

WORLD WAR TWO STARS

THE AIRCREW EUROPE STAR

TERMS

The star was awarded for two months (60 days) operational flying from the United Kingdom bases over Europe (including U.K.) between 03 September 1939 and 05 June 1944. It was **not** awarded after D-Day. Aircrew service in operations at sea will not be a qualification for the Aircrew Europe Star.

The 1939/45 Star must have been earned by six months or for aircrew two months service in operations before a candidate can begin to earn the Aircrew Europe Star. Four months service as air crew in an operational unit, any 2 months of which qualify for the Aircrew Europe Star, is regarded however, as a qualification for that star.

Service for the Aircrew Europe Star brought to an end by death, wounds or other disability due to service, or marked by an award of Mentioned in Despatches qualifies although it may not amount to two months.

BARS

If later entitled to a second or third star, its bar would be worn (but only one bar):

ATLANTIC or **FRANCE AND GERMANY**

RIBBON

The ribbon is light blue with black edges with narrow yellow stripes between the blue and black (representing continuous service by day and night).

ISSUED

There were **12,800** issued to Canadians. ¹



¹ Flight Lieutenant Donald Robert Morrison, DFC, DFM, RCAF with Air Crew Europe Star and bar France and Germany
Photo in the Aviation Museum at CFB Trenton

THE AFRICA STAR

TERMS



The star was awarded for operational service of any length (usually regarded as a minimum one day service) in North Africa from the date of entry of Italy into the War on 10 June 1940 up to the date of cessation of operations against the enemy in North Africa on 12 May 1943.

The qualification is entry as part of the establishment, into an operational command in North Africa. The individual must have been taken on strength of a unit or formation. The whole of the area between the Canal and the Straits of Gibraltar is included. Service in operations in Abyssinia, Somaliland and Eritrea and also in Malta is a qualification. Service in West Africa is excluded. Airborne troops of the Army who have taken part in airborne operations in a qualifying Army area for land operations did qualify.

There is no condition that the 1939/45 Star should already have been earned.

BARS

FIRST ARMY Awarded for service with the First Army in Tunis or Algeria between 8 November 1942 and 12 May 1943. A '1' is worn on the ribbon in undress to denote this bar.

EIGHTH ARMY Awarded for service with that army between 23 October 1942 and 12 May 1943. An '8' is worn on the ribbon in undress to denote this bar.

NORTH AFRICA 1942-1942 Awarded for service with the 18th Army Group Headquarters, navy or air force between 23 October 1942 (the date of the battle of El Alamein) and 12 May 1943. In undress, a rosette on the ribbon denotes this bar.

Only one clasp may be worn on the Africa Star.

RIBBON

The pale buff (sand) ribbon has a central red stripe and two narrow stripes, dark blue at left and light blue at right. The colours represent the desert, the army, navy, and air force.

ISSUED

There were 7,400 issued to Canadians.

PACIFIC STAR

TERMS

The star is awarded for one day or more of operational service in the Pacific between 08 December 1941 and 02 September 1945.

Operational service qualifies in all islands South of latitude 40 degrees North in the Central Pacific and the South China Sea in the area subject to enemy invasion during the war, and including islands occupied by the enemy up to the cessation of hostilities, for the period of the date of enemy invasion or occupation in each instance and up to 2 September 1945.

Qualifying service on land in the **Army** is restricted to operational service in territories in which there have been enemy or Allied invasions. The dates vary for each particular territory. Service in Burma is excluded.

Operational service in China and Malaya from 8 December 1941 up to 15 February 1942 qualifies for the Pacific Star. Operational service in China and Malaya from 16 February 1942 to 2 September 1945 qualifies for the Burma Star. Airborne operations in a qualifying area for land operations will qualify. No prior time qualification is required for Army personnel.



BAR

If later entitled to that star, the **BURMA** bar would be worn.

RIBBON

The ribbon consists of seven coloured stripes: red, narrow dark blue, green, narrow yellow (centre), green, narrow light blue, and red. The colours represent the forests and beaches and the army, navy and air force.

ISSUED

There were 8,800 stars awarded to Canadians.

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² Company Sergeant-Major John Robert Osborn, VC – Pacific Star for time in Hong Kong – Canadian War Museum (Hong Kong bar on his CVSM)
Wing Commander Zebulon Lewis Leigh, OBE, CM, ED – Pacific star – National Air Force Museum of Canada, CFB Station Trenton

THE BURMA STAR

TERMS



Awarded for one day or more operational service during the Burma campaign, between 11 December 1941 and 02 September 1945.

The qualifying area for land operation in service in Burma. In addition, service on land from 1 May 1942 to 31 December 1943, in the province of Bengal and Assam and from 1 January 1944 until 2 September 1945 in those parts of Bengal or Assam east of the Brhmaputra, qualifies.

Operational service in China and Malaya from 8 December 1941 to 15 February 1942 qualifies for the Pacific Star. Service in China and Malaya from 16 February 1942 to 2 September 1945 qualifies for the Burma Star. Airborne troops of the Army who have taken part in airborne operations in a qualifying Army area for land operations will qualify. There is no prior time qualification for Army personnel.

BAR

If later entitled to that star, the **PACIFIC** bar would be worn.

RIBBON

The ribbon has a red centre with dark blue, orange, dark blue edges. The red represents the Commonwealth Forces and the orange the sun.

ISSUED

There were 5,500 stars issued to Canadians.

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³ Lieutenant Roger Mark Caza, MBE (Croix de Guerre) – SOE136 (spy) – Medals at the Canadian War Museum
CPO T.D. Angus, CD, RCN – CFB Esquimalt Museum – Burma Star is the 3rd one from the left in both photos