

Chapter 42

10 October 2017

MEDAL PRICES ¹

These are just GUIDELINES. A medal has no intrinsic value - it is worth what somebody is prepared to pay. There are many factors in determining a price. I have simply looked at what medals have been selling for in the past years and worked them into my guidelines. Medal prices vary considerably depending on several factors but the biggest is what you are willing to pay. In establishing a price, these factors must be taken into consideration.

Current Climate

Gallantry medals have gone out of site in price. A Victoria Cross to Commander, Later Rear-Admiral, John Bythesea, Royal Navy recently sold for \$275,000 in 2011. In October 2017, the medals of Australian Captain Alfred Shout, VC, sold for £491,567 or \$804,285.00 (Cdn). In 2011 a George Cross sold for \$29,000, a Conspicuous Gallantry Medal group for \$48,000 and a Distinguished Service Medal group for \$105,000. Air Vice-Marshal J.E. 'Johnnie' Johnson's group sold for \$426,000!

Lord Michael Ashcroft has been buying up as many Victoria Crosses and being very wealthy he can bid as high as he needs to secure a VC. Another wealthy man is also trying to buy up as many as he can and this pushes the price of these medals out of the reach of most museums. Fortunately, Lord Ashcroft has put his collection on display in the British War Museum in London. In 2010, he was out bid for the first VC to a member of the British Army and it sold for close to \$400,000 Cdn.

The Condition of a Medal

The general terms used to describe condition are Mint; EF (Extremely Fine); VF (Very Fine); F (Fine); Worn; or Poor. In general, be careful in buying medals that are not EF or VF.

Naming

If awarded to a Canadian, the rank, unit and number of medals to that unit, can be verified. Medals to officers are usually worth more than those to enlisted men. Medals named for persons of importance, or for a particular battle for which medals are few in number, will accordingly be higher in price.

Bars of clasps increase the value

A bar makes the medal more valuable.

¹ In the past decade, there has been a considerable drop in the number of medals being sold pushing the price of those that do make it to the market much higher. The Internet gives medal dealers a world wide audience to advertize their medals.

Groups of Medals are more valuable

Obviously a group of medals is more valuable than the simple cost of the combined medals themselves. However, if there is not a named medal in the group, they are really only worth the combined prices of the medals. History of the deed and person, pictures and log books increase the cost of medal sets but you must decide if these pieces of paper truly make the price worthwhile. An example from e-bay is a group that the asking price was \$14,000 for a DFC and bar - but there was no named medal in the group so the group cannot be confirmed as belonging to that person even if the log books are present. You could simply get a DFC and add the other medals and the two groups would be identical.

Prices for EF medals

The price indicated here are generally for single EF medals, with a column for Canadian medals and a column for their British equivalent. The Canadian 1939-1945 War Medal is made of silver and therefore more valuable than the cupro-nickel British equivalent. A Military Medal to a Canadian is considered more valuable than a British Military Medal because there were fewer awarded to Canadians than to the British.

There are several **very good COPY** medals now on the market and these can help make up demonstration or display sets where the original medals are not available. Prices listed for miniature are for a good quality miniature. As with the large size medals, miniatures can vary considerably in quality and the only value in the medals is the quality as anybody can make up a miniature set.

Finally, a price is what you are willing to pay. Was a replacement Queen's South Africa medal plus the 1914/1915 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal named to John McCrae, author of 'In Flanders Fields' really worth over \$100,000. The irony of this price was that the person buying it was bidding against the Canadian War Museum and when he bought it, donated it to the War Museum. In September 2009, a CGM/DFC group to a Canadian sold for \$27,000.

Medal prices have increased in the past five years. There were dramatic increases in the value of medals when the value of silver went up and then prices stalled. However, they are on the rise again as they are getting more scarce and more people are collecting.

BEWARE - there is no right price - the only right price is what you are willing to pay.

