939–1945](#) (Oak leaf)



[Africa Service Medal](#)



[India Service Medal](#)



[New Zealand War Service Medal](#)



[Southern Rhodesia Medal for War Service](#)



[Australia Service Medal](#)

Post World War



[Korea Medal](#) (1951)



[Nuclear Test Medal](#) (1952–1967)



[General Service Medal \(1962\)](#)



[Rhodesia Medal](#) (1980)



[South Atlantic Medal](#) (1982)



[Gulf Medal](#) (1991)

21st century



[Operational Service Medal for Sierra Leone](#) (2000)



[Operational Service Medal for Afghanistan](#) (2002–2021)



[Operational Service Medal for the Democratic Republic of Congo](#) (2003)



[Iraq Medal](#) (2004–2011)



[Iraq Reconstruction Service Medal](#) (2004–2013)



[Civilian Service Medal \(Afghanistan\)](#) (2011–present)



[Ebola Medal for Service in West Africa](#) (2014–2016)



[General Service Medal \(2008\)](#) (2009–present)



[Operational Service Medal for Iraq and Syria](#) (2016–present)



[Humanitarian Medal](#) (2023–present)



[Wider Service Medal](#) (2024–present)

Polar Medal



[Polar Medal](#)

Police medals for Valuable Service



[Indian Police Medal For Meritorious Service](#)



[Ceylon Police Medal For Meritorious Service](#)



[Sierra Leone Police Medal for Meritorious Service](#)



[Sierra Leone Fire Brigades Medal for Meritorious Service](#)



[Colonial Police Medal for Meritorious Service](#)



[Overseas Territories Police Medal for Meritorious Service](#)

Royal Household, Coronation, Jubilee and Durbar Medals



[Queen Victoria Golden Jubilee Medal](#) (1887)



[Queen Victoria Police Golden Jubilee Medal](#) (1887)



[Queen Victoria Diamond Jubilee Medal](#) (1897)



[Queen Victoria Police Diamond Jubilee Medal](#) (1897)



[Visit to Ireland Medal](#) (1900)



[King Edward VII Coronation Medal](#) (1902)



[King Edward VII Police Coronation Medal](#) (1902)



[Delhi Durbar Medal](#) (1903)



[King Edward VII's Police Medal \(Scotland\)](#) (1903)



[Visit to Ireland Medal](#) (1903)



[King George V Coronation Medal](#) (1911)



[King George V Police Coronation Medal](#) (1911)




[Visit to Ireland Medal](#) (1911)

 [Delhi Durbar Medal](#) (1911)

 [King George V Silver Jubilee Medal](#) (1935)

 [King George VI Coronation Medal](#) (1937)

 [Queen Elizabeth II Coronation Medal](#) (1953)


 [Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee Medal](#) (1977)

 [Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal](#) (2002)

 [Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal](#) (2012)

 [Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal](#) (2022)

 [King Charles III Coronation Medal](#) (2023)

 [Queen Victoria Long and Faithful Service Medal](#) (1872)

[Edward VII Long and Faithful Service Medal](#) – No Medal Ribbon

 [George V Long and Faithful Service Medal](#) (1910)

 [George VI Long and Faithful Service Medal](#) (1936)

 [Elizabeth II Long and Faithful Service Medal](#) (1952)

[Charles III Long and Faithful Service Medal](#) – No Medal Ribbon

Efficiency and Long Service Medals

 [Meritorious Service Medal](#)

 [Accumulated Campaign Service Medal](#)

 [Accumulated Campaign Service Medal](#) (2011)

 [Army Long Service and Good Conduct Medal](#)

 [Naval Long Service and Good Conduct Medal](#)



Medal for Meritorious Service Royal Navy (1918-1928)



[Indian Long Service and Good Conduct Medal](#) (for Europeans)



[Indian Meritorious Service Medal](#) (for Europeans)



Royal Marines Meritorious Service Medal (1849-1947)



Royal Air Force Meritorious Service Medal (1918-1928)



[Royal Air Force Long Service and Good Conduct Medal](#)



[Medal for Long Service and Good Conduct \(Ulster Defence Regiment\)](#)



[Indian Long Service and Good Conduct Medal](#) (for Indians)



[Royal West African Frontier Force Long Service and Good Conduct Medal](#)



[Royal Sierra Leone Military Forces Long Service and Good Conduct Medal](#)



[King's African Rifles Long Service and Good Conduct Medal](#)



[Indian Meritorious Service Medal](#) (for Indians)



[Police Long Service and Good Conduct Medal](#)



