

Chapter 26

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BRITISH CORONATION and JUBILEE MEDALS

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QUEEN VICTORIA'S JUBILEE MEDAL - 1887

TERMS



The jubilee medal in gold was awarded to members of the Royal family and foreign nobility attending the celebrations for the 50th year of Queen Victoria's reign, 21 June 1887. Silver medals went to the senior military officers, ministers and government officials, and bronze medals went to troops taking part in the ceremonies. There was no bar to the medal.

DESCRIPTION

A circular, 32-mm diameter, gold, silver or bronze medal.

OBVERSE

The obverse shows a crowned and veiled effigy of Queen Victoria, facing left, and the legend: VICTORIA D.G. REGINA ET IMPERATRIX F.D.

REVERSE

The reverse bears the inscription: **IN / COMMEMORATIONS / OF THE / 50TH YEAR OF THE / REIGN OF QUEEN / VICTORIA / 21 JUNE / 1887** in eight lines within a wreath of roses, thistles and shamrocks bound at the base with a ribbon. A crown is seen at the top of the medal.

MOUNTING

A ring is attached to the small ring at the top of the medal.

RIBBON

The garter blue ribbon is 32-mm wide, with 5-mm pale blue stripes placed 2-mm from each edge.

ISSUED

361 gold
1,234 silver - 3 known issued to Canadians
5,859 bronze medals issued in total

EXAMPLES of Medals Known to be Issued to Canadians

Sir Sam Hughes
Dr. J.A. Grant
Sir John A. Macdonald

QUEEN VICTORIA'S DIAMOND JUBILEE MEDAL -- 1897

TERMS

The medal was awarded to members of the royal family, royal household, royal and distinguished guests attending the celebrations in June 1897 and to officers of the army and navy. It was also awarded to senior military officers, ministers and government officials who took part in the jubilee ceremonies at which Queen Victoria was present. Medals for the detachment of Canadian troops who participated in the celebrations were personally presented to each man by H.R.H. The Prince of Wales, at a ceremony held on the grounds of Buckingham Palace on 3 July 1897.



BAR

Those entitled to receive the medal who had received the 1887 Jubilee Medal were awarded the bar **1897**.

DESCRIPTION

A circular, 32-mm in diameter, silver or bronze medal.

OBVERSE

The obverse shows a crowned and veiled effigy of Queen Victoria, facing left, and the legend: VICTORIA D.G. REGINA ET IMPERATRIX F.D.

REVERSE

The reverse inscription : **IN / COMMEMORATIONS / OF THE / 60TH YEAR OF THE / REIGN OF QUEEN / VICTORIA / 21 JUNE / 1897** in eight lines, within a wreath of roses, thistles and shamrocks bound at the base with a ribbon. The Imperial Crown is seen at the top of the medal.

MOUNTING

A ring is attached to a small ring at the top of the medal.

RIBBON

The garter blue ribbon is 32-mm wide, with pale blue stripes (5-mm wide) placed 2-mm from each edge.

ISSUED

There were 338,796 medals issue, with **37 silver** and **165 bronze** medals awarded the **Canadian Contingent**. There were 15 silver medals to **Canadian on the June 1897 Honours List**.

EXAMPLES

1

The Right Honourable Sir Wilfred LAURIER, GCMG

The Right Honourable Sir Richard John Cartwright, GCMG

The Right Honourable Sir Oliver Mowat, GCMG

Colonel, The Honourable M. Alymer - Commanded Canadian Contingent



¹ Commissioner George Arthur French, CMG, RCMP (18 October 1873 to 21 July 1876)

Major Robert Belcher, CMG, 2nd In Charge Strathcona's Horse in South Africa 1901 (First Regimental Sergeant Major of the RCMP & Later Inspector)

(CMG, Queen Victoria Golden Jubilee Medal, NW Canada Medal, Queen's South Africa Medal with bars Natal, Orange Free State, Belfast and South Africa 1901

- Both medal sets at the RCMP Museum in Regina, Saskatchewan

KING EDWARD VII CORONATION MEDAL - 1902

TERMS

The list of those awarded the medal is similar to that for the Queen Victoria Diamond Jubilee Medal. The coronation was postponed from 26 June 1902 until 9 August 1902 because of the King's illness but the medal bears the original date. A Canadian contingent of 606 went over for the coronation in June but was recalled due to the delay and only 1 Officer (LCol R. Turner, VC, DSO) and 13 other ranks took part in the eventual coronation ceremonies. There was no bar to the medal.



DESCRIPTION

A circular, 32-mm in diameter, medal in silver or bronze, with a raised and ornamented rim in the form of a wreath of laurel banded by ribbon. The medal is surmounted by an Imperial Crown giving an oval appearance. From the top of the crown to the bottom the medal measures 38-mm.

OBVERSE

The obverse bears no legend and displays the raised, conjoint effigies of King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra, crowned and robed and facing left.

REVERSE

The reverse shows the Royal Cypher ERVII in large script, surmounted by a crown and the date **26 June 1902** below.

MOUNTING

A ring attaches 3-mm below the top of the crown.

RIBBON

The dark blue ribbon is 32-mm wide, with narrow white edges (2-mm wide) and a central scarlet stripe (7-mm wide).

ISSUED

There were 26 silver and 621 bronze medals issued to the Canadian Military. One silver and 13 bronze medals were awarded to the small Canadian contingent present at the coronation. An additional 25 silver and 608 bronze medals were received for distribution in Canada based on the number in the Canadian contingent for the June coronation date. These were distributed to approximately 1 officer and 30 other ranks in each military district in Canada. Other prominent Canadian politicians and citizens probably also received the medal but the total is unknown.

