

**BRITISH ORDERS
and their MEDALS**

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**THE MOST HONOURABLE AND ANCIENT ORDER OF THE BATH
GCB / KCB / CB**

TERMS



Military

Civil

Presented for service of the highest calibre, the order has a civil and military division with three levels in each division:

Knight Grand Cross (GCB);
Knight Commander (KCB); and
Companion (CB).

The first two levels confer knighthood. Since 1935, they have not been available to anyone retaining Canadian citizenship.

DESCRIPTION

Knight Grand Cross (GCB)



The Knight Grand Cross wears a large **badge** (89-mm wide) from a 102-mm wide crimson ribbon, which passes over the right shoulder and displays the badge on the left hip: the **collar chain** is formed by nine crowns and eight devices (the devices consist of a rose, thistle and shamrock issuing from a sceptre, all enamelled in their proper colours), the crowns and devices being linked together by gold white-enamelled knots.

The Military Star (86-mm wide, 102-mm high) is worn on the left breast and is a silver flaming star with a gold Maltese cross overall, and a central device of three Imperial Crowns surrounded by the red enamel and green laurel as described for the badge.

The blue enamelled scroll outlined in gold is also present.

The Civil Star is similar to the military star but does not have the Maltese cross, the green laurel nor the blue enamel.



The Mantle is of crimson satin lined with white taffeta and on the left side of the mantle is embroidered a representation of the star of the order.

Knight Commander (KCB)

The Military Star is 57-mm wide and high, in the shape of a silver cross pattée, with laurel wreaths in green around the central part of the badge and with the motto and the blue enamel scroll below with ICH DIEN in gold. A neck badge (51-mm wide) is also worn.



KCB Military Star

The Civil Star is similar to the military, but without the green laurel wreath and the blue enamel scroll. The civil badge is 32-mm wide by 44-mm high.

Companions (CB)

Military Companions (CB) wears only the badge (38-mm wide). The badge is a gold Maltese cross of eight points, enamelled white, each point tipped with a gold ball, and in each angle between the arms of the cross, a gold lion. The central device consists of the rose, thistle and shamrock issuing from a sceptre and three crowns. Surrounding the central device is a red enamelled bandlet with **TRIA JUNCTA IN UNO** in gold. Around this circle are two branches of laurel, enamelled green, and below this is a blue enamel scroll with **ICH DIEN** in gold.

Civil Companions (CB) wear only the badge (26-mm wide x 38-mm high). The civil badge is oval with gold filigree work and consists of the motto in a bandlet around the edge and, in the centre, the rose, thistle and shamrock issuing from a sceptre and the three crowns. At the top is an ornate gold scroll with a ring attached, through which a larger gold ring passes. A GCB or KCB civil companion wears this badge in a larger size rather than the military badge.

OVERSE AND REVERSE

Each of the badges has a reverse that is similar in appearance to its obverse.

MOUNTING

The Maltese stars are worn from a ribbon passing through a large gold ring linked to the ring attached to the top of the crown (between the top two points of the star).

The badge of a Civil Companion is worn from a ribbon passing through a large gold ring linked to the gold scroll-work at the top of the badge.

RIBBON

The crimson ribbon is 38-mm wide for neck badges; sash is 51-mm wide.

DATES

The order was founded in 1925 and the KCB was first awarded to a Canadian in 1815 to Lieutenant-General Gordon DRUMMOND, British Army (born in Quebec City).



The Order of the Bath

ISSUED

LEVEL	CIVIL	MILITARY	TOTAL
GCB	2	9	11
KCB	7	33	40
CB	20	156	176

**Companion of the Order of the Bath to Canadians
(CB)**

Dates	Canadian				Canadians in		
	Civil	Army	RCN	RCAF	BA	RN	RAF
Pre Confederation	9	1	0	0	5	2	0
Post Confederation	9	1	0	0	4	0	0
South Africa	0	5	0	0	2	1	0
World War I	1	42	0	0	5	1	0
1935 - 1937	1	2	0	0	0	0	0
World War II	0	33	6	23	3	0	6
Korea	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Post WWII	0	0	0	0	2	1	4
Total:	20	85	6	23	22	5	10

Current to Canadian Gazette of 29 July 2017

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Knight Grand Cross (Civil and Military) GCB

The holder would wear: (1) a collar with a large badge (worn on collar days); (2) a wide crimson sash worn over the right shoulder with; (3) a large badge on the left hip; (4) a star on the left breast (below other medals); (5) a mantle of crimson satin lined with white taffeta. The collar and the sash are not worn at the same time. This level confers knighthood on the recipient and they are entitled to be called 'Sir'.