[Fire and Rescue Service Long Service and Good Conduct Medal](#)



[African Police Medal for Meritorious Service](#)



[Royal Canadian Mounted Police Long Service Medal](#)



[Ceylon Police Long Service Medal](#)



[Ceylon Fire Services Long Service Medal](#)



[Colonial Police Long Service Medal](#)



[Overseas Territories Police Long Service Medal](#)



[Sierra Leone Police Long Service Medal](#)



[Sierra Leone Fire Brigades Long Service Medal](#)



[Mauritius Police Long Service and Good Conduct Medal](#)



[Mauritius Fire Services Long Service and Good Conduct Medal](#)



[Mauritius Prisons Service Long Service and Good Conduct Medal](#)



[Colonial Fire Brigades Long Service Medal](#)



[Overseas Territories Fire Brigades Long Service Medal](#)



[Colonial Prison Service Medal](#)



[Overseas Territories Prison Service Medal](#)



[Hong Kong Disciplined Services Medal](#)



[Emergency Reserve Decoration](#) ERD



[Volunteer Officers' Decoration](#) VD



[Volunteer Long Service Medal](#)



[Volunteer Officers' Decoration for India and the Colonies](#) VD



[Volunteer Long Service Medal for India and the Colonies](#)



[Colonial Auxiliary Forces Officers' Decoration](#) VD



[Colonial Auxiliary Forces Long Service Medal](#)



[Naval Good Shooting Medal](#)



[Militia Long Service Medal](#)



[Imperial Yeomanry Long Service Medal](#)



[Territorial Decoration](#) TD



[Ceylon Armed Services Long Service Medal](#)



[Efficiency Decoration](#) ED



[Territorial Efficiency Medal](#)



[Efficiency Medal](#)



[Special Reserve Long Service and Good Conduct Medal](#)



[Decoration for Officers of the Royal Naval Reserve](#) RD



[Decoration for Officers of the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve](#) VRD



[Royal Naval Reserve Long Service Medal](#)



[Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve Long Service Medal](#)



[Royal Naval Auxiliary Sick Berth Reserve Long Service Medal](#);



[Royal Fleet Reserve Long Service and Good Conduct Medal](#)



[Royal Naval Wireless Auxiliary Reserve Long Service Medal](#)



[Royal Naval Auxiliary Service Long Service Medal](#)



[Air Efficiency Award](#) AE



[Volunteer Reserves Service Medal](#)



[Ulster Defence Regiment Medal](#) UD



[Northern Ireland Home Service Medal](#)



[Queen's Medal for Champion Shots of the Royal Navy and Royal Marines](#)



[Queen's Medal for Champion Shots of the New Zealand Naval Forces](#)



[Queen's Medal for Champion Shots in the Military Forces](#)



[Queen's Medal for Champion Shots of the Air Forces](#)



[Cadet Forces Medal](#)



[H.M. Coastguard Long Service and Good Conduct Medal](#)



[Special Constabulary Long Service Medal](#)



[Canadian Forces' Decoration](#) CD



[Royal Observer Corps Medal](#)



[Civil Defence Long Service Medal](#)



[Ambulance Service \(Emergency Duties\) Long Service and Good Conduct Medal](#)



[Royal Fleet Auxiliary Service Medal](#)



[Prison Services \(Operational Duties\) Long Service and Good Conduct Medal](#)



[Jersey Honorary Police Long Service and Good Conduct Medal](#)



[Merchant Navy Medal for Meritorious Service](#) MNM



[Ebola Medal for Service in West Africa](#)



[National Crime Agency Long Service and Good Conduct Medal](#)



[Rhodesia Medal](#)



[Royal Ulster Constabulary Service Medal](#)



[Northern Ireland Prison Service Medal](#)



[Union of South Africa Commemoration Medal](#)



[Indian Independence Medal](#)



[Pakistan Independence Medal](#)



[Ceylon Armed Services Inauguration Medal](#)



[Ceylon Police Independence Medal](#)



[Sierra Leone Independence Medal](#)



[Jamaica Independence Medal](#)



[Uganda Independence Medal](#)



[Malawi Independence Medal](#)



[Fiji Independence Medal](#)



[Papua New Guinea Independence Medal](#)



[Solomon Islands Independence Medal](#)



[Service Medal of the Order of St John](#)



[Badge of the Order of the League of Mercy](#)



[Voluntary Medical Service Medal](#)



[Women's Royal Voluntary Service Medal](#)



[South African Medal for War Services](#)



[Colonial Special Constabulary Medal](#)