KING GEORGE V CORONATION MEDAL - 1911

TERMS



Medals were given as personal souvenirs of the coronation in a similar distribution as the previous two medals but with more silver medal and no bronze medals. The Canadian contingent sent to the coronation received their medals on parade on 30 June 1911. Each Canadian Militia unit was awarded 3 medals; one to the Commanding Officer; one to a Warrant Officer or NCO; and one to the oldest private in service. There was no bar to the medal.

DESCRIPTION

A circular, 32-mm in diameter, silver medal.

OBVERSE

The obverse features the conjoined busts of King George V and Queen Mary, crowned and wearing their robes of state, facing left. They are encircled by a spray of roses in the left and a spray of laurel on the right entwined at the base with a ribbon. The designers initials B.M. are on the ribbon (Sir Bertram MACKENNEL, MVO, RA).

REVERSE

Displayed within the beaded rim is the Royal Cypher GVR (a small v sits between large cursive G and R), surmounted by an Imperial Crown; below the Cypher is the date **22 JUNE 1911**.

MOUNTING

A small ring is attached to a smaller ring on the upper edge of the medal.

RIBBON

The garter blue ribbon is 32-mm wide, with a central red stripe (10-mm wide) and a 2-mm wide garter blue stripe in the centre of the red stripe.

ISSUED

There were 15,901 medals in total - 1,007 to Canadians.

EXAMPLE

McLEAN, Colonel H.H. McLEAN who led the Canadian Contingent of 719 all ranks.

KING GEORGE V SILVER JUBILEE MEDAL - 1935

TERMS

To mark the 25th year of the accession of King George V to the throne, this medal was awarded to the Royal Family, officers of state, officials and servants of the royal household, ministers, government officials, mayors, public servants, local government officials, members of the navy, army, air force and police in Britain, her colonies and in Canada. There was no bar to the medal.

DESCRIPTION

A circular, 32-mm in diameter, silver medal.



OBVERSE

The obverse shows the conjoined effigies of King George V and Queen Mary, crowned and robed, facing left. The legend around the top edge reads:
GEORGE . V . AND . QUEEN . MARY . MAY . VI . MCMXXV .

REVERSE

The reverse displays the Royal Cypher GVR (v is small between G and R) surmounted by an Imperial Crown and on the left is the date **MAY 6 / 1910** in two lines, and on the right the date **MAY 6 / 1935**. The border is ornate.

MOUNTING

A ring attaches to a double scroll claw on the upper edge of the medal.

RIBBON

The red ribbon is 32-mm wide, with three stripes, dark blue (1-mm), white (2-mm), and dark blue (1-mm) at each edge.

ISSUED

There were 7,500 to Canadians, of which 1,154 were to the Canadian Forces. A total of 85,235 were issued.

EXAMPLES

DUFF, The Rt Hon Sir Lyman DUFF
EDWARDS, LCdr C.P. EDWARDS

PC GCMG
OBE

In the Canada Gazette Supplement 04 May 1935, all the names of the recipients are listed. This is the only coronation or commemorative medal where this has been done (64 pages).

KING GEORGE VI CORONATION MEDAL - 1937

TERMS



The coronation of King George VI took place on 12 May 1937, following the death of King George V on 20 January 1936 and the abdication of King Edward VIII on 11 December 1936. Distribution in Canada was as follows: Canadian contingent to coronation (351 officers and men); each surviving recipient of the Victoria Cross;

District Officers Commanding and wives; military personnel received 1,284 including 5 women (3 nurses); The staff of the Governor-General and their spouses; Honorary A.D.C.'s and spouses; Lieutenant-Governors and wives; Members of Cabinet and wives;

secretaries and members of staff of each minister; Privy Councillors in cabinet and wives; Senators and wives; Members of the House of Commons and spouses; Mayors of towns and cities over 1,000 population; warden of counties; judges; Dominion and Provincial Deputy Ministers; and Members of Provincial Legislatures and spouses. There is no bar to this medal.

DESCRIPTION

A circular, 32-mm diameter in diameter, silver medal.

OBVERSE

Featured on the obverse are the conjoined effigies of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, crowned and robed, and facing left. There rim is not raised on this medal and there is no legend.

REVERSE

The Royal Cypher GRI appears on the reverse, surmounted by a large crown, with the inscription **CROWNED / 12 May 1937** below the Royal Cypher in two lines. Around the rim of the medal is the inscription: **GEORGE VI QUEEN ELIZABETH**.

(a V in Queen rather than a U).

MOUNTING

A ring is attached to a double-toed claw on the upper edge of the medal.

RIBBON

The garter-blue ribbon is 32-mm wide, with stripes of white (1-mm), red (2-mm), and white (1-mm), at each edge.

ISSUED

There were 90,279 issued in total, with **10,089** to Canadians.

Medals of

Top: Lieutenant-Colonel Eric Whidden Macdonald, DSO and 2 Bars, MC
Calgary Highlanders Museum

King George V Coronation - KGV Jubilee - KG VI Coronation

Middle: Major Andrew Coulter, OBE, ED

KGV Jubilee - KGV Coronation - EIIR Coronation - Centennial

Last Medal is the Queen's Medal for Champion Shot

Bottom: Brigadier Milton Fowler Gregg, VC, MC, ED, CD

KGV Jubilee - KG VI Coronation - EIIR Coronation - Centennial
and EIIR Silver Jubilee Medal (Last Medal is Corps of
Commissionaires Medal

