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**SERVICE
AND SACRIFICE
IN THE SECOND
WORLD WAR
1939-1945**

**HACONBY AND
STAINFIELD
LINCOLNSHIRE**

Draft - 11 November 2021

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This is a 'work in progress'. To develop, it requires stories, reports, recollections, anecdotes and photographs of the service, military or other, of those who lived in Haconby and Stainfield during the Second World War.

Please send any such information to the Secretary of the Parochial Church Council, at hwspccsta@gmail.com.

Foreword

This booklet has been produced to commemorate the service of men and women from Haconby and Stainfield who served in the Second World War 1939-45, and the sacrifice of one of those men, who gave his life during the conflict.

There are two principal sources for this booklet, both gratefully acknowledged:

South Lincolnshire War Memorials (<https://southlincolnshirewarmemorials.org.uk/>).

Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC).

A range of other sources have provided information, context and photographs. These are acknowledged at the end of this short booklet.



War Memorial in St Andrew's Church, Haconby

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Introduction

The Second World War was fought between 1 September 1939 and 9 September 1945. It cost Britain, its Commonwealth and Colonies over 830,000 (killed, wounded, and missing/taken prisoner), including over 92,000 civilians. Encyclopaedia Britannica¹ records the war as:

“...conflict that involved virtually every part of the world during the years 1939–45. The principal belligerents were the Axis powers—Germany, Italy, and Japan—and the Allies—France, Great Britain, the United States, the Soviet Union, and, to a lesser extent, China. The war was in many respects a continuation, after an uneasy 20-year hiatus, of the disputes left unsettled by World War I. The 40,000,000–50,000,000 deaths incurred in World War II make it the bloodiest conflict, as well as the largest war, in history... Along with World War I, World War II was one of the great watersheds of 20th-century geopolitical history...”.

It was a war that reached civilians as well as military. Home Front History² records:

“...During the Second World War as British men and women signed up to serve in the Armed Forces the civilian population found they also had an important role to play in the protection of their homeland from the Nazi threat...”

British men, women and children for the most part endured extreme hardship and distress in one form or another. Few people escaped the rigours of life in wartime Britain and only survived due to their extraordinary spirit, tenacity, determination and courage.

Women were mobilised to an unprecedented degree on the Home Front, fighting the daily battle of rationing, recycling, reusing, and cultivating food in allotments and gardens. From 1941, women were called up for war work, as mechanics, engineers, munitions workers, air raid wardens and fire engine drivers.

...more than 80,000 women joined the Women’s Land Army, enduring extremely hard conditions and long hours in isolated rural outposts. ...the Women’s Voluntary Service prided itself on doing ‘whatever was needed’, mainly providing support to victims of the Blitz and those sheltering from enemy bombing raids in underground stations. Their success in mobilising economic output was also a major factor in supporting combat operations.

In addition, a major new Home Front construction programme for military installations, airfields and roads began in earnest. Requisitioning of county houses and estates, land for training use, billets for members of the Armed Services also had to be taken into consideration and implemented within in a matter of weeks...”.

The parishioners of Haconby and Stainfield in Lincolnshire were as involved in the Second World War as any in the United Kingdom. Young men and women from these rural, agricultural communities joined the Armed Forces and served in (*information sought*) or made their contribution in many other ways (*information sought*). The full impact of the Second World War on Haconby and Stainfield is another story, yet to be told.

¹ <https://www.britannica.com/event/World-War-II>

² <https://www.homefronthistory.com/the-home-front>

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Sacrifice

Roll of Honour – The Glorious Dead

Pilot Officer Edward Sharman

‘They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them’³

Service

They also served...

(To follow...)

³ From ‘For the Fallen’, written in 1914 by Robert Laurence Binyon (1869-1943)

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Haconby And Stainfield Service and **Sacrifice** 1939-45

Surname	Forename(s)	Date of Death	Locations	Page
Sharman	Edward	11 February 1942	Location unknown between RAF Binbrook and Le Havre	6

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The Fallen

Sharman Edward



Pilot Officer 12 Squadron, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve

Service No: 108145

Born at Sculcoates, Yorkshire, on 14th October 1921. First son of Richard and Mary Sharman.

