

## **General Service Medal with 'Arabian Peninsula' Clasp 1<sup>st</sup> January 1957 – 30<sup>th</sup> June 1960.**

**Qualifying Period – Service of 30 days in the Aden Colony or Protectorate and the Sultanates of Muscat and Oman, or any of the adjacent Gulf States.**

### **Arabian Peninsula**

British involvement in Muscat dates from the early days of the East India Company in the seventeenth century. This involvement largely came about due to the cooperation between the British and the Sultan of Muscat to suppress piracy. By the Treaty of 1852 Britain recognised the independence of the Sultan though he was able to call on help in time of trouble.

Due to disagreement over oil and land rights, the Imam of Oman, who enjoyed a large measure of autonomy, rebelled against the Sultan of Muscat. The Sultan's forces suffered major setbacks and in July 1955 he appealed for British military assistance. The rebels were forced into the Jebel Akhdar mountains whence it was virtually impossible to dislodge them with the forces available.

It was not until elements of 22 SAS under Major John Watts (later Major General and Commander of the Sultan of Oman's Land Forces) were deployed, supported by small numbers of British Soldiers from several supporting arms, that the rebels were driven out of their mountain stronghold and soundly defeated. It was a very small operation involving only 250 British Soldiers but it was brilliantly successful.

The clasp was authorised by Army Order 9 dated February 1961.

In addition to members of the Army and Royal Air Force it was also awarded to those who had served with the NAAFI, WVS, British Red Cross and the Soldiers' and Airmen's Scripture Readers' Association.

A truly bewildering number of Tribal Guards, Police Forces and The Trucial Oman Scouts, not the United Arab Emirates were also eligible under the same conditions as the Army and RAF, though the period mentioned does not apply to them in all cases.

Those who were withdrawn from Cyprus for service in any of the above mentioned territories before completion of the necessary service to qualify for the 'Cyprus' clasp were granted it and should wear that for the 'Arabian Peninsula' immediately after (above) that for 'Cyprus'.

Those awarded a Mention-in-Despatches or a Queen's Commendation are entitled to wear the emblem on the ribbon. Recipients of either of these, whose service was curtailed through no fault of their own, are entitled to the clasp irrespective of their length of service.

Some of the units present were: Life Guards, 13/18 Hussars, 15/19 Hussars, Cameronians, SAS, Royal Electrical Mechanical Engineers, Royal Corps of Signals, Royal Army Medical Corps, RAF.

### **Spink - British Battles & Medals**

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