Knight Commander (Civil and Military) KCB

The holder would wear (1) a star on the left breast below other medals, and; (2) a large neck badge from a wide crimson ribbon. This level confers knighthood on the recipient and they are entitled to be called 'Sir'.

Companions (Civil and Military) CB

The holder would wear a small neck badge from a 1.5" wide ribbon around the neck.

A Civil decoration takes precedence over a military decoration. The decoration is available to women; a woman would be called Dame Grand Cross or Dame Commander but no Canadian woman has been awarded this honour.

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¹ Major-General Hugh Andrew Young, CB, CBE, DSO, CD – Quartermaster-General in WWII – Royal Canadian Corps of Signals Museum Kingston, Ontario

**THE MOST DISTINGUISHED ORDER OF ST. MICHAEL AND ST. GEORGE
GCMG / KCMG / CMG**

TERMS

Established in 1818 and awarded to citizens of the Empire and Commonwealth who have rendered distinguished services in the former colonies and in foreign affairs. It was also awarded extensively to senior military officers in WW1 and before. There are three classes to the Order: Knight Grand Cross (GCMG); Knight Commander (KCMG); and Companion. The first two levels confer knighthood and thus have not been available to Canadians since 1935.

DESCRIPTION

Knight Grand Cross (GCMG)

The holder would wear: (1) a collar chain formed alternately of lions of England, of Maltese crosses in white enamel, and of the cyphers SM and SG, with, in the centre, two winged lions, each holding a book and seven arrows (worn on collar days); (2) a large badge worn on the collar or from a sash; (3) a wide (102-mm) (watered Saxon blue, scarlet, and Saxon blue) sash, worn over the right shoulder with the badge on the left hip; (4) a star on the left breast (below other medals); (5) a mantle of Saxon blue, lined with scarlet silk, tied with cords of blue and scarlet silk and gold with the star of the order on the left side; (6) a hat of blue satin, lined with scarlet, and surmounted by black and white ostrich feathers. The collar and the sash are not worn at the same time. The star has seven rays, with a gold ray between each, and over all the Cross of St. George in red Enamel. In the centre is a representation of St. Michael Encountering Satan within a blue-Circular riband bearing the motto, *Auspicium Melioris Ævi* in gold. This level confers knighthood on the recipient and they are entitled to be called 'Sir'.



Knight Commander (KCMG)

A Knight Commander wears a neck badge suspended from a smaller ribbon than the GCMG but the same size. The star is a silver eight-pointed star with rays emanating from the centre with the St. George's Cross and with the central device of the GCMG Star. This level also confers knighthood.

Companion (CMG)



A Companion has no breast star and wears the 45-mm wide neck badge. The badge is gold, seven-pointed star (V-shaped extremities on each point), enamelled white, edged gold and surmounted by a gold Imperial Crown (on the V of the top arm). The centre has a circle of blue enamel with the motto: AUSPICIUM MELIORIS Aevi (token of a better age).

OBVERSE

Inside the blue enamel circle, in enamels, is St. Michael encountering Satan.

REVERSE

Inside the blue enamel circle is St. George on horseback, fighting the dragon.



MOUNTING

A ring is welded to the top of the crown. A larger gold ring passes through this ring. Until 1917, the CMG was worn on the left breast from a straight suspender, with a pronged buckle.



RIBBON

The ribbon, worn in undress and with neck badges, is 38-mm wide and consists of three equal watered stripes: Saxon blue, scarlet, and Saxon blue.

DATES

The order was established in 1818.

The first GCMG was awarded to a Canadian in 1878 and the last in 1935.

The first KCMG was awarded to a Canadian in 1869 and the last in 1935.

The first CMG was awarded to a Canadian in 1870 and the last in 1946 until Mr. O'Neil in 2004.

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² Major-General William Antrobus Griesbach, CB, CMG, DSO & Bar served in the Boer War, WWI and WWII and was the Mayor of Edmonton, MP and a Senator. (Medals in the Loyal Edmonton Regiment Museum in Edmonton)

ISSUED

(Current to Canada Gazette of 29 July 2017)

- GCMG: 16 (2 to Canadians in Britain after 1935)
- KCMG: 88 (4 to Canadians in Britain after 1935)
- CMG: 492 (6 to Canadians in Britain after 1946)

The totals include those awarded after 1935 and 1946 to those born in Canada but who moved to England and served the British Government thus receiving their awards when British citizens. The numbers for these are in parenthesis. The most recent issues to Canadians were to Mr. William Andrew O’Neil, CM, CMG, who was appointed a CMG in 2004 – he became the first Commissioner of the Canadian Coast Guard and Mr. Laurent Robert Beaudoin, CC, OQ, CMG, CEO Bombardier, Inc. as per the **Canada Gazette** of 22 February 2014 and London Gazette of 31 December 2013 “For Services to British Industry particularly in Northern Ireland”.³