Lived at: Haakon Nurseries, Haconby

Occupation: In 1940 Scholarship pupil at Bourne Grammar School

Enlisted: 1940 *At: to be confirmed*

Selected for aircrew training in America. Posted to 12 Squadron RAF (Bomber Command) as a navigator. Member of a Vickers Wellington Mk II crew lost without trace on a night raid out of RAF Binbrook to Le Havre 11th / 12th February 1942.⁴

Outcome: Missing believed killed 11th February 1942 Aged: 20

CWGC: Panel 71, Air Forces Memorial, or Runnymede Memorial⁵, in Englefield Green, Cooper's Hill Lane, Egham, Surrey, United Kingdom

Awards: *To be confirmed:* 1939-45 Star, Aircrew Europe Star, War Medal



Runnymede Memorial - CWGC



P/O Edward Sharman RAFVR



Vickers Wellington Mk II - IWM

⁴ <https://southlincolnshirewarmemorials.org.uk/our-villages/haconby/edward-sharman-2/>

⁵ <https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/1806932/edward-sharman/>

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The Second World War – Extracts from ‘A Bit about Britain’

A Bit About Britain: <https://bitaboutbritain.com/britain-and-the-second-world-war-1939-45/>

Britain’s role in the worst conflict the world has known, so far

The Second World War was the most violent and globally shattering event in history. ... Physically, Britain suffered relatively lightly compared with other countries. Its villages and towns were not devastated to the same extent as those of, say, Poland, France, Germany and the Soviet Union; it did not have to endure the terror of occupation. Even so, the war was a shattering event for Britain; 450,900 of its people died, 67,100 of which were civilians who mostly perished in the destruction of large parts of British cities by aerial bombardment. And at the end of it, as well as being a greatly diminished power, Britain was broke.

For most people in Britain, their experience of being at war again began with the measured tones of Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain coming from the radio on 3 September 1939:

“I am speaking to you from the Cabinet Room at 10 Downing Street. This morning the British Ambassador in Berlin handed the German Government a final note stating that, unless we hear from them by 11 o’clock that they were prepared at once to withdraw their troops from Poland, a state of war would exist between us. I have to tell you now that no such undertaking has been received, and that consequently this country is at war with Germany.”

Then the air raid sirens sounded, disrupting Sunday lunch. Britain and her ally, France, were physically powerless to assist Poland and, after a brief campaign and a surprise invasion by the Soviet Union from the east (in accordance with the Nazi-Soviet Pact signed just the previous week), independent Poland ceased to exist for the next 40 years. British forces dispatched to France twiddled their thumbs and played football while, at home, people coped with the blackout (which resulted in thousands of deaths on the road before bombing even started) and evacuated their children from cities in anticipation of devastating air raids. Government propaganda and control was persuasive and highly effective. The ‘Dig for Victory’ campaign eventually saw parks and gardens turned over to growing vegetables. In January 1940, rationing was introduced.

April 1940: in a disastrous campaign to deny Germany access to Swedish iron ore and control of Norway, British and French troops were routed by the Germans – who had also occupied strategically-placed Denmark in just 6 hours... The German ‘Blitzkrieg’ (lightning war) went on to sweep through the Netherlands, Belgium and France, starting on 10 May. Holland surrendered on 14 May, Belgium on 28 May. Between 26 May and 4 June, Britain evacuated 198,000 of its forces and 140,000 French, from Dunkirk... Almost 192,000 additional Allied personnel were evacuated from other ports in France in late June. Most of the British Expeditionary Force’s equipment – tanks, trucks and so forth – was left in France. On 22 June, France surrendered.

