

## NAVAL BATTLE HONOURS

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The award of Battle Honours to ships is intended to foster *esprit de corps* among their officers and ships' companies, who are thereby encouraged to take a personal interest in the war time exploits, not only of their present ship but also of those of the same name which distinguished themselves in the past. <sup>x-^</sup>

Till less than forty years ago, Battle Honours were displayed on Royal Navy ships on the authority of the Commanding Officer. However, in 1954, rules for their award were codified and Battle Honours then in use were regularised with a few exceptions; certain fleet action Battle Honours were omitted from the official list which was published in Admiralty Fleet Order 2565 /54. The earliest action of which sufficient was known and was considered worthy of inclusion was 'ARMADA' 1588! The earliest action commemorated in the British Army is 'Tangier 1662-1680'.

The action and campaigns mentioned in the Admiralty Fleet Order are displayed on a scroll, mounted in a suitable position in the ships which are eligible for these Honours. A note of the Battle Honours awarded is to be recorded in Folio I of the Ship's Book. This Folio should contain a Record of Service of all ships of the same name. Many actions and incidents, meritorious in themselves, are not sufficiently important enough to be ranked as Battle Honours. Limitation of space also precludes everything from being included on the scroll. Therefore, several incidents are often compressed into a single, short-titled Battle Honour in a manner similar to that adopted for determining the Battle Honours which appear on a Regimental Colour.

Battle Honours have been generally awarded for successful war service which includes, sinking or capture of an enemy warship, sinking of enemy merchant ships in escorted convoy, engagements with enemy light forces when both sides often incurred losses and operations which resulted in the more or less complete frustration of the enemy's intention at the time, although no warships may have been sunk.

The qualification entitling a ship to a particular Battle Honour is that she was present during the action - the

extent of her participation is immaterial. In the days of sail, physical or visual contact with the enemy was *sine qua non*: but in the wars of the 20th century radio communication etc. enabled patrols and scouting groups to operate effectively at much greater distances and long range ship missiles have changed the picture altogether. The word 'present', therefore, is taken to mean presence at sea under the direct orders of the senior officer controlling the Operation.

If a ship is renamed at any time, she will assume the Battle Honours which go with her new name, and will no longer be entitled to those previously awarded under the old name.

The selection of Battle Honours for the 1914-18 War was based on the award of clasps with the British War Medal. The Royal Indian Navy did not receive any awards for the 1914-18 War and those awarded for the 1939-45 War and promulgated vide AFO 2565/54 are given below:

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*Ship Battle Honour*

*Bengal QN*) 'HokokuMaru' 1942 Burma 1945 Burma 1945 Atlantic 1943-4 Burma 1944-5

*Bombay* Atlantic 1940 North Africa 1942 Sicily 1943 Salerno 1943 Anzk>1944 South  
(IN) France 1944 Adriatic 1944 Atlantic 1943 Burma 1945 Atlantic 1941 Sicily 1943  
Burma 1944-5 Atlantic 1943

*Godavari QN*

) *Jumna (IN)*

*Kistna QN*)

*Konkan QN*) *Madras (IN)* *Rajputana (IN)*

*Roh Ukhand QN*) *Sutlej QN*)

The following two post-Independence Operations undertaken by the Indian Navy until 1965 entitled mem to the award of Battle Honours:

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<i>Kistna</i>	Combined Operations on	October 1947	Naval Force
<i>Cauvery</i>	Kathiawar Coast <i>Jamuna</i>	(Junagadh	Commander: Operations)

<i>Vikrant</i>	Operation Vijay	December 1961	Naval Force
<i>Mysore</i>	(Liberation of		Commander:
<i>Delhi</i>	Goa, Daman and Diu)	Rear Admiral	B5.Soman
<i>Triskul</i>			
<i>Betwa</i>			
<i>Beas&amp;</i>			
<i>Cauvery</i>			

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