

## MoD Medals Review – the PJM The (Foreign Medals) Double-Medal Myth

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### Introduction:

A majority of those eligible for the PJM, including many National Servicemen, are not eligible for a British medal for their service in Malaysia. The PJM does not replicate the British GSM eligibility terms and timescales.

Furthermore, we can show that double medalling was never a part of Foreign Decorations rules ... that is until 2005 when new retrospective rules were promulgated in the Commons Library to replace the 1969 Regulation that had been there. *The 1969 Rules did **not** contain any reference to double medals.*

Long-standing rules? At the time of the PJM decision meeting, they had been visible for less than a month.

We have since learned that there were fairly recent intermediate Rules but they were never made known to Parliament and we were never told about them despite having asked several times.

Departments insist that the British simply do not allow two medals for the same service. In reality, they do and have always done so.

*Double-medalling has always been an integral part of our British medal system. It should never have been raised and then waived in respect of the Pingat Jasa Malaysia, a Foreign award.*

Here are some examples of double medalling – in chronological order:

### Boer War:

You had to have the Queen's South Africa Medal to be eligible for the King's South Africa Medal - *a clear case of imposed double-medalling.*

### WW1:

(When discussing major conflicts we always have in mind that the servicemen and women deserved more than a medal, or even two or three medals. We quote these medals only to demonstrate that the PJM and other recommendations and statements are based on a myth).

You had to have the British War Medal in order to qualify for the Allied Victory Medal - again, *enforced double-medalling.*

Furthermore, those on operational service before 1<sup>st</sup> January 1916 were eligible for one of the two Stars - *resulting in treble-medalling.*

In the North West Frontier of India before 1914 one was eligible for a single medal. During WW1 before 1916, these actions produced three medals for the same service - and two from 1916 onwards.

### WW2:

#### Troops serving in India during WW2:

They became eligible for the Defence Medal (for 360 days non-operational service overseas). They also qualified for the War Medal 1939-45 after 28 days. *A case of double-medalling.*

#### The 1939-1945 Star:

This Star was awarded on six different occasions for service on the North West Frontier between 3<sup>rd</sup> February 1940 and 18<sup>th</sup> August 1942.

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*It was therefore possible, with the War Medal, to receive and wear three medals in circumstances where one would have expected only a single medal. A case of double or even treble-medalling.*

All those eligible for the 1939-1945 Star were also awarded the War Medal 1939-45 for 28 days service. *More double-medalling.*

Area Stars were for operational service and, for the Army and RAF, were normally for entry to a theatre. 180 days on operations and the 1939-45 Star would also be earned. *Double-medalling.*

In the Navy one normally had to qualify for the 1939-45 Star in order to be eligible for the Area Star. *Double-medalling.*

### Atlantic Star:

The Atlantic Star has been much discussed in recent years.

You could become eligible for the Atlantic Star only after you had qualified for the 1939-45 Star. You had to serve 180 days to earn the 1939-1945 Star and then a further 180 days to earn the Atlantic Star. *A stunning imposition by the British of a double-medal. Ib*

There is more:

The 1939-45 Star had to be earned before beginning to qualify for the Atlantic Star, but any of the period spent in the Atlantic could count towards the Atlantic Star, and so it would be possible to spend six months in the Atlantic earning the Atlantic Star, one day in the Pacific earning the Pacific Star and a further 180 days in the Pacific earning the Atlantic Star. Confused? We are. *And so is the thinking that promotes the non-existence of double-medalling.*

### The Atlantic Star, Air Crew Europe Star and France and Germany Star:

All were alternative awards with the second award being denoted by a bar. No matter how it was presented (bars instead of separate medals), *this was a clear case of double medalling.*

### Burma Star and Pacific Stars:

All were also alternatives and a bar was received as the second award. However, for some unknown reason, you would become eligible for the Pacific Star for service in Hong Kong (until 25<sup>th</sup> December 1941), China (until 15<sup>th</sup> February 1942), Malaya (until 15<sup>th</sup> February 1942) and Sumatra (until 23<sup>rd</sup> March 1942) but, after the very next day after the date in brackets, you earned the Burma Star (actually the bar if you already had the Pacific Star). *More double-medalling.*

### Korean War:

Two medals were awarded for the same service - the British Korea Medal and the UN Korea Medal.

### UN Congo:

UN troops in the Congo received the UN Truce Supervisory Medal with a bar Congo on the ribbon. This was for service from 10<sup>th</sup> July 1960 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 1964. In 1966 the bar was dropped and a new ribbon was introduced. British personnel seconded to Commonwealth forces were eligible for the award. *Double-medalling.*

### Malaya/Malaysia:

Personnel on secondment to the Malay Regiment from 31<sup>st</sup> August 1957 to 31<sup>st</sup> July 1960 earned the Malay Active Service Medal in addition to the British GSM clasp Malaya. *Double-medalling.*

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Personnel in North Borneo on 23<sup>rd</sup> /24<sup>th</sup> December 1962 would have received the GSM with clasp Brunei on the first day and after 30 days got the GSM 1962 with clasp Borneo. *It is certain that many received two medals.*

### Oman:

Personnel on secondment or under contract to the Sultan's Armed Forces in Dhofar Province for fourteen days from 23<sup>rd</sup> May 1965 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 1976 received the Omani GSM with bar Dhofar. In the period from 23<sup>rd</sup> May 1965 to 2<sup>nd</sup> December 1975, for thirty days service anywhere in Oman, they became eligible for the Sultan's "As Sumood" Medal (Endurance Medal) *which was approved for unrestricted acceptance* in 1977. Then from 1<sup>st</sup> July 1976 the Peace Medal was instituted for one year's service.