After the fall of France, Britain was on its own⁶. It was in no position to beat Germany at the time, but could do enough to ensure that Germany would not win. The leadership of its new Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, was inspirational, and decisive. Many voices in Britain called for a negotiated peace; Churchill recognised the long-term folly of this course of action and galvanised resistance.

⁶ UK was the only European power still fighting Germany June 1940 to April 1941 and the British Isles were a battleground, but the resources of the British Empire and its allies were essential to UK’s survival.

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(Churchill) later wrote, "I felt...that all my past life had been but a preparation for this hour and for this trial". His strategic vision was masterful, his work-rate phenomenal; in his speeches, as journalist Ed Murrow wrote, "He took the English language and sent it into battle."

"We shall go on to the end. We shall fight in France, we shall fight on the seas and oceans, we shall fight with growing confidence and growing strength in the air, we shall defend our island, whatever the cost may be. We shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills; we shall never surrender, and if, which I do not for a moment believe, this island or a large part of it were subjugated and starving, then our Empire beyond the seas, armed and guarded by the British Fleet, would carry on the struggle, until, in God's good time, the New World, with all its power and might, steps forth to the rescue and the liberation of the old." Churchill - House of Commons, 4 June 1940

The German Luftwaffe set about softening Britain up for invasion. However, they consistently underestimated the numbers of aircraft the Royal Air Force had, misunderstood RAF command and control capabilities (including RADAR), which were the best in the world, and made a fatal tactical error in switching attacks from military to civilian targets. Despite initial inferiority in numbers, the RAF had the advantages of fighting over their own territory - fuel limitations meant that German aircraft had a restricted amount of time over Britain and any trained aircrew that were shot down were either killed or taken prisoner, whereas surviving RAF pilots could be returned to battle. Further, with two classic aircraft, the Spitfire and the Hurricane, they enjoyed at least technical equality with the Germans. Finally, the skill and bravery of RAF fighter pilots ... helped ensure that the Germans failed to achieve air superiority; the invasion was postponed indefinitely and the Battle of Britain was won. Incidentally, 20% of RAF Battle of Britain pilots came from overseas, including Poland, Czechoslovakia, France, New Zealand, Australia, Canada and neutral Ireland and the USA.

Notwithstanding the postponed invasion, from September 1940 - May 1941, Germany launched what became known as 'the Blitz' - a bombing campaign intended to cripple British industrial production and destroy civilian morale. Most heavily targeted was London, which endured 57 consecutive night attacks, but other major cities were hit too... Air raids dropped off when Germany's attention switched to the invasion of the Soviet Union in June 1941. But civilian deaths increased again in 1944 with ... V1 'Doodlebugs' (pilotless flying bombs), followed by V2 rockets...

However, the Blitz failed to achieve its objectives. Despite that, the RAF set about doing the same thing to Germany. Once the US Air Force was engaged from mid-1942, the Americans operated by day whilst the RAF worked at night. The allied bombing campaign is still controversial. ... Thousands of citizens of occupied countries died too, as well as prisoners of war. 55,000 young men of RAF bomber command perished - the highest casualty-rate for any British unit in the war. But the air attacks did gradually erode Nazi industrial capacity and also tied up resources that would otherwise have been used against the Soviet Union. By the time the Allies invaded Europe in 1944, they enjoyed complete air superiority and had disrupted German transportation (and) oil supplies.

In the Atlantic and Mediterranean, ships carrying food, armaments, oil and other essentials were sunk at an alarming rate by German submarines - 'U-boats' - many of these operating from bases in occupied France. Dependent on supplies from Canada and the USA, winning the 'Battle of the Atlantic' was vital for Britain's survival. Gradually, better organisation of convoys, improved intelligence, anti-submarine techniques and better air cover began to reverse the trend. But the ships also had to battle against the sea... (and) On the Arctic Convoys dispatched to get vital aid to the Soviet Union, there was the added peril of sub-zero temperatures...

