

THE SERVICE MEDAL OF THE ORDER OF ST. JOHN

18 January 2016

TERMS

In Canada, the medal is awarded for 12 years service to the St. John Ambulance organization. Qualifying time counts for service in both the Brigade and the Association but only one year may be counted per year. In Great Britain, the qualifying time was changed late in the 20th century from 15 years to 12 years.



BARS

A bar is awarded for each additional five years of service. The bars are of the slip on type, silver, laurelled with a St. John Cross in the centre. After three silver bars are awarded, a gilt bar is worn (thirty-two years of service) and additional gilt bars are awarded for each five years. Once a gilt bar is awarded, only that gilt bar and subsequent gilt bars are worn. A bar is 40-mm wide, 8-mm wide and 2-mm deep.



DESCRIPTION

A circular, cupro-nickel, rhodium plated medal (silver in colour), 38-mm in diameter. Older medals were in silver.



OBVERSE

The crowned, veiled effigy of Queen Victoria, facing right, is displayed on a circular field with a beaded edge. The legend: VICTORIA + D + BRITT + REG + F + D + IND + IMP. appears between the beaded circle and the raised edge of the medal.

REVERSE

The reverse shows the Royal Arms within the Garter bearing the legend HONI . SOIT . QUI . MAL . Y . PENSE .

Above this is an Imperial Crown and below it the Prince of Wales' Feathers. On each side is the badge of the order, each bearing a shield, the one on the left charged with the arms of the order and that on the right with the arms of the Prince of Wales. The whole device rests upon a sprig of St. John's Wort. The central motif is surrounded by a border bearing the words:

. MAGNUS . PRIORATUS . HOSPITALIS . SANCTI . JOHANNIS . JERUSALEM .
IN . ANGLIA .

MOUNTING

Single toe claw with inward scrolls going to a straight bar.

RIBBON

The ribbon is 38-mm wide, and consists of five equal stripes: black, white, black, white, and black. A single stitch of white is at each edge. A miniature silver St. John Cross is worn in undress for each bar up to three. At four bars, one cross of rolled gold is worn.

NAMING

Current Canadian practise is to issue the medals unnamed. Before 1970 the recipient's name was engraved on the rim.

DATES

The medal was first issued in Great Britain from 1898 to the present time, and in Canada since 1955.

ISSUED

There have been 5,063 medals awarded to Canadians to 06 May 1993, but the number of bars awarded is unknown. No update since then.

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¹ Colonel Michael Allen, KStJ, CD – Medals in St. John Ambulance Museum, Vancouver, B.C. (Note: ICSC medal is third from left)