Those who served in Dhofar Province received both the Sultan's "As Sumood" Medal and the GSM - *another clear case of double-medalling.* Indeed, most received two or three medals for the same service.

### Former Yugoslavia:

There are at least ten medals for service in Former Yugoslavia that give scope for double-medalling:

1. UNPROFOR (former Yugoslavia);
2. ECMM (Former Yugoslavia);
3. UN Special Service Medal (Op Cheshire);
4. NATO Former Yugoslavia;
5. UNMIK (Kosovo);
6. NATO Kosovo;
7. NATO (Macedonia);
8. WEUM Former Yugoslavia 1992;
9. ESDP (Bosnia);
10. NATO Non Article 5.

Police in Macedonia were eligible for at least two other awards. While the rules are designed to avoid two medals for one campaign except where the full qualifying service has been done for each, we believe that many eligible for the UNPROFOR medal must subsequently have served with NATO and subsequently received the NATO Medal with bar Former Yugoslavia. We understand that many received two medals.

### Other Operational Commands:

In similar vein to Former Yugoslavia, other areas offer more than one medal dependent on the organisation under which one served. Here are some examples with considerable scope for double-medalling:

#### Cambodia:

The UNAMIC UN Service Medal was for 90 days with the Advisory Mission from 1<sup>st</sup> October 1991 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 1992. The UNTAC UN Service Medal was for 90 days with the Transitional Authority from 31<sup>st</sup> March 1992 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 1993. It is highly likely that some personnel worked for both missions and became eligible for both medals.

#### East Timor:

The Australian INTERFET Medal (for 30 days service between 16<sup>th</sup> September 1999 and 10<sup>th</sup> April 2000) was issued to those working with the Australian forces and the UNAMET/UNTAET UN Service Medal (90 days from 7<sup>th</sup> June 1999) went to those under UN Command. *Again, further scope for double-medalling.*

#### Sierra Leone:

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The British Forces got the Operational Service Medal Sierra Leone (with a bewildering variation of qualifying periods dependent on the Operation involved of one day; 14 days; 6 days; 21 days; 30 days; or 45 days from <sup>th</sup> 5 May 2000 to <sup>st</sup> 31 July 2002) while those with the UN got the UNOMSIL/UNAMSIL UN Service Medal (90 days from <sup>st</sup> 1 June 1998). *Again, further scope for double-medalling.*

### Afghanistan:

The situation is very confused. Initially our troops got the Operational Service Medal (5 days; 21 days; 21 days plus 6 sorties; 21 days; or 30 days from <sup>th</sup> 11 September 2001). Since then there is a NATO Non-Article 5 Medal with bar NTM-ISAF (International Security in Afghanistan) and now troops appear to be under European Command ... or are they? *More scope for double-medalling.*

### Congo:

In the Congo we have the Operational Service Medal Congo and MONUC UN Service Medal for those under UN Command (90 days from <sup>th</sup> 30 November 1999). *Scope for double-medalling.*

### The Iraq Medal:

Is given for service of 7 days; 10 days; or 30 days from <sup>th</sup> 20 January 2003. There is also a NATO Non-Article 5 Medal with bar NTM-IRAQ (NATO Training Mission). *Scope for double-medalling.*

Finally, in respect of the Iraq medal, the List of Zones will no doubt overlap with those for the OSM Afghanistan and include Oman, UAE, Bahrain, Kuwait. *More scope for two medals for the same service.*

### Russian "40th Anniversary of the end of the Great Patriotic War Medal".

In order to qualify for this medal, you had also to qualify for a British WW2 Medal - *an imposed double medal!*

(This medal also breaks the 5-year myth having received Unrestricted Approval for wear 50 years after the event ... it was first offered in 1985 but at that time the USSR was not politically acceptable. It became PC after the break-up of the Soviet Union)

### Malta "GC 50th Anniversary of the end of the War Medal"

In order to qualify, you also had to have the British Africa Star – *another imposed double medal!*

(This medal also breaks the 5-year myth having received Unrestricted Approval for wear 50 years after the event.)

### Accumulated Campaign Service Medal (ACSM):

We regard this medal as a classic example of double-medalling. It was introduced in 1994 specifically to award more than one medal to those serving in Northern Ireland for years who otherwise would receive just one GSM for their service.

Basically, the Accumulated Campaign Service Medal (a British medal) is awarded only if you have previous campaign medals - three years of General Service Medal operational service from 1969 is the requirement.

Originally, three years campaign service earning the GSM for the last seven clasps counted towards the ACSM. This has now been extended to include the South Atlantic Medal, the Gulf Medal, the Iraq Medal, and the Operational Service Medals for Sierra Leone, Afghanistan and Congo. Thus it is possible to have six medals over three years operations, and qualify for a seventh. Another NB: This medal can be awarded for service that was

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carried out some 41 years ago. Where does the 5-year rule come into it?

Conclusion:

And so it can be seen that double-medalling has been an intrinsic and “long-established” part of our honours system.

Whilst there is an argument in favour of this rule in respect of British Medal principles and British Campaign Medals, there is no such argument that is tenable in respect of Foreign awards that are on all fours with the PJM.