

WORLD WAR ONE MEDALS

BRITISH WAR MEDAL

TERMS

The medal was awarded to all ranks of Canadian overseas military forces who came from Canada between 05 August 1914 and 11 November 1918, or who had served in a theatre of war. Those who enlisted in the O.M.F.C. in the United Kingdom and had not served in a theatre of war were not entitled to this medal.



The requirements for RAF personnel were the same as the army.

Naval personnel were required to have 28 days of mobilized service or if they lost their lives before this period of service was complete. Seamen of the Canadian Merchant marine who served at sea not less than 6 months and crews of Dominion Government Ships and the Canadian Mercantile Marine were also eligible.

BAR

There was no bar to this medal.

DESCRIPTION

A circular, silver medal, 36-mm in diameter. (The medal awarded to Chinese, Maltese and Native Labour Corps was Bronze).

OBVERSE

The obverse shows the King George V, bareheaded coinage effigy, facing left, with the legend: GEORGIUS V BRIT: OMN: REX ET IND: IMP:

REVERSE

A horseman (St. George, naked) armed with a short sword (an allegory of the physical and mental strength which achieves victory over Prussianism). The horse tramples on the Prussian shield and the skull and cross-bones. Just off-centre, near the right upper rim, is the sun of Victory. The dates 1914 and 1918 appear in the left and right fields respectively.

MOUNTING

A plain, straight, non-swivelling suspender with a single-toe claw.

RIBBON

The watered ribbon is 32-mm wide, and consists of seven stripes: blue (3-mm), black (1.5-mm), white (3-mm), orange centre (1.5-mm wide), white (3-mm), black (1.5-mm), and blue (3-mm).

NAMING

The recipient's number, rank, name and unit was engraved as per the Victory Medal but included the following additional units:

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------|-------------------|
| 1-CDN.INF.numbers 12, | 3-C.M.R. | Q.R. |
| 34, 36, 37, 48, 53, 67, 79, | A.L.C. | N.S.R. |
| 81, 82, 84, 86, 89, 90, 95, | V.A.D. | S.R. |
| 108, 113, 123, 125, 126, | R.C.G.A. | CAN.TANK CORPS |
| 129, 133, 134, 135, 138, | CNR.C.F.A. | CAN.AREA EMP.COY. |
| 143, 156, 157, 163, 173, | W.O.R. | CAN.POST CORPS |
| 176, 183, 204, 226, 235, | C.O.R.C.C. | CAN. LABR.BN |
| 238 | C.O.R. | CAN.CYCLIST CORPS |
| | E.O.R. | |

DATES

The medal was authorized on 26 July 1919.

¹

ISSUED

There were 427,993 issued to Canadians in the CEF out of 6,500,000 medals in total. It was possible to receive this medal alone but all gallantry medals would receive the BWM and VM as well.



¹ Captain Eric Oland, DSC, RCN – Medals at CFB Esquimalt Museum showing British War Medal

VICTORY MEDAL (INTER-ALLIED WAR MEDAL)

TERMS

The medal was awarded to all ranks of the fighting forces, to civilians under contract, and others employed with military hospitals who actually served on the establishment of a unit in a theatre of war between 05 August 1914 and 11 November 1918 (inclusive).

It was also awarded to members of the British Naval mission to Russia 1919-1920 and for mine clearance in the North Sea between 11 November 1918 and 30 November 1919. This medal was never issued alone always with the British War Medal.



BAR

Only the Mentioned-in-Despatches multiple-leaved emblem is worn on this medal when it was awarded for WW1. There were no other bars.

DESCRIPTION

A circular, copper medal, lacquered bronze, 36-mm in diameter.

OBVERSE

The obverse shows the winged, full-length, full-front, figure of Victory, with her left arm extended and holding a palm branch in her right hand.

REVERSE

The reverse shows the legend: **THE GREAT / WAR FOR / CIVILIZATION / 1914 - 1919** in four lines, surrounded by a wreath with dots below the words.

