

TAKE PRIDE IN YOUR  
**OCCUPATION**  
 SERVICE MEDAL

**Army of Occupation Medal**

**Navy Occupation Service Medal**

Europe (front)

Far East (back)



Eligibility in VFW based on post-war occupation duty is a tradition dating back to Cuba in 1902 after the Spanish-American War. Occupation of the Rhineland, in the aftermath of WWI, lasted until 1922. All these veterans qualified for VFW.

After WWII, veterans occupied countries on two continents. In Asia, the Army's 6th, 7th and 40th Infantry divisions, as part of the 24th Corps, were stationed in Korea. Troop strength reached 45,000 in 1946-47. Japan was occupied by the 11th Airborne Division and elements of the 1st Marine Division on Aug. 30, 1945. The Americal, 32nd and 77th Infantry divisions also were among the early occupiers. So were the 2nd and 5th Marine divisions.

By the time occupation ended in April 1952, the 1st Cavalry, 7th, 24th and 25th Infantry divisions had been

stationed in Japan. The 5th Air Force and Naval Forces Far East also had been present.

During the 10-year occupation period in Europe, more than a million veterans rotated through Germany, while thousands more served in Italy and Austria.

The Fifth Army's II Corps, 10th Mountain Division, and the 34th, 85th, 88th and 91st Infantry divisions participated in Italy's occupation. They were all gone by Dec. 14, 1947—almost three months to the day after the Italian peace treaty had been signed.

The longest period of occupation was of West Berlin, which lasted until October 1990.

Over the years, the VFW has been led by several commanders-in-chief who became eligible through occupation duty.

**Army of Occupation Medal (30 consecutive days)**

Italy .....	May 9, 1945 - Sept. 15, 1947
Germany (except W. Berlin) .....	May 9, 1945 - May 5, 1955
W. Berlin .....	May 9, 1945 - Oct. 2, 1990
Austria .....	May 9, 1945 - July 27, 1955
Korea .....	Sept. 3, 1945 - June 29, 1949
Japan .....	Sept. 3, 1945 - April 27, 1952

**Navy Occupation Service Medal**

Italy .....	May 8, 1945 - Dec. 15, 1947
Trieste .....	May 8, 1945 - Oct. 25, 1954
Germany (Except W. Berlin) .....	May 8, 1945 - May 5, 1955
Austria .....	May 9, 1945 - Oct. 25, 1955
Asiatic/Pacific .....	Sept. 2, 1945 - April 27, 1952



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