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Following Italy's declaration of war on 10 June 1940, British forces in Egypt undertook a series of successful raids against Italian troops in Libya. The Italians invaded Egypt in September 1940 and the resulting counter-attack prompted Hitler to send reinforcements to come to his beleaguered ally's aid. The arrival of the German Africa Korps ... completely changed the dynamics and, at one point, there was concern that Cairo might fall. The Germans were also triumphant in Greece, Crete and Yugoslavia. The Battle of Alamein from October 1942 marked a turn of the tide; British, Australian, New Zealand, South African and Indian troops ... pushed the German and Italian forces back. As Churchill said, "This is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning."

In fact, 1941 was a defining year. In June, Hitler launched his long-intended attack on the Soviet Union. In December, the United States entered the war following Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor. Bizarrely, Hitler declared war on the USA and, significantly, President Roosevelt agreed a policy of 'Germany first' with Churchill. From that point, the outcome was not in doubt - it was a matter of how long, and at what cost. The huge material resources of the United States and the enormous manpower (and casualties) expended by the Soviet Union were probably the two most decisive factors in achieving ultimate victory. A further factor was British intelligence. Project Ultra, based at Bletchley Park, used pioneering technology to break German codes; it has been estimated this shortened the war by two years.

The Japanese, who had been waging an aggressive war against China since 1931, swiftly began a campaign in South East Asia and the Pacific. It was a disaster for the British. Malaya was taken in January 1942, and when Singapore fell in February with 80,000 British, Australian and Indian troops being taken prisoner it was the greatest capitulation in British military history. Eventually, Japanese forces threatened India. The war in South East Asia and the Pacific was a bitter one against a relentless foe that believed it was shameful to surrender, and who often fought to the last man. The Americans slogged to retake island after island from the Japanese, whilst British, Australian and Indian forces sought to gain the upper hand in Burma and Borneo. Allied prisoners of the Japanese, as well as civilians in territories occupied by them, suffered cruel treatment from a foe who displayed a warped medieval disregard for humanity.

An epic struggle took place in Eastern Europe, where the war between the Soviet Union and Nazi Germany was fought on a scale and with levels of barbarism that are hard to comprehend. Initial German success was followed by the onset of the Russian winter and its people's amazing capacity for resistance under their dictator, Joseph Stalin. The Russians had been counter-attacking since 1942, by 1943 were pushing the Germans back and by August 1944 they had re-taken Poland. The British and Americans invaded North West Africa in 1942 and Italy in 1943. Britain in early 1944 was an armed fortress in preparation for the invasion of Western Europe. This meticulously planned 'Operation Overlord' was launched from southern ports ... on 6 June (D-Day), British, Canadian and American troops landed on five beaches in Normandy... After tough fighting against what many experts believe was the most effective army ever, and a few arguably self-inflicted set-backs, superior resources prevailed. France and Belgium were liberated and by March 1945, Allied forces were in Germany itself. In April, US and Soviet troops met on the Elbe. With Russian troops in Berlin, Hitler committed suicide on 30 April and on 8 May Germany surrendered unconditionally.

The end in the east came suddenly. British and allied forces took Mandalay in March 1945 and Rangoon in May. The stage was set for the invasion of Japan. But on 6 August the US dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima. A second bomb was dropped on Nagasaki on 9 August and, on 14 August, Japan too surrendered unconditionally. The war was over.

Medals

DEFENCE MEDAL



Date: 1945
Campaign: Second World War 1939-45
Branch of Service: British and Commonwealth forces
Ribbon: Two broad stripes of green (this green and pleasant land) superimposed by narrow stripes of black (the black-out), with a wide stripe of orange (fire-bombing) in the centre.
Metal: Cupro-nickel or silver
Size: 36mm
Description: (Obverse) the uncrowned head of King George VI, (reverse) two lions flanking an oak sapling crowned with the dates at the sides and wavy lines representing the sea below. The words THE DEFENCE MEDAL appears in the exergue.

