

F/L F. M. Benitz's ribbons:



- 1) **Distinguished Flying Cross** – DFC (awarded 7 April, 1942; presented 16 Nov., 1943)
 - 2) **1939-1945 Star**, with gilt rosette
 - 3) **Canadian Volunteer Service Medal**, with silver maple leaf
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Distinguished Flying Cross



The **Distinguished Flying Cross** is a military decoration awarded to personnel of the [United Kingdom's Royal Air Force](#) and other [services](#), and formerly to officers of other [Commonwealth](#) countries, for "an act or acts of valour, courage or devotion to duty whilst flying in active operations against the enemy". The award was established on 3 June 1918, shortly after the formation of the RAF. It was

originally awarded to air force [commissioned officers](#) and to [Warrant Officers](#). During the [Second World War](#) it was also awarded to [Royal Artillery](#) officers from the [British Army](#) serving on attachment to the RAF as pilots-cum-artillery directors... Recipients of the Distinguished Flying Cross are entitled to use the [post-nominal letters](#) "DFC". A [bar](#) is added to the ribbon for holders of the DFC who received a second award.

During the [Great War](#), a total of approximately 1,100 DFCs were awarded, with 70 first bars and 3 second bars. During the [Second World War](#), 20,354 DFCs were awarded (the most of any award), with approximately 1,550 first bars and 45 second bars.^[2] Honorary awards were made on 964 occasions to aircrew from other non-commonwealth countries.

The cross is a [cross flory](#) and is 2½ inches wide. The horizontal and bottom bars are terminated with bumps, the upper bar with a rose. The front of the medal features aeroplane propellers superimposed on the vertical arms of the cross and wings on the horizontal arms. In the centre is a [laurel](#) wreath around the RAF monogram surmounted by an [Imperial Crown](#).

The reverse features the [Royal Cypher](#) in the centre and the year of issue engraved on the lower arm. The medal is issued named.

1939-1945 Star



Date: 1945
Campaign: Second World War 1939-45
Branch of Service: British and Commonwealth Forces
Ribbon: Equal stripes of dark blue, red and light blue symbolising the Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force respectively.
Metal: Bronze
Size: Height 44mm; max. width 38mm

Description: The six pointed star has a circular centre with the GRI/VI monogram, surmounted by a crown and inscribed THE 1939-45 STAR round the foot.

Clasps: Battle of Britain

The first in a series of eight bronze stars issued for service in the Second World War, it was awarded to personnel who had completed six months' service in specified operational commands overseas, between 3rd September 1939 and 2nd September 1945, though in certain cases the minimum period was shortened. Any service curtailed by death, injury or capture also qualified, as did the award of a decoration or a mention in despatches.

The clasp awarded to RAF aircrew for action during the Battle of Britain (Jul 10, 1940 – Oct 31, 1940) was denoted by a **gilt rosette** when the ribbon was worn alone.

Canadian Volunteer Service Medal



The **Canadian Volunteer Service Medal** is granted to persons of any rank in the Naval, Military or Air Forces of Canada who voluntarily served on Active Service voluntarily from September 3, 1939 to March 1, 1947. The medal was established on October 22, 1943

Members of the Naval, Military or Air Forces of Canada are eligible for this medal if they voluntarily served on Active Service and honourably completed eighteen months (540 days) total service from September 3, 1939 to March 1, 1947.

A silver bar (often called a clasp), a **maple leaf** at its centre was awarded for 60 days service outside Canada; Newfoundland counted as outside Canada. A **silver maple leaf** is worn on the ribbon in undress.