³ Major-General James Howden MacBrien, KCB, DSO, CStJ served as Commissioner of the RCMP from 01 August 1931 to 05 March 1938. Commissioner Aylesworth Bowen Perry, CMG, served as the Commissioner of the RCMP from 01 August 1900 to 31 March 1923. (both RCMP Museum) Lieutenant-Colonel James Arthur Hesketh, CMG, DSO, Lord Strathcona’s Horse WWI (Medals in the LSH(RC) Museum in Calgary) Sir Donald Alexander Smith, Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal, GCMG, GCVO, KStJ (Medals in the LSH(RC) Museum in Calgary)

Most recent appointment in the New Year’s Honour List 2014 (Canada Gazette of 22 February 2014)
Mr. Laurent Robert Beaudoin, CC, OQ, CMG, CEO Bombardier

THE MOST EXCELLENT ORDER OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE
GBE / KBE / CBE / OBE / MBE

TERMS



With WWI lasting longer than expected and no suitable way to reward services to the war effort by civilians at home and servicemen in support positions, King George V created another order with five grades, the first two conferring knighthood. The order could be given generously for services to the Empire at home, in India and in the Dominions and colonies. The order was created mainly to reward non-combatant services to the war and was

to include women, whom most existing orders excluded. When the order was created in 1917 it had only one division, but was divided into Civil and Military divisions 1918. The order at any level could be awarded for gallantry as well as service.

The order took an abrupt change in 1937 when the insignia and the colour of the ribbon were changed.

Canada has had an interesting history with this order. It was awarded generously at the end of WWI but discontinued altogether shortly after the Nickel Resolution which barred honours to Canadians. Prime Minister Bennett awarded the order (including knighthoods) briefly in 1934-1936 and then no further awards were made until WW2. Even then, it was unclear if Canadians could be awarded the Order, except for bravery, but by 1942 Cabinet had allowed it to be awarded generously. Post WW2 it was awarded for bravery and occasionally for service (several awards made to the military in Korea). After the introduction of the Order of Canada in 1967, it has been awarded to Canadian Forces members attached to British units and to Canadians for British-Canadian services with approximately two Canadians per year receiving the Order.

Knight or Dame Grand Cross (GBE / DBE)

A Knight or Dame wears the badge from a ribbon (102-mm wide) which passes over the right shoulder to display the large badge on the left hip. The original star was eight-pointed, with a central circle of enamelled crimson containing the motto FOR GOD AND THE EMPIRE in gold, with Britannia holding a trident, seated beside a shield bearing the national flag. The current star has rays of chipped silver with the crowned effigies of Queen Mary and King

George V in the centre with the motto. The collar is silver-gilt with twelve medallions, alternately displaying the Royal Arms and the Royal Cypher of King George V. The collar to which the badge attaches is linked together with cables bearing the Imperial Crown between two sea lions. A mantle made of rose pink satin lined with pearl grey silk with on the left side a representation of the star completes the ensemble.

Knight or Dame Commander (KBE / DBE)

The Star and star are similar to, but smaller than those of the GBE and the badge is worn as a neck badge. (Star & Neck badge 1st right below)

Commander (CBE)

There is no star and the neck badge (64-mm wide) is smaller than the KBE. (Neck badge 2nd right below)

Officer (OBE)

The silver-gilt badge (51-mm wide) is gold in appearance with no enamels and is worn on the left breast. (Officer's badge 2nd left below)

Member (MBE)

A Member wears a silver badge (51-mm wide) on the left breast (no enamels). (Member's badge 1st left below)

OBVERSE

Original Badge A cross patonce (four arms with three points on each arm) of silver-gilt with the arms enamelled pearl-grey, surmounted by an Imperial Crown. The circular centre, in gold, shows the figure of Britannia, holding a trident and seated beside a shield bearing the national flag. The centre is surrounded by a circular band, enamelled crimson and bearing the motto FOR GOD AND THE EMPIRE in gold.

Current Badge (after 1937)
The current badge is the same as the above except that in the centre, in gold, are the crowned effigies of King George V and his consort Queen Mary. Neither the current nor the original OBE and MBE badges is enamelled.



REVERSE

A rope circle with the current Royal Cypher, surmounted by an Imperial Crown and with a hallmark on the lower limb.

BAR

A silver emblem of two oak leaves is worn on the riband when the appointment to the order is for gallantry (discontinued in 1974).