Awarded to service personnel for three years' service in a non-operational area (e.g., India) or six months service overseas in territories subjected to air attack or otherwise closely threatened. Personnel of Anti-Aircraft Command, RAF ground crews, Dominion forces stationed in the U.K., the Home Guard, Civil Defence, National Fire service and many other civilian units qualified for the medal. The medal was generally issued unnamed in cupro-nickel, but the Canadian version was struck in silver.

WAR MEDAL



Date: 1945
Campaign: Second World War 1939-45
Branch of Service: British and Commonwealth forces
Ribbon: Narrow red stripes in the centre, with a narrow white stripe on either side, broad red stripes at either edge and two intervening stripes of blue
Metal: Cupro-nickel or silver
Size: 36mm
Description: (Obverse) effigy of King George VI; (reverse) a triumphant lion trampling a dragon symbolising the Axis Powers
Clasps: None

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All fulltime personnel of the armed forces wherever they were serving, so long as they had served for at least 28 days between 3rd September 1939 and 2nd September 1945 were eligible for this medal. It was granted in addition to the campaign stars and the Defence Medal. A few categories of civilians, such as war correspondents and ferry pilots who had flown in operational theatres, also qualified. No clasps were issued with this medal but a bronze oak leaf denoted a mention in despatches. The medal was struck in cupro-nickel and issued unnamed, but those issued to Australian and South African personnel were officially named. The Canadian version of this medal was struck in silver.

Stars

Eight different campaign stars were issued for the Second World War. Apart from some Commonwealth issues, these were issued unnamed. It was decided that the maximum number of stars that could be earned by any one person was five, while those who qualified for more received a clasp to be sewn on to the ribbon of the appropriate star.

Only one clasp per ribbon was permitted which was the first to be earned after qualifying for the star.

The stars are listed with the associated clasps in brackets:

1. [1939-45](#) (Battle of Britain)
2. [Atlantic](#) (Air Crew Europe or France and Germany)
3. [Air Crew Europe](#) (Atlantic or France and Germany)
4. [Africa](#) (North Africa 1942-43, 8th Army or 1st Army)
5. [Pacific](#) (Burma)
6. [Burma](#) (Pacific)
7. [Italy](#) (None)
8. [France and Germany](#) (Atlantic)

The ribbons are believed to have been designed by King George VI personally and have symbolic significance in each case. When ribbons alone are worn, the clasp is denoted by a silver rosette, the Battle of Britain by represented by a gilt rosette.

1939-45 STAR



Date:	1945
Campaign:	Second World War 1939-45
Branch of Service:	British and Commonwealth Forces
Ribbon:	Equal stripes of dark blue, red and light blue symbolising the Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force respectively.
Metal:	Bronze
Size:	Height 44mm; max. width 38mm
Description:	The six-pointed star has a circular centre with the GRI/VI monogram, surmounted by a crown and inscribed THE 1939-45 STAR round the foot.
Clasps:	Battle of Britain

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The first in a series of eight bronze stars issued for service in the Second World War, it was awarded to personnel who had completed six months' service in specified operational commands overseas, between 3rd September 1939 and 2nd September 1945, though in certain cases the minimum period was shortened. Any service curtailed by death, injury or capture also qualified, as did the award of a decoration or a mention in despatches. The clasp awarded to RAF aircrew for action during the Battle of Britain was denoted by a gilt rosette when the ribbon was worn alone.

