**Jubilee Medals - the history of them during the reign of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II**

**It sounds absurd that way back in 1977, when the Queen was just 51, fit, young and vibrant that the economy was struggling and there was little spare cash around, even for Royals!**

**When it came to minting the Queens Silver Jubilee Medal and a head count was carried out of the numbers of recipients earmarked to receive that Medal, the Government realised that come what may on the given budget, that the Medal had to be rationed and lists abandoned, and a new way of distribution had to be sought much I would think to the disappointment of the Queen herself with a few unpublished comments made by HRH Prince Philip into the bargain.**

**The Government came up with the bright idea of quota’s whereby each armed force [the prime target for distribution, with the greatest numbers to accommodate] who along with other departments should be asked to cut their expected gratuitous issue to be reduced by a large percentage, and then for each commanding officer to select the recipients under their command on a meritorious basis which from the very start was flawed for all concerned deserved the Medal, and many a man and woman missed out on what in effect was the drawing of straws, with too many by half to chose from. It is a truism that it was a morale put downer, as earlier in the processes, personnel got wind of the medal considered to be an across-the-board award, but only well short of approximately half of those fully and rightly expecting the Medal actually got one.**

**All other groups chiefly civilian with many deserving the award, received a half or even less than had been expected.**

**There can be no doubt that the organisers of this, the first Elizabeth II Jubilee Medal went away with a flea in their ears, and the scene was set for all subsequent Jubilee medals. Our next Jubilee Medal was an across-the-board gratuitous issue and well the men and women welcomed it, and justly so. Before leaving this paragraph try thinking like I HAVE DONE FOR MANY YEARS NOW ABOUT WHAT WE ARE. We are called the Royal Navy but so too are New Zealanders, and Australians, currently anyway, and they were entitled to a Queens issue just like you and I were/are. It would make a mockery of the Commonwealth were it not so!**

**Now look at the table at the end of this missive, which is basic and explicit. It shows the necessary data, remember to calculate your reserve time you are serving or were serving and are now a veteran. Being grossly over simplistic, if you joined in the first period say in 1960 and received the Silver Jubilee Medal chosen by your then commanding officer, and left after 40 years service in 2000, you would have the SILVER, GOLDEN, and you could well purchase the DIAMOND and the PLATINUM, BUT WAIT AND SEE HOW YOU WOULD WEAR THESE MEDALS.**

**WORK OUT YOUR REQUIREMENTS, AND REMEMBER THE VAST MAJORITY OF JUBILEE MEDALS ARE NOT RIM MARKED WITH NAME, OFFICIAL No. etc. They could well be but it is an extra expense.**

**Now the crunch?**

**Jubilee Medals issued to you are recorded on your SC [Service Certificate], whilst those purchased are not, and moreover, Jubilee Medals that you purchase personally are hung on a Medal bar separate from that used to mount [SC] Medals and worn on a tunic jacket separate [SC] is a second medal bar hanging below the medals on the [SC] medal bar. It all sounds rather complicated folks but it is straight forward and easy to comprehend.**

**Believe it or not, nothing has changed for the self procured Jubilee Medals. They have always been worn as stated, and why it has come to the fore is because the shortages of minted first Elizabeth II Jubilee Medal viz the Jubilee Medal which suffered with shortages in the 1977 period, was somewhat hidden because of the embarrassment of having to deny sailors of that period by an ill prepared Royal Mint. As I have said, the none or part only issue caused embarrassment, jealousy, gross annoyance and anger. With the distribution of these Medals in this self pay/second Medal bar/hung below the primary Medal bar to avoid confusion, there is absolutely no need to feel jealous because as stated, if you didn’t get one as an [SC] Medal, wear your purchased Medal with pride, the same pride that those wearing [SC awarded Medals ] wear theirs, although theirs will be on the upper Medal bar. Note this anomaly affects full Medals as well as miniature Medals on dinner jackets etc.**

**Any problems, seek guidance from Neal Catley who if necessary will liaise with me to resolve the problem.**

**Please do not confuse the third medal bar, which is again a non-SC award, involving younger people wearing Medals won by other elderly family members or men/women who have died or no longer want their medals on show. It is worn on the right hand side of the jacket or tunic.**

**DETAILS OF THE LIFE OF HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II FROM BIRTH APRIL 1926 TO DEATH SEPTEMBER 2022**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Jubilee Medal** | **Queens years on Throne** | **Year Awarded** | **Queens Age** |
| **SILVER** | **25** | **1977** | **51** |
| **GOLDEN** | **50** | **2002** | **76** |
| **DIAMOND** | **60** | **2012** | **86** |
| **PLATINUM** | **70** | **2022** | **96** |