MOUNTING

A ring is attached to the top of the crown through which a larger ring passes.

RIBBON

Original The civil ribbon was purple (38-mm wide). The military ribbon had a narrow central stripe of scarlet.

(MBE Military 1st Type below)



(OBE Military 2nd type below)



Current (after 1937)

The civil ribbon is rose-pink with pearl-grey edges. The military ribbon has a narrow central stripe of pearl-grey added.

DATES

The order was established in June 1917 with military and civil divisions established in December 1918. On 09 March 1937, the insignia and ribbon were changed. Between 01 January 1958 and 1974, gallantry awards were recognized with silver oak leaves. ⁴

⁴ This Order is still awarded to one to two Canadians per year either being Canadian Forces Military Officers serving with the British Army on exchange

ISSUED - 5,007 to Canadians (Current to Canada Gazette 26 December 2020)

LEVEL	MILITARY	CIVIL	TOTAL
GBE	2	5	7
KBE	9	14	23
CBE	283	215	498
OBE	1,078	624	1,702
MBE	1,883	894	2,775
Total	3,255	1,752	5,007



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or civilians who contribute to Canadian-British relations. By the new rules of the Canadian Order of Precedence, this Order is a Foreign Commonwealth award when awarded to a Canadian after 1972, and should be worn after all Canadian Orders.

⁵ Lieutenant-General Howard Graham, OC, CVO, CBE, DSO, ED, CD – Chief of the Army – Hastings & Prince Edward Regiment Museum, Belleville, Ontario
 Lieutenant-Colonel Trumbull Warren, OBE, ED (with USA Bronze Star) – 48th Highlanders Museum, Toronto, Ontario
 Colonel Stanley Alfred Lee, OBE, MC with MID – Royal Canadian Signals Corps Museum Kingston, Ontario
 Brigadier Milton Fowler Gregg, VC, OC, CBE, ED, CD – Royal Canadian Regiment Museum London, Ontario
 Commissioner Leonard Hanson Nicholson, OC, MBE, KStJ – RCMP Museum, Regina, Saskatchewan

**BRITISH EMPIRE MEDAL
(Military and Civil)**

BEM

(The Medal of the Order of the British Empire for Meritorious Service)



TERMS

This medal replaced the Medal of the Order of the British Empire (1917-1922) and has a military division and civil division. The medal was awarded for meritorious service which warranted such a mark of royal appreciation.

Civil Division

The medal was not awarded to members of, or persons eligible for appointment to any of the five classes of the Order of the British Empire.

Military Division

The medal was awarded to subordinate personnel only: non-commissioned officers / Petty Officers and men who were eligible for the military division of the various classes of this order.

After the Empire Gallantry Medal (EGM) was superseded by the George Cross, the BEM continued to be awarded for gallantry but of a degree less than that required to earn the George Medal. With the institution of the Queen's Gallantry Medal (a medal not awarded to Canadians), the award of the BEM for gallantry was ceased in June 1974. A person holding the BEM and later admitted to the Order could continue to wear the BEM.

BARS

Bars could be awarded for services or acts that would have earned the medal. No Canadians received a bar.

After 1957, when the medal was awarded for gallantry, a SILVER OAK LEAF emblem was worn on the ribbon to signify that the award was for gallantry and not for service (discontinued in 1974).



DESCRIPTION

A thin, circular, silver medal, 36-mm in diameter.

OBVERSE

Britannia is shown seated, the sun to her right and the legend around the edge: FOR GOD AND THE EMPIRE and in exergue below: FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE.

REVERSE

The Royal Cypher surmounted by a crown with the words: INSTITUTED BY / KING GEORGE V at the bottom within a border of four heraldic lions.

MOUNTING

The laurel leaves on the underside of a straight bar are attached to the medal by a single-toe claw.

RIBBON

Originally The civil ribbon was purple (32-mm wide). The military ribbon had a narrow central red stripe added.

Current (after 1937). The civil ribbon is rose pink with pearl-grey edges (32-mm wide). The military ribbon has a narrow, pearl-grey central stripe added.



DATES

The medal was created by Royal Warrant on 29 December 1922. The first award of the BEM to a Canadian was on 26 January 1935. The EGM was superseded by the George Cross on 14 September 1940 and the BEM was therefore awarded for gallantry as well as service. A silver oak leaf was worn to signify an award for gallantry between 06 December 1957 and 1974 when awards for bravery were discontinued.

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⁶ Ordinary Seaman Oscar Somner James, BEM, Merchant Marine (Civil BEM) - Canadian War Museum, Ottawa
Private Jonathan Mylvey GIBB, BEM, Royal Canadian Ordnance Corps

NAMING

Military awards have the service number, full name and unit or service engraved and civil awards usually have their names in full engraved around the rim.

