



The Commemorative
**International Submarine
Service Medal**

The International Submarine Service Medal

Only a select few are accepted for duty in the submarine service and for them the price of success can be very high. To mark such dedication and hardship a special commemorative medal has been struck at the close of the first one hundred years of submarine history. Commissioned jointly by the Royal Naval and International Submariners Associations this is a distinctive tribute to the men who have served and continue to serve beneath the world's oceans.

The professionalism that is the hallmark of the submariner is acknowledged around the globe, as are the sacrifices they are at times called upon to make. Recognised by their individual countries often with their highest distinction for bravery but never before has a single medal bonded the men of the "Silent Service" of so many nations.

"Of all the branches of men in the forces, there are none which shows more devotion and faces grimmer perils, than the submariner"
Winston Churchill 1943.

It may seem incredible to the layman, but "duty" was the first and last word in the life of a submariner. Despite the dangers of the elements, these courageous men of the SILENT SERVICE used their skills and courage to maintain the status quo. There have been 14 VC's conferred on British Submariners, and many other submariners around the world have had their nation's highest honour bestowed on them.

The 17 nations of the International Submariners Association meet annually, the strong bond and affinity between us is unsurpassed. I know that this medal will be worn with pride by all submariners, regardless of which nation they served. It pays them the honour and recognition that they justly deserve. A tribute to all those men who have served and those who continue to serve in their Submarine Service.

In light of my commitment to Submariners worldwide through my position as President of the International Submariners Association, I am delighted to endorse "The International Submarine Service Medal".



James C. S. Blakely

James C. S. Blakely
President

Eligibility

Available to all former or presently serving submariners from all nations or their next of kin or their direct descendants.

The application form (attached) must be completed and signed. This form may be certified by the organisation holding a record of the applicant's service or by copies of service records.

Should there be any question of an applicant's eligibility, the matter will be referred to a scrutineering committee set up by the Submariners Association, whose decision will be final.

Award Productions Ltd., international medallists and medallists to the Royal British Legion, has been invited to sponsor and produce this distinctive and befitting tribute to be worn with pride, not alongside campaign medals or gallantry decorations, but separately and distinctively. The sponsors have pledged ten per cent of the net cost of each medal sold to be donated to and used for the future support and welfare of submariners.



The Medal

Obverse

The medal features a submerged "Oberon" class boat. A class introduced approximately midway through the century of submarine development. The vessel is shown motionless as though assessing the aperture formed by the encircling words "International Submarine Service"



Struck in brilliant polished cupro-nickel to the exacting standards for which Award Productions has become renowned, this very distinctive medal is available in full-size (36mm) and miniature (18mm) each size medal is ribboned and fitted with an individual brooch ready to wear.

The full-size medal can be supplied in a plush lined, fitted presentation case as an optional extra (please see the order form). All our medals are produced in the United Kingdom to the highest standards.



Reverse

This facet incorporates the gradated markings of the depth gauge, an instrument associated with the Submarine Service. Through this feature the viewer can observe the approach of the wording "BY SKILL AND STEALTH WE COME UNSEEN", each word increasing in size as the epigram comes closer.

The Ribbon & Suspender

As with all medal ribbons each colour has its own explanation. The blue represents the depths of the ocean; the white is the wake of the torpedo. The black represents the submarine and the red is the strike power and also reflects the nuclear age, it is furthermore the colour of the International Submariners Association. As this commemorative is exclusively a naval medal the ribbon is moiré giving it a watered effect.

The ribbon and medal are connected by a unique medal suspender which incorporates the dolphins of the Submarine Service supporting a propeller in an anti-fouling shroud as found on a torpedo. These elements are linked and attached to the medal by way of a torpedo safety fork.

There have been many medals struck through the years to commemorate and recognise outstanding bravery and devotion to duty by our servicemen and women who have served both for Crown and Country, enduring many hardships in the line of that duty.

One of the services which is seldom recognised across the world, but has sustained many heavy losses throughout the years, from the desperate and arduous task of protecting the supplies and convoys travelling throughout the world, especially during both world wars, to more recently the loss of the Kursk.

Many gallantry medals have been awarded to submariners throughout the years, for those who have demonstrated great skill and bravery in the face of adversity, but never before has a medal been struck to recognise the skills, endeavours, stealth and bravery on a worldwide scale. So the idea of the International Submarine Service Medal I heartily support and I know that Admiral of the Fleet Lord Fieldhouse would have been entirely supportive of this project, as the submarine service was always dear to his heart.



M. E. Fieldhouse

Lady M. E. Fieldhouse

The International Submarine Service Medal is an idea whose time has come. Immediately following the Centenary of Submarines in the Royal Navy and that of many other nations, this medal will support and deepen the sense of solidarity and comradeship which is an enduring feature between those of all ranks and nationalities who have served in submarines.

I believe this medal will be eagerly sought after by all submariners across the submarine community and although 'unofficial' in the sense that it cannot be worn as part of those issued by The Crown, it will be worn with pride. The International Submarine Service Medal has my full support.



Richard Heaslip

Rear Admiral Richard Heaslip CB



A donation of ten percent from each product sold will be made to preserve the long-term welfare of fellow submariners. Please help those less fortunate than yourself by adding your own personal donation, see order form. Thank you.

**For Further Information Contact
James C S Blakely**

intersubgb@yahoo.com