ATLANTIC STAR



Date:	1945
Campaign:	Atlantic 1939-45
Branch of Service:	Royal and Commonwealth Navies
Ribbon	Watered silk blue, white and green representing the ocean
Metal:	Bronze
Size:	Height 44mm; max. width 38mm
Description:	The six-pointed star has a circular centre with the GRI/VI monogram, surmounted by a crown and inscribed THE ATLANTIC STAR
Clasps:	Air Crew Europe and France and Germany

This star was awarded in the Royal Navy for six months' service afloat between 3rd September 1939 and 8th May 1945 in the Atlantic or home waters, and to personnel employed in the convoys to North Russia and the South Atlantic. Personnel must have already qualified for the 1939-45 Star with the qualifying period for this not counting towards the Atlantic Star. Merchant Navy personnel also qualified, as did the RAF and Army (maritime gunners and aircrews-the latter only requiring 2 months service) who served afloat. In the last six months of operational service up to 8th May 1945, the Atlantic Star was awarded but not the 1939-45 Star. Entitlement to the France and Germany or Air Crew Europe stars was denoted by clasps to that effect, if the Atlantic Star was previously awarded. Only one clasp could be worn.

THE AIR CREW EUROPE STAR



Date:	1945
Campaign:	Air operations over Europe 1939-44
Branch of Service:	RAF and Commonwealth aircrew
Ribbon	Pale blue (the sky) with black edges (night flying) and a narrow yellow stripe on either side (enemy searchlights)
Metal:	Bronze
Size:	Height 44mm; max. width 38mm
Description:	The six-pointed star has a circular centre with the GRI/VI monogram, surmounted by a crown and inscribed THE AIRCREW EUROPE STAR
Clasps:	Atlantic or France and Germany

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Awarded for operational flying from UK bases over Europe, for a period of two months between 3rd September 1939 and 4th June 1944. Entitlement to either the Atlantic or France and Germany Star was denoted by the appropriate clasp. This star is by far the most coveted of all of the Second World War Stars. Officially named stars to South Africans are the rarest of all Second World War medals.

AFRICA STAR



Date:	1945
Campaign:	Africa 1940-43
Branch of Service:	British and Commonwealth Forces
Ribbon	Pale buff symbolising the sand of the desert, with a broad red central stripe, a dark blue stripe on the left and a light blue stripe on the right symbolising the three services.
Metal:	Bronze
Size:	Height 44mm; max. width 38mm
Description:	The six-pointed star has a circular centre with the GRI/VI monogram, surmounted by a crown and inscribed THE AFRICA STAR
Clasps:	North Africa 1942-43, 8th Army and 1st Army

Awarded for entry into an operational area in North Africa between 10th June 1940 (The date of Italy's declaration of war) and 12th May 1943 (the end of operations in North Africa), but service in Abyssinia (Ethiopia), Somaliland, Eritrea and Malta also qualified for the award. A silver numeral 1 or 8 worn on the ribbon denoted service with the First or Eighth Army between 23rd October 1942 and 23rd May 1943. A clasp inscribed North Africa was awarded to personnel of the Royal Navy Inshore Squadrons and Merchant Navy vessels which worked inshore between these dates. RAF personnel also qualified for this clasp, denoted by a silver rosette on the ribbon alone.

PACIFIC STAR



Date:	1945
Campaign:	Pacific area 1941-45
Branch of Service:	British and Commonwealth forces
Ribbon	Dark green (the jungle) with a central yellow stripe (the beaches), narrow stripes of dark and light blue (Royal Navy and RAF) and wider stripes of red (Army) at the edges.
Metal:	Bronze
Size:	Height 44mm; max. width 38mm
Description:	The six-pointed star has a circular centre with the GRI/VI monogram, surmounted by a crown and inscribed THE PACIFIC STAR
Clasps:	Burma

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Awarded for operational service in the Pacific theatre of war from 8th December 1941 to 15th August 1945. Service with the Royal and Merchant Navies in the Pacific Ocean, Indian Ocean and South China Sea and land service in these areas also qualified. Personnel qualifying for both Pacific and Burma Stars got the first star and a clasp in respect of the second.

