



## Genuine War Medal & Defence Medal

Two Medals, the Defence Medal and the War Medal, were issued in recognition of general service in WWII. These are circular medals made in cupro-nickel. The criteria for the award of medals to those who had fought in WW II were finalised in 1948. In accordance with the criteria, the medals were issued un-named.

**The 1939-45 War Medal** - The obverse of the medal (shown here) shows the crowned head of King George VI, while the reverse bears a lion standing on a dragon with two heads, above are the dates 1939 and 1945.

**Ribbon** - In the colours of the Union Flag, a narrow central red stripe flanked by narrow white stripes, wider blue stripes and then red.

**Criteria** - The War Medal was awarded to all fulltime personnel of the armed forces wherever they were serving, provided they had served for at least 28 days between 3 September 1939 and 2 September 1945.

**The 1939-45 Defence Medal** - The obverse of the medal (shown here) shows the uncrowned head of King George VI. The reverse bears the Royal Crown resting on an oak tree, flanked by two lions above the words 'The Defence Medal', with the date 1939 top left and 1945 top right.

**Ribbon** - Flame coloured in the centre flanked by stripes of green to symbolise enemy attacks on Britain's green and pleasant land, with narrow black stripes to represent the black-out.

**Criteria** - The Defence Medal was awarded for non-operational service. This type of service in the UK included those service personnel working in headquarters, on training bases and airfields and members of the Home Guard. Home Guard service counts between the dates of 14 May 1940 and 31 December 1944. The Defence Medal was also awarded for non-operational service overseas, for example in India or South Africa.

See below for the qualifying times required depending on the area served.

UK - 1080 days

Overseas non-operational - 360 days

Overseas non-operational in an area deemed to be closely threatened or subject to air attack - 180 days

