



Australian Government

Department of Defence

# 1945 - 1975

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Campaign Medals



## Defence Honours & Awards

Following the end of World War II in 1945, Imperial medals continued to be awarded for campaign service by Australian personnel involved in campaigns including the Korean War, the Malayan Emergency, the Indonesian Confrontation and the Vietnam War.

Australia's military involvement in the Vietnam War was the longest in duration of any war in Australia's history. From the time of the arrival of the first members of the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam in 1962, almost 60 000 Australians, including ground troops and air force and navy personnel, served in Vietnam.

When the Australian system of honours and awards was established in 1975, it included medals for warlike and non-warlike operational service, after 1975.

A decision was then made that there should be similar uniquely Australian medals awarded for service in the campaigns during the period 1945 until 1975. Recognition was also extended to some previously unrecognised activities such as the occupation of Japan.

This decision resulted in the introduction of the Australian Active Service Medal 1945-75 and the Australian Service Medal 1945-75.



## The Australian Active Service Medal 1945-75



The Australian Active Service Medal 1945-1975 (AASM 45-75) was approved in 1997. It may be awarded for service in prescribed warlike operations from 3 September 1945 until 13 February 1975.

When the award is issued, a clasp with the name of the theatre or action is issued with the medal.

*Clasps issued with the AASM 1945-75 are: Korea, Malaya, Malaysia, Thailand, Thai/Malay and Vietnam.*

## The Australian Service Medal 1945-75



The Australian Service Medal 1945-75 (ASM 45-75) was approved in 1995, and may be awarded for service in prescribed non-warlike operations between 3 September 1945 and 16 September 1975.

*Clasps issued for the ASM 45-75 are: Berlin, FESR (Far East Strategic Reserve), Germany, Indonesia, Japan, Kashmir, Korea, Middle East, PNG, SE Asia, Special Ops, SW Pacific, Thailand and W New Guinea.*

A comprehensive listing of eligibility criteria for each clasp for both the AASM 1945-75 and the ASM 1945-75 can be found on the Defence Honours and Awards' website at [www.defence.gov.au/medals](http://www.defence.gov.au/medals).

## Vietnam Logistic and Support Medal



The Vietnam Logistic and Support Medal was introduced in 1993 to recognise those who had served in Vietnam during the Vietnam War for relatively short periods of time in support of Australian operations and who had not received any other recognition for that service.

## Australian General Service Medal for Korea



The Australian General Service Medal for Korea is awarded to those who rendered service whilst participating in operations in South Korea between 28 July 1953 and 19 April 1956.

# Imperial and Foreign Awards

For the period 1945 – 1975, a number of Imperial awards were issued and several foreign awards were also approved for acceptance by Australians. These Imperial and foreign awards include:



*Naval General Service Medal  
Awarded for service in minor  
Naval war-like operations.*



*General Service Medal  
1918-62  
Awarded for land and  
air service during minor  
conflicts for which no other  
specific campaign medal is  
awarded.*



*Korea Medal  
Awarded for service in  
Korea between 1 July 1950  
and 27 July 1953.*



*UN Medal for Korea  
Awarded to those members  
who served in Korea from 1  
July 1950 to 26 July 1954  
or in Japan in support of  
operations in Korea.*



*General Service Medal 1962  
This medal superseded both  
the Naval General Service  
Medal 1915 and the General  
Service Medal 1918 (Army  
and RAF).*



*Vietnam Medal  
Awarded for service in  
Vietnam between 29 May  
1964 and 27 January 1973.*



*Republic of Vietnam  
Campaign Medal  
Awarded for service in  
the prescribed area of  
operations in Vietnam during  
the period commencing on  
31 July 1962 and ending on  
27 January 1973.*



*Pingat Jasa Malaysia  
Awarded by the  
Malaysian Government to  
commemorate personnel  
who served to uphold the  
sovereignty of Malaysia  
during the Malayan  
Emergency and the  
Indonesian Confrontation  
between 31 August 1957  
and 31 December 1966.*

## How do I apply for my relative's medals?

Whilst Defence Honours and Awards cannot provide replacement medals to the next of kin of a deceased recipient if they are lost or damaged, it may issue any unclaimed medals to the executor of the will (only at the time the will is being executed), or beneficiary of the will. If, however, after the estate is settled, there are any (future) unclaimed medals due to the member, please contact Defence Honours and Awards toll-free on 1800 111 321.

If you would like further information on eligibility or to ascertain what medals have been awarded or remain outstanding, please contact Defence Honours and Awards or, alternatively, complete an application form '*Application for the Posthumous Issue of Medals and/or Clasps*', which can be found on the Defence Honours and Awards' website at [www.defence.gov.au/medals](http://www.defence.gov.au/medals).

## Can I wear my relative's medals?



Although not officially sanctioned, a protocol has been accepted that family members of a deceased recipient may wear that person's medals on commemorative occasions such as Anzac Day and Remembrance Day.

In these circumstances, the medals should be worn on the right side to show that the wearer is not the original recipient.

## The Order of Wearing Australian Honours and Awards

The Queen determines the placement of each element in the order of wearing Australian honours and awards, and a consolidation is notified by the Governor-General from time to time.

The most recent order was published on 25 September 2007 and is available from [www.itsanhonour.gov.au](http://www.itsanhonour.gov.au) or the DH&A website [www.defence.gov.au/medals](http://www.defence.gov.au/medals).



# Defence Honours & Awards

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## Defence Honours and Awards

**Website:** [www.defence.gov.au/medals](http://www.defence.gov.au/medals)

**Phone:** 1800 111 321 (toll free)

**Address:** Defence Honours and Awards  
PO Box 7952  
CANBERRA BC ACT 2610

Are you researching your family's military history?  
These links may assist you.

**[www.itsanhonour.gov.au](http://www.itsanhonour.gov.au)**

(medal information including Order of Wear)

**[www.gg.gov.au](http://www.gg.gov.au)**

(Office of the Governor-General)

**[www.naa.gov.au](http://www.naa.gov.au)**

(National Archives of Australia)

**[www.awm.gov.au](http://www.awm.gov.au)**

(Australian War Memorial)

**[www.dva.gov.au](http://www.dva.gov.au)**

(Department of Veterans' Affairs)

**[www.rsl.org.au](http://www.rsl.org.au)**

(Returned and Services League of Australia)

**[www.mod.uk](http://www.mod.uk)**

(UK Ministry of Defence)

**[www.veterans-uk.info](http://www.veterans-uk.info)**

(UK Service Personnel & Veterans Agency)