

Chapter 38

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Awards by the Government of Saudi Arabia and the Emirate of Kuwait to Canadians for the First Gulf War

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KUWAIT LIBERATION MEDAL

(Government of Saudi Arabia)

TERMS



The Government of Saudi Arabia awarded this medal to all members of the coalition force who were in the gulf during active hostilities.

DESCRIPTION

A silver sunburst of 28 rays (alternatively long and short) has a circular gold medallion at its centre. The medallion displays a world globe and a dove of peace, and on a riband below the medallion, the words: **LIBERATION OF KUWAIT** appears in Arabic and is repeated below in English. A gold palm tree is at the top.

RIBBON

The 35-mm wide, green ribbon has edge stripes of white (4-mm), narrow black (2-mm), and red (4-mm), red on the outside.

A gold palm tree with crossed swords is worn on the ribbon in undress.



NOTE

The Canadian Honours Policy does not allow Canadians to accept foreign medals for service for which a Canadian medal has been awarded. Thus, while Canadian Forces members were awarded the medal, they are not allowed to wear the medal.

The American Forces who served in the Gulf War are allowed to wear this medal with their other medals including their South-East Asia medal (awarded by the USA for the Gulf).

AWARDED

Almost 3,300 Canadian Forces members received the medal.

**KUWAIT LIBERATION MEDAL
(Emirate of Kuwait)**

TERMS

This medal was issued by the Emirate of Kuwait on 28 October 1994 to members of the Allied Forces who participated in, or in support of, the liberation of Kuwait. It was issued in five grades.

(a) Excellent Grade was awarded to most senior Allied Commanders;

(b) First Grade went to brigadiers and major-generals;

(c) Second Grade to officers of field rank (colonels and majors);

(d) Third Grade to junior officers (Captains, Lieutenants and

equivalent ranks of the other services); and,

(e) Fourth Grade to all other ranks.

Canadians were to receive the Fourth Grade Medal except four individuals who received 1st and 2nd Grade awards and these awards were gazetted.



EXCEPT the CANADIAN MEDALS were LOST

The original bronze, circular medal (fourth class) had a circular laurel wreath welded to the top of the medal attached to a straight suspender with the obverse Arabic around the top, the Coat of Arms of the State of Kuwait in the centre held by a dove with wings outstretched at the bottom with circles radiating from the wings with the representation of a ship in the centre, and the shield of Kuwait in enamels (black, white, red and green) were minted by Kuwait. These are the medals that the USA forces are allowed to wear.

More than 4,000 commemorative medals for distribution to Canadian military personnel who participated in the international coalition were sent to the Canadian Embassy in Kuwait in 1993 and they all disappeared. No trace has been found of them.

A concerted effort by members of the Canadian Forces who served in the Gulf War lead by Colonel John Stuart, OMM, CD, (below) finally saw the newly minted medals given **New** medals were sent out in early 2006. These Third Grade Medals were substantially different than the original medals (which went to the other coalition forces).



DESCRIPTION

The medal that was finally issued to members of the Canadian Forces was the Third Class rather than Fourth Class medal that the other coalition forces received. It is a bright gilt medal. In the centre, the points of the star are considerably rounded and, instead of the rayed background of the 4th Class medal, the 3rd Class medal is pierced between the star and the outer circle. The circular bronze medal has a 40-mm in diameter rim upon which is superimposed a five sided leaf. The leaf leaves five open areas in the medal. In the centre of the leaf is the Coat of Arms of the State of Kuwait and below that between the bottom two pedals of the leaf is the shield of Kuwait in enamels (black, white, red and green).

The reverse has a map of Kuwait.



ISSUED

4,097 were minted.

RIBBON

The 40-mm wide ribbon is of equal stripes of red, white, and Irish green, with a black rectangle at the top of the ribbon, angled from the white out to the upper edges of the red and green (the Kuwaiti national colours). There is no device to the medal.

NOTE

The Canadian Honours Policy does not allow Canadians to accept foreign medals for service for which a Canadian medal has been awarded. Thus, while Canadian Forces members were awarded the medal, they are not allowed to wear it. The American Forces in the Gulf are allowed to wear this medal with their other medals.

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¹ Rear-Admiral Ken Summers, OMM, MSC, CD – His Medals are: Officer of the Order of Military Merit, Meritorious Service Cross, Gulf Medal with bar, Special Service Medal with bar NATO, Canada 125 Medal, Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Medal (not shown in this photo), Canadian Forces Decoration and two bars, Officers of the Legion of Merit (USA), Bronze Star (USA), King Abdulaziz Decoration (3rd Class) (Saudi Arabia), Liberation of Kuwait (Kuwait), Liberation of Kuwait Medal 1st Class (Saudi Arabia) and wears the Order of Bahrain (First Class) around his neck. His Liberation of Kuwait decorations were gazetted.