

A St John Ambulance medal/medallion was awarded to a member of my family. Can you help me find out more about them/their work for St John?

Possibly. Note that our records are limited, are extremely unlikely to include photographs, and depend on which medal/medallion they held (for more detail on each specific award see the FAQ for each type).

Medallions:

These were awarded in large numbers to those who had passed three first aid examinations in succession. Holding one *does not necessarily mean the holder was a member of the Brigade*, merely that they successfully attended a first aid course. The number on the back, despite saying 'registered at St John's Gate Clerkenwell' does not correspond with any records we have here, apart from the very earliest (numbers 1-2722, all awarded before 1885).



We only hold information on Medallion recipients *if* they then went on to be SJA members in London, gain Service Medals for 15/12 years service or become Order members. It is thus only worth contacting us if you have a reason to believe they went on to become a long-standing member.



Service Medals:

Service Medal recipients after the 1920s are recorded in our Service Medal Roll, which we can search for you. This alphabetical list gives details of the date of issue, dates of any bars (for each additional five years service) and division. For named (pre-1942) medals this information is the same as that engraved on the medal edge. We will not hold any further details unless the recipient was a member in London or went onto become an Order member.

If you know which area they served in it may be worth you contacting the County Headquarters directly to see if they have any local records (we only have these for London members). You can find their details by searching the 'St John in your area' box in the right hand corner of <http://www.sja.org.uk>

St John Jubilee or Coronation medal:

We do not have any records specifically on these medals. However, many recipients were from SJA London district, (almost all in the case of the 1902 Coronation Medal) and we do have membership cards for most London members, so it is worth getting in touch to check.

Medals for South Africa and China:

We have a database of recipients of the St John South Africa medal which we can search for you. This gives details of rank, division, unit served with clasps qualified for and in a few cases other information.



Lifesaving Medal:

The museum has a database of recipients of the Lifesaving medal which we can search for you. It includes a citation of the incident for which it was awarded (often very moving, as the Lifesaving medal is only awarded for very great courage). It also includes the date the medal was awarded and the date of the incident. Where the recipient was an SJA member it includes and rank and division. For non-members there is often an indication of their location and profession.

Order Insignia:

If your family member was an Order member, we should in nearly all cases before 1989 be able to tell you the date they were awarded the honour and any promotions within the Order (it helps us a great deal with this if you have an idea when they died). We may also have a nomination form, which usually gives a detailed account of their work for St John, including date joined, division and a summary of the service they gave. We cannot provide copies of these forms for data protection reason but we can give you a summary.

NOTE

If you suspect your family member was a **VAD in either World War**, with either St John **or** the Red Cross, please address your enquiry in the first instance to the British Red Cross, as they hold all the Joint War Committee/Organisation VAD records. See <http://www.redcross.org.uk/standard.asp?id=42511> for contact details.

Once you have checked the entry above for each type of medal, if you wish to contact us to find out more please write to the Museum with full details at either:

museum@nhq.sja.org.uk

or

Museum of the Order of St. John, St. John Ambulance
St. John's Gate,
St. John's Lane
London
EC1M 4DA

The Museum receives a great many enquiries and aims to answer within 4 weeks of receiving your email or letter. A donation of at least £10 is requested for medal enquiries, to help cover the cost of postage and staff time (cheques should be in £ sterling and be made payable to St John Ambulance).