



## **The New Zealand Meritorious Service Medal**

Elizabeth R.

### **Royal Warrant**

ELIZABETH THE SECOND, by the Grace of God Queen of New Zealand and Her Other Realms and Territories, head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith, to all to whom these presents shall come, GREETING:

WHEREAS We are desirous of signifying Our appreciation of the meritorious service of non-commissioned officers of the substantive rank of Petty Officer or Sergeant and above of Our Royal New Zealand Navy, the Regular Force of Our New Zealand Army, and the Regular Air Force of Our Royal New Zealand Air Force:

AND WHEREAS the award of the Medal for Meritorious Service in New Zealand is at present limited to non-commissioned officers of the rank of Sergeant and above of the Regular Force of Our New Zealand Army:

WE do by these presents for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, institute and create a new Medal.

**1. Style-**

The Medal shall be designated and styled "The New Zealand Meritorious Service Medal".

**2. Description-**

The Medal shall be of silver and circular in shape, bearing on the obverse the Uncrowned Effigy of the Sovereign, and on the reverse the inscription "For Meritorious Service" within a wreath of laurel surmounted by a Royal Crown and above which is the inscription "New Zealand".

**3. Ribbon-**

The Medal shall be worn from the left breast suspended from a ribbon, 32mm in width, of crimson having in the centre a narrow stripe of green.

**4. Eligibility-**

Those eligible for the Medal shall be non-commissioned officers of the substantive rank of Petty Officer or Sergeant and above of Our Royal New Zealand Navy, the Regular Force of Our New Zealand Army and the Regular Air Force of Our Royal New Zealand Air Force serving on or after the 1st day of December 1977 who have performed good, faithful, and meritorious service, who exhibit an irreproachable record for the whole of the qualifying period, who have been awarded a Medal for Long Service and Good Conduct, and who are recommended by their commanding officer.

**5. Service required-**

1. The qualifying period requisite for the Medal shall be 21 years full-time service, or an aggregate of 21 years full-time service, in Our Royal New Zealand Navy, the Regular Force of Our New Zealand Army, or the Regular Air Force of Our Royal New Zealand Air Force.
2. Notwithstanding subclause (1) of this clause, the qualifying period may be reduced to 18 years for a rating, soldier, or airman invalided from Our Royal New Zealand Navy, the Regular Force of Our New Zealand Army, or the Regular Air Force of Our Royal New Zealand Air Force, on account of sickness or disability attributable to military service.

**6. Reckoning of service-**

Service before the age of 17½ years shall not be reckonable.

**7. Limitation-**

1. Our Defence Council in New Zealand may limit the maximum number of medals to be held by non-commissioned officers of the substantive rank of Petty Officer or Sergeant and above of Our Royal New Zealand Navy, the Regular Force of Our New Zealand Army, and the Regular Air Force of Our Royal New Zealand Air Force.
2. Notwithstanding any limit imposed under subclause (1) of this clause, the Medal may be awarded to eligible persons immediately before their release from Our Royal New Zealand Navy, the Regular Force of Our New Zealand Army, or the Regular Air Force of Our Royal New Zealand Air Force.

**8. Registration-**

The names of all those to whom the Medal is awarded shall be recorded in a register kept by the Secretary of Defence in Our Realm of New Zealand.

**9. Names of recipients-**

The name of the recipient shall be engraved or stamped on the rim of the Medal.

**10. Order of wear-**

In the official list showing the order in which Orders, Decorations, and Medals shall be worn, the New Zealand Meritorious Service Medal shall in Our Realm of New Zealand be placed before any long service and good conduct medal.

**11. Miniatures-**

- (1) Reproductions of the Medal in miniature, which may be worn on certain occasions by those to whom the Medal is awarded, shall be approximately half the size of the New Zealand Meritorious Service Medal.
- (2) A sealed pattern of the miniature Medal shall be deposited with and kept by the Secretary of Defence in Our Realm of New Zealand.

**12. Delegated powers-**

Delegated powers to make awards under the terms of this Our Warrant shall be vested in Our Defence Council in New Zealand, which shall be competent to make such orders as to the award of the Medal as may be necessary from time to time in amplification of this Our Royal Warrant.

**13. Forfeiture and restoration - It shall be competent for Our Defence Council in New Zealand-**

1. To cancel and annul the conferment of the Medal on any person; and
2. Where it has cancelled and annulled the conferment of the Medal on any person, to restore the Medal to that person.

**14. Annulment-**

We reserve to Ourselves, Our Heirs and Successors, full power of annulling, altering, abrogating, augmenting, interpreting, or dispensing with this Our Royal Warrant, or any part thereof, by a notification under Our Sign Manual.

Given at Our Court at Saint James's, this 6th day of May 1985, in the 34th Year of Our Reign.  
By Her Majesty's Command,

DAVID LANGE.  
Prime Minister of New Zealand.

Issued under the authority of the Regulations Act 1936.  
Date of notification in *Gazette*: 16 May 1985.  
This warrant is administered in the Ministry of Defence.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This note is not part of the warrant, but is intended to indicate its general effect.

The Royal Warrant establishes "The New Zealand Meritorious Service Medal".

The Medal (which is of the design traditionally awarded for meritorious service in the New Zealand Army) is specific to New Zealand. It is to be awarded for meritorious service to non-commissioned officers of the substantive rank of Petty Officer or Sergeant and above of the Royal New Zealand Navy, the Regular Force of the New Zealand Army, and the Regular Air Force of the Royal New Zealand Air Force.

The medal that has been traditionally awarded for meritorious service has been awarded only to non-commissioned officers of the rank of Sergeant and above of the Regular Force of the New Zealand Army. That medal was instituted under the auspices of a British Royal Warrant, dated 31 May 1895, which made provision for the award of medals for meritorious service to members of the Colonial Forces under such regulations as might from time to time be recommended by the Governors of the Colonies and approved by the Secretary of State for War.