ISSUED

A total of 1,372 medals awarded to Canadians:
126 civil and 1,248 military. (To Canada Gazette 26 December 2020)

DATES	MILITARY DIVISION	CIVIL DIVISION
1935	1 RCAF 1 RCN	1 Penitentiary Service
WW2	639 Canadian Army 387 RCAF 1 Canadian in RAF 177 RCN 30 Merchant Navy	67 Civilians (service rendered)
Korea	21 Canadian Army 4 RCN 2 RCAF	
Post War	3 Canadian Army 4 RCN 8 RCAF	
21 st Century		22 Civilians (for gallantry) 4 Civilian Living in Britain 2 Civilian Southern sisters

NOTE

A holder of the BEM is not a member of the Order of the British Empire. Hence, if a holder is subsequently made an MBE / OBE / CBE, they may continue to wear the BEM. ⁷



⁷ Sergeant James Inglis HOOD, BEM, PPCLI
Sergeant (later Warrant Officer) Wilbert Earnest Walters, BEM, 1RCR (Korea Military)

EMPIRE GALLANTRY MEDAL

EGM

The Medal of the Order of the British Empire for Gallantry

TERMS

The Medal of the Order of the British Empire for Gallantry (military and civil divisions) was known from 1922 until 1940, as the Empire Gallantry Medal (EGM). The medal was awarded to persons who perform acts of gallantry warranting such mark of the Sovereign's appreciation.



BAR

The individual was entitled to wear a long thin laurel branch on the ribbon to signify the award was for gallantry.

DESCRIPTION

The EGM is identical to the BEM described previously except that on the obverse of the EGM are the words: FOR / GALLANTRY (with an oak leaf below) replace the three-line legend FOR / MERITORIOUS / SERVICE which appeared on the BEM.

DATES

Created by Royal warrant on 29 December 1922 and superseded by the George Cross on 24 September 1940 with all holders of the EGM eligible to receive the George Cross.

NAMING

The same as the British Empire Medal.

RIBBON

The same as the British Empire Medal.

ISSUED

One EGM was awarded to a Canadian in the RAF (and exchanged for the George Cross).

EXAMPLE

AC1 Ernest FROST, EGM, RAF

AC1 FROST, a Canadian serving in the RAF, rescued an unconscious pilot from a burning aircraft. To provide an infusion of holders of the George Cross at the time of instating that award, it was decided that all holders of the Empire Gallantry Medal would exchange the EGM for the George Cross. AC1 Frost was presented with the George Cross on 21 October 1940. Frost became a Squadron Leader in the post-war RCAF and later the chief pilot for Great Lakes Airlines (later Air Ontario).



THE MEDAL OF THE ORDER OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE (1917 - 1920)

(British Empire Medal 1917-1922)

TERMS



When the Order of the British Empire was created in June 1917, a medal in connection with the order was to be awarded to anyone, not a member of any of the five levels of the order, whose services to the empire should warrant such mark of the Sovereign's appreciation. On 27 December 1918, a Military Division and a Civil Division were created for the order and the medal. The medal was superseded by the BEM and EGM in 1922, and in March 1941 it was retroactively recognized as being the

British Empire Medal.

DESCRIPTION

A small, silver medal, 27-mm in diameter.

OBVERSE

Britannia is shown standing and pointing with her left hand the sun above her left hand. Within a band around the edge, the legend: FOR GOD AND THE EMPIRE.

REVERSE

The reverse shows the Royal Cypher (GRI) surmounted by a crown, with a rope circle around the outer edge.

MOUNTING

A larger ring passes through a small ring, welded to the top of the medal.

RIBBON

The purple civil ribbon is 27-mm wide. The military ribbon is the same, with a central thin red stripe added.

NAMING

The Medals were issued unnamed.

DATES

Letters patent were signed on 04 June 1917.

Civil and military division were created on 27 December 1918.

The BEM and EGM replaced this medal by Royal warrant on 29 December 1922.

ISSUED

Canadians have received 1 military and 43 civil division medals.

1918 (Military)	to Canadian Army for courage	1
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1919 (Civil)	to Civilians for courage	35
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1920 (Civil)	to Civilians for courage	8
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All awards to Canadians were published in the Canada Gazette on 20 July 1918, 12 April 1919 and 4 September 1920. The fire was at a munitions plant in Trenton, Ontario in October 1918. A number of employees helped announce the situation and assisted others in evacuating the large plant and also the surrounding residences that were in danger.