BURMA STAR



Date:	1945
Campaign:	Burma 1941-45
Branch of Service:	British and Commonwealth Forces
Ribbon	Three equal bands of dark blue (British forces), red (Commonwealth forces) and a dark blue. The dark blue bands each have at their centres a stripe of bright orange (the Sun)
Metal:	Bronze
Size:	Height 44mm; max. width 38mm
Description:	The six-pointed star has a circular centre with the GRI/VI monogram, surmounted by a crown and inscribed THE BURMA STAR
Clasps:	Pacific

Qualifying service in the Burma campaign counted from 11th December 1941 and included service in Bengal or Assam from 1st May 1942 to 31st December 1943, and from 1st January 1944 onwards in these parts of Bengal or Assam east of the Brahmaputra. Naval service in the Eastern bay of Bengal, off the coasts of Sumatra, Sunda and Malacca also counted.

ITALY STAR



Date:	1945
Campaign:	Italy 1943-45
Branch of Service:	British and Commonwealth forces
Ribbon	Five equal stripes of red, white, green, white and red (the Italian National colours)
Metal:	Bronze
Size:	Height 44mm; max. width 38mm
Description:	The six-pointed star has a circular centre with the GRI/VI monogram, surmounted by a crown and inscribed THE ITALY STAR
Clasps:	None

Awarded for operational service on land in Italy, Sicily, Greece, Yugoslavia, the Aegean area and Dodecanese islands, Corsica, Sardinia and Elba at any time between 11th June 1943 and 8th May 1945.

FRANCE AND GERMANY STAR



Date:	1945
Campaign:	France and Germany 1944-45
Branch of Service:	British and Commonwealth forces
Ribbon	Five equal stripes of blue, white, red, white and blue (the national colours of the United Kingdom, France and the Netherlands)
Metal:	Bronze
Size:	Height 44mm; max. width 38mm
Description:	The six-pointed star has a circular centre with the GRI/VI monogram, surmounted by a crown and inscribed THE FRANCE AND GERMANY STAR
Clasps:	Atlantic

Awarded for operational service in France, Belgium, the Netherlands or Germany from 6th June 1944 to 8th May 1945. Service in the North Sea, English channel and Bay of Biscay in connection with the campaign in northern Europe also qualified. Prior eligibility for the Atlantic or Air Crew Europe Stars entitled personnel only to a clasp for France and Germany. Conversely a first award of the France and Germany Star could earn an Atlantic clasp.

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

<https://www.cwgc.org/about-us>

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) honours the 1.7 million men and women of the Commonwealth forces who died in the First and Second World Wars, and ensures they will never be forgotten.

Our work commemorates the war dead, from building and maintaining our cemeteries and memorials at 23,000 locations in more than 150 countries and territories to preservation of our extensive records and archives. Our values and aims, laid out in 1917, are as relevant now as they were 100 years ago.

The Commission's principles are:

- Each of the dead should be commemorated by name on the headstone or memorial
- Headstones and memorials should be permanent
- Headstones should be uniform
- There should be no distinction made on account of military rank, race or creed

Since our establishment by [Royal Charter](#) we have constructed 2,500 war cemeteries and plots, erected headstones over graves and where the remains are missing, inscribed the names of the dead on permanent memorials. More than a million burials are now commemorated at military and civil sites in more than 150 countries and territories.

[Click here for a map showing the scale of our commitment](#)

History - <https://www.cwgc.org/about-us/history-of-the-cwgc>

About our Records - <https://www.cwgc.org/about-us/records>

Vision for the Future - <https://www.cwgc.org/about-us/our-vision>

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Acknowledgements:

1. South Lincolnshire War Memorials (SLWM) - <https://southlincolnshirewarmemorials.org.uk>
2. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) - <https://www.cwgc.org/about-us>
3. Encyclopaedia Britannica - <https://www.britannica.com/event/World-War-II>
4. Home Front History - <https://www.homefronthistory.com/the-home-front>
5. A Bit about Britain - Mike@bitaboutbritain - Last Updated 31st July 2018
6. Roger's Study - http://www.rogersstudy.co.uk/medals/ww2_stars/stars.html
7. Photo: Runnymede Memorial - CWGC
8. Photo: P/O Edward Sharman - SLWM
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