

NEW DISTINCTIONS

WOUND STRIPES AND CHEVRONS

SERVICE SINCE 1939

The War Office states that the King has approved the institution of wound stripes and chevrons to be worn in recognition of services undertaken during the present war since September 3, 1939. These wound stripes and chevrons are distinctions to be worn in respect of service since the declaration of war, and are not to be regarded in the nature of a reward.

Subject to fulfilling the conditions laid down the following categories will be eligible for the distinctions:—All officers (including women officers), other ranks, and auxiliaries of the British, Dominion, Indian, and Colonial forces; nursing officers; members of the Home Guard; and officers and members of Voluntary Aid Detachments. There will be no posthumous issues.

Wound stripes, denoting wounds or injuries sustained in the present war, will be of narrow gold braid and 1½ in. in length. They will be worn vertically on the left forearm. One stripe will be worn in respect of each occasion on which the individual is recorded as wounded in the records of the War Office Casualty Branch, which will constitute the authority for wearing the stripe. Self-inflicted wounds will not qualify for an issue.

A single wound stripe of red rayon (lustrous) braid will also be worn to denote wounds sustained in previous wars irrespective of the number of wounds. It will also be 1½ in. in length and will be worn on the left forearm. Those entitled to both red and gold stripes will wear the red braid stripe to the rear of the first gold stripe.

CHEVRON FOR EACH YEAR

One chevron will be issued for each completed year of service in the present war, recipients becoming eligible for the first chevron at the end of their first completed year of service and so on. The chevrons will be printed in red on a khaki background, the arms being 3-16 in. in width and ½ in. in length.

Persons who by reasons of their service have become entitled to wear wound stripes and/or chevrons may, at their own option, continue to wear them on plain clothes after cessation of military service or on relegation to the reserve.

Instructions regarding the submission of claims and issue in respect of Dominion and Indian forces will be issued by the respective Governments.

Ex-officers and ex-service men and women, including those relegated to the reserve or placed on the unemployed list are also entitled to a service chevron for each complete year of service in the Army, Home Guard, A.T.S., V.A.D., or as nursing officers during the present war.

They will also be entitled to one gold wound stripe for each wound or injury received as a result of enemy action while on duty in the forces mentioned. In addition, a single red wound stripe will be issued to denote a wound or wounds received in previous wars. This red stripe will be issued only to those ex-officers and ex-service men and women who have served in the forces mentioned in the present war since September 3, 1939. Both wound stripes and chevrons may be worn on plain clothes.

ISSUE OF FREE SETS

To obtain a free set of wound stripes and chevrons ex-officers should apply to the War Office and all others to the record office of the regiment or corps with which they last served. The address of the record office, if not known, can be obtained from any police station. Ex-officers and ex-service men and women now serving in the Home Guard or other qualifying service in which wound stripes and chevrons are granted will receive their wound stripes, including the red wound stripe, and chevrons through their organizations. In such cases no claims should be sent to the War Office or record offices.

Only one free set will be issued to each person; after that the expense of upkeep is to be borne by the individual. No free issue will be made to anyone who was supplied with wound stripes or chevrons while still serving.

Persons not now serving with the Home Guard but entitled to wound stripes and service chevrons should make application to their old unit commander in the first instance.