

The Mercantile Marine War Medal 1914 - 1918

NOTICE TO MEMBERS OF THE MERCANTILE MARINE, AND THE PILOTAGE, LIGHTHOUSE AND FISHING SERVICES.

WAR MEDALS.

The following Announcement has been made for public information :-

I.

His Majesty the King has been graciously pleased to signify his pleasure that the British War Medal which has been granted to His Majesty's Forces, be granted also to the British, Dominion, Colonial and Indian Mercantile Marine.

In the United Kingdom the Medal, in Silver, will be given to those who can supply such evidence as may be approved by the Board of Trade of having served at sea for not less than six months between the 4th August, 1914, and 11th November, 1918, inclusive : and those entitled to receive it will include Licensed Pilots, Fishermen, and crews of Pilotage and Lighthouse Authorities' Vessels, and of Post Office Cable Ships.

In other parts of the Empire the qualifying service will be the same, but all details will be determined by the several Governments.

II.

His Majesty the King has also been graciously pleased to signify his pleasure that a Mercantile Marine War Medal be granted to the persons specified in the previous paragraph, who are qualified for the British War Medal, and who, in addition, can supply such evidence as may be approved by the Authorities referred to in that paragraph of having served at sea on at least one voyage through a danger zone. For this purpose a voyage through a danger zone means :-

- (a.) A voyage on a ship which entered or cleared a United Kingdom port, or a French port, or a Mediterranean port :
- (b.) Such other voyages in other parts of the world as shall be specified in a further notice.

The Medal will be in bronze, and the riband will be green and red arranged vertically, with a narrow white line between them.

III.

The Authorities referred to in paragraphs I and II will determine whether any applicant is disqualified for the Medals by reason of misconduct during the war.

IV.

Officers, men and women referred to in this Announcement who, whilst serving at sea, were captured by the enemy or lost their lives through enemy action or were precluded by disablement through enemy action from further service at sea, before being able to complete their qualifying service for one or both of the medals, will be deemed to have qualified.

V.

The medals earned by deceased officers, men and women, will be issued to their legatees or next-of-kin entitled to receive them.

VI.

Instructions as to the submission of claims and other particulars will shortly be issued.

Board of Trade,

July, 1919.

**INSTRUCTIONS AS TO THE SUBMISSION OF CLAIMS, &c.,
IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.**

- (a.) All applications should be made on the forms which are provided at Mercantile Marine Offices and at the Offices of Pilotage and Lighthouse Authorities. If, however, an applicant is unable to attend at any such Office, a written request may be sent to the Marine Department, Board of Trade, London, for an application form.
- (b.) Officers, men and women who have served during part of the war in the Royal Navy, R.N.R., or under special Naval Engagements (i.e., Form T 124 and its variants), in the Army, or in the Royal Air Force, have in many cases performed service during some other part of the War which would entitle them to the Mercantile Marine War Medal. Such officers, men and women will be awarded the Mercantile Marine War Medal if their claims are approved, apart from any further medal which they may be awarded under the regulations of the Admiralty, War Office, or Air Ministry.
- (c.) Qualifying service will in all cases be service at sea, and not service in harbours, rivers, or other inland waters.
- (d.) Legatees or next-of-kin of deceased officers, men and women, will not be entitled to participate in the preliminary distribution of medal ribands, but must await the distribution of the medals, to which the usual quantity of riband will be attached.
- (e.) The Board of Trade will be the sole judge as to whether applicants are qualified, under the terms of the foregoing announcement, for any, and if so for which, of the medals referred to.

The preliminary issue to any applicant of medal riband cannot by itself entitle the applicant to the subsequent award of the corresponding medal.

MARINE DEPARTMENT,
Board of Trade,

July, 1919.

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Notice No. 2

APPENDIX 1

1914-18 MERCANTILE MARINE WAR MEDAL - DANGER ZONES

- 1) A voyage on a ship which entered or cleared a United Kingdom port or a French port or a Mediterranean port:-
 - a) From 4th August 1914 to 11th November 1918.
- 2) Voyages to all parts of the world

- a) From 4th August 1914 to 11th April 1915 (on account of “Dresden” and “Kronprinz Wilhelm”); and
 - b) From 1st January 1916 to 4th March 1916 and from November 1916 to 28th February 1918 (on account of “Moewe”, “Seeadler” and “Wolf”).
- 3) Any voyage in the Atlantic Ocean north of the Equator: the Mediterranean, White Sea and United Kingdom waters -
- a) From 1st February 1917 to 11th November 1918 (on account of unrestricted submarine warfare).
- 4) Any voyage in the North Atlantic and Arctic Oceans between meridians 10 West and 44 East -
- a) From 4th August 1914 to 11th November 1918
- 5) Any voyage in the Sea of Japan or the Yellow Sea -
- a) From 4th August 1914 to 7th November 1914.
- 6) Any voyage in the Indian Ocean including the Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea; and
- Any coasting voyage on the west coast of India in a ship which entered or cleared an Indian or Ceylon port -
- a) From 4th August 1914 to 9th November 1914 (on account of “Emden”): and
 - b) From 18th January 1917 to 11th November 1918 (on account of “Wolf”).
- 7) Any voyage in a ship which entered or cleared any of the following ports viz. Cape Town, Colombo. Bombay. Aden or which rounded Cape of Good Hope. Gabo Island Australia: Cape Farewell or Three Kings Islands New Zealand or which proceeded between Singapore and Hong Kong –
- a) From 18th January 1917 to 11th November 1918 (on account of “Wolf”).
- 8) Any voyage in a ship on the West Coast of Africa -
- a) From 4th August 1914 to 4th March 1916 (on account of “Moewe”).
- 9) Any voyage in a ship which rounded Cape Verde -
- a) From 15th May 1918 to 11th November 1918 (on account of ocean-going submarines).
- 10) The following are also considered as having served in a danger zone:-
- a) Masters, officers and crews of British merchant ships employed in the Black Sea, or in the Baltic Sea between February 1915 and March 1918.

Revised 28 October 1996