

## ROYAL NAVAL RESERVE LONG SERVICE AND GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

In 1894 the Volunteer Long Service Medal was established as an award for long service by other ranks of the United Kingdom's Volunteer Force. Two years later the award was extended by Royal Warrant to other ranks of the Volunteer Forces of the British Empire and a new medal the Volunteer Long Service Medal for India and the Colonies was also constituted.

The Volunteer Long Service Medal for India and the Colonies was superseded by the Colonial Auxiliary Force Long Service Medal for award to



part-time members of all ranks in recognition of long service in any of the organised military forces of the Dominion of Canada and the British Colonies, Dependencies and Protectorates.

In 1908 the Volunteer Long Service Medal was replaced in the United Kingdom by the Territorial Force Efficiency Medal. During the same year, two naval medals were instituted to reward long and meritorious service by part-time ratings of the Royal Naval Reserve, comprised of merchant navy seaman and the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve, recruited from civilian volunteers.

The obverse of the silver, 36mm diameter 1908 Royal Naval Reserve Long Service & Good Conduct Medal has the bareheaded bust of King Edward VII in the uniform of an Admiral of the Fleet facing left and circumscribed "EDWARDVS VII REX IMPERATOR". Below the epaulette on the monarchs left shoulder are the initials "De S" of the designer George William de Saulles (1862-1903).

On the reverse is a starboard side view of HMS Dreadnought, a Royal Naval battleship commissioned in December 1906. Inscribed below is the motto "DIUTURNE FIDELIS" ("Faithful Over Time" or "For Long and Faithful Service"). The designer of the reverse was Ernest George Gillick ARA (1874-1951).

There has been since 1908 six versions of this medal:-

- a. The 1910 version has the bareheaded bust of King George V facing left in the uniform of an Admiral of the Fleet and circumscribed “GEORGIVS V BRITT : OMN : REX ET IND : IMP:”.
- b. The 1931 version has the coinage profile designed by Sir Bertram Mackennal KCVO, RA (1863-1931) of King George V facing left and circumscribed “GEORGIVS V BRITT : OMN : REX ET IND : IMP”.
- c. The 1937-1948 version has the coinage profile designed by Thomas Humphrey Paget OBE (1893-1974) of King George VI facing left and circumscribed “GEORGIVS VI D : G : BR : OMN : REX F : D : IND : IMP”.
- d. The 1949-1952 version has the coinage profile designed by Thomas Humphrey Paget OBE of King George VI facing left and circumscribed “GEORGIVS VI D : G : BRITT : OMN : REX FID : DEF : “.
- e. The 1953-1954 version has the coinage bust designed by Mary Gillick OBE (1881-1965) of Queen Elizabeth II facing right and circumscribed “ELIZABETH II DEI GRA : BRITT : OMN : REGINA F : D : +”.
- f. The second version since 1953 has the coinage bust designed by Mary Gillick OBE of Queen Elizabeth II facing right and circumscribed “ELIZABETH · II · DEI · GRATIA · REGINA · F : D : +”.

The medal is suspended from a swivelling on others a non-swivelling suspender and with the exception of the second Queen Elizabeth II version, affixed by means of a single-toe claw and pin through the upper

edge of the medal. The time service requirement for the award of the 1908 Royal Naval Reserve Long Service and Good Conduct Medal was 15 years. For the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve Long Service Medal it was 12 years. Both of these medals are identical



Obverse Of The 1908 R.N.R.L.S. & G.C. Medal

and can be identified by the reserve branch abbreviation impressed on the rim after the

recipient's details – R.N.R on the Royal Naval Reserve Long Service and Good Conduct Medal and R.N.V.R. on the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. A third identical medal

established in 1919, the Royal Naval Auxiliary Sick Berth Reserve Long Service and Good Conduct Medal has impressed on the rim R.N.A.S.B.R. A silver clasp was authorised by the Admiralty to recognise additional periods of service and later a ribbon bar rosette



Reverse Of The 1908 R.N.R.L.S. & G.C. Medal

was approved to denote the award of a clasp when the ribbon alone was worn.

The original 32mm wide ribbon of the Royal Naval Reserve Long Service and Good Conduct Medal was dark green. In 1941 the ribbon colour was altered to incorporate white edges and a central white stripe. When the Royal Naval Reserve and Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve were merged in 1958 the ribbon was changed to five equal stripes of blue, white, green, white and blue. The medal was replaced by the Volunteer Reserve Services Medal in 1999.

The example of the 1908 Royal Naval Reserve Long Service and Good Conduct Medal shown was awarded to D.220 Seaman W.E. Pointer R.N.R. It was issued to him on the 28<sup>th</sup> January, 1911 when he was serving on HMS Southampton and is confirmed on the medal roll. Some records of service prior to this period for the Royal Naval Reserve have not survived and unfortunately Seaman W.E. Pointer's record is amongst those not available.

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## Sources

Wikipedia Web-Site ~ [www.wikipedia.com](http://www.wikipedia.com) – Royal Naval Reserve And Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve Long Service Medal.

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Royal Naval Reserve Medal Roll ~ Seaman W.E. Pointer

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