MOUNTING

A ring (13-mm in diameter) passes through a loop fixed to the top of the medal. The ring moves forwards and backwards but not sideways.

RIBBON

The watered ribbon is 38-mm wide, and consists of nine coloured stripes: violet, blue, green, yellow, red (centre), yellow, green, blue, and violet.

DATES

The Inter-Allied War Medal was agreed to by all allies in March 1919. All medals were to be almost identical to obviate the need to exchange allied medals and each was patterned after a French medal of 1870. The medal was authorized in Britain (and for

Canadians) on 1 September 1919.

ISSUED

There were 351,289 medals awarded to the Canadian Expeditionary Force (of the 5,725,000 total issued), always with the British War Medal.

NAMING

BWM and VM were inscribed with the highest recorded rank. The sequence was: service number (except for officers) / rank / initials / surname / unit (except for officers) indented on the edge. The Units include all those listed for the Stars plus:

1-CND.INF numbers 38,	C.L.H.	C.R.T.
43, 44, 46, 47, 50, 52, 54, 58,	R.C.N.	C.A.G.S.
60, 72, 73, 75, 78, 87, 102, 116	RN.C.V.R.	C.S.E.F.
1 C.M.R.	R.A.F.	C.A.V.C.
2 C.M.R.	F.F.C.	C.G.A.
4 C.M.R.	R.N.A.S.	C.M.G.BDE.
5 C.M.R.	CANCAV:BDE.	R.C.H.A.
R.C.R.	C.A.M.C.	C.M.R.
R.CD.	C.E.	CAN.PNR.BN
P.P.C.L.I.	C.A.S.C.	R.NEWF.fd.
L.S.H.-RC	C.F.A.	CAN.INF.WKS.COY.
F.G.H.	C.F.C.	CAN.LAB.BN.



2

² Lieutenant-Colonel Eric Whidden MacDonald, DSO & 2 bars, MC, showing a Victory Medal with an MID.
 Private Wilfred Longwood, MM with a Victory Medal
 Sergeant Augustus Holliday, MM with a Victory Medal
 All three sets on display at the Calgary Highlanders Museum in Calgary, Alberta

MERCANTILE MARINE WAR MEDAL

TERMS

This medal was awarded to those who received the British War Medal and also served at sea on at least one voyage through a danger zone. The medal was also awarded to those who had served at sea for not less than six months between 04 August 1914 and 11 November 1918.

BARS

There were no bars to this medal.

DESCRIPTION

A circular, bronze medal, 36-mm in diameter.

OBVERSE

The bareheaded coinage effigy of King George V, facing left, with the legend: GEORGIUS V BRITT: OMN: REX ET IND: IMP:

REVERSE

The reverse shows a merchant ship ploughing her way through stormy seas, an enemy sub sinking and a sailing vessel in the background.

In exergue the inscription: **FOR . WAR . SERVICE / MERCANTILE MARINE / 1914-1918** appears in three lines. Around the edge of the rim are raised laurel leaves.

MOUNTING

A plain, straight, non-swivelling suspender with a single-toe claw.

RIBBON

The ribbon is 32-mm wide and is coloured green, thin white middle stripe, and red (which represents the starboard and port running lights with the masthead steaming light in the centre).

NAMING

The medals were named in indented block capitals; some were unnamed.

DATES

The medal was authorized for Canadians in the Canada Gazette on 8 May 1920.



ISSUED

There were 624 to Canadians (133,135 in total).

It was possible to receive the BWM, VM and Mercantile Marine Medal. It was theoretically possible to also receive a star if the individual was in the Army in 1914-15 and transferred to the Mercantile Marine after that but no such medal groups have been found.³



³ Commander William Roland Stacy, DSC – former Commanding Officer of HMCS Vancouver – Mercantile Medal his 3rd medal from right – medals with son Lieutenant-Commander John Arthur Hamilton, MBE – Mercantile Medal is the middle of the five medals – Medals in the Alberta Naval Museum, Calgary