Medal	Level or Monarch	Canadian	British	Miniature	Copy
Victoria Cross		n/a	350,000.00	25.00	60.00
George Cross		n/a	50,000.00	25.00	45.00
Baronet's Badge		1,200.00	1,200.00	-----	-----
Order of Canada	Companion	15,000.00	-----	45.00	150.00
	Officer	10,000.00	-----	35.00	125.00
	Member	5,000.00	-----	35.00	100.00
Order of Canada Medal of Service		10,000.00	-----	50.00	-----
Order of Military Merit	Commander	9,000.00	-----	40.00	-----
	Officer	5,000.00	-----	35.00	-----
	Member	3,500.00	-----	35.00	-----
Companion of Honour	Member	n/a	5,500.00	-----	-----
Order of the Bath	CB Military	7,000.00x	900.00	40.00	-----
St. Michael & St. George	Companion	6,500.00x	800.00	60.00	-----
Royal Victorian Order	Commander	5,000.00x	750.00	35.00	-----
	Lieutenant	2,500.00x	700.00	100.00	-----
	Member	1,500.00x	500.00	30.00	30.00
Distinguished Service Order	GV	5,500.00x	4,500.00	50.00	350.00
	GVI	6,500.00x	5,000.00	30.00	350.00
Order of the British Empire Type 1	Companion	3,500.00x	300.00	40.00	-----
	Officer	2,000.00x	175.00	30.00	60.00
	Member	1,400.00x	150.00	25.00	60.00
Order of the British Empire Type 2	Companion	3,500.00x	625.00	40.00	-----
	Officer	1,500.00x	200.00	30.00	-----
	Member	1,000.00x	180.00	30.00	20.00
Order of St. John	KStJ	650.00	650.00	35.00	12.00
	CStJ	200.00	300.00	35.00	-----
	OStJ	75.00	75.00	25.00	-----
New	MStJ	60.00	60.00	30.00	-----
Old (round type)	MStJ	300.00x	80.00	40.00	-----
Imperial Service Order	GV	1,000.00x	300.00	40.00	-----
Imperial Service Medal (star)	GV	200.00	160.00	20.00	-----
Imperial Service Medal (medal)	GV	125.00	40.00	20.00	-----
	GVI	150.00	70.00	20.00	-----
Member Royal Red Cross	GV	1,500.00x	600.00	30.00	-----
	GVI	2,000.00x	600.00	30.00	-----
Associate Royal Red Cross	GV	500.00x	250.00	30.00	-----
	GVI	1,500.00	350.00	30.00	-----
Distinguished Service Cross	GVI	4,500.00x	1,400.00	35.00	45.00
Military Cross	GV	2,500.00x	2,000.00	30.00	40.00
	GVI	4,000.00x	3,500.00	30.00	40.00
Distinguished Flying Cross	GV	3,500.00x	2,000.00	30.00	40.00
	GVI	4,800.00x	1,900.00	30.00	40.00
Air Force Cross	GV	4,000.00x	1,500.00	30.00	40.00
	GVI	6,500.00x	4,500.00	30.00	40.00
Distinguished Conduct Medal	GV	3,500.00x	1,600.00x	30.00	45.00
	GVI	6,000.00x	2,800.00	30.00	45.00
Conspicuous Gallantry Medal	GVI	20,000.00	15,000.00	25.00	45.00
George Medal	GVI	25,000.00	4,400.00	25.00	45.00
Distinguished Service Medal	GVI	5,500.00	1,800.00	25.00	45.00
Military Medal	GV	1,250.00x	300.00	25.00	45.00
	GVI	4,800.00x	2,000.00	25.00	45.00
Distinguished Flying Medal	GVI	9,000.00x	2,800.00	25.00	45.00
Air Force Medal	GVI	6,000.00x	3,500.00	25.00	45.00
King's Police/Fire Medal	GVI	6,000.00	1,600.00	25.00	60.00
Royal Victorian Medal	EIIR	4,000.00x	400.00	20.00	15.00
British Empire Medal	GVI	1,500.00x	600.00	20.00	170.00
Meritorious Service Medal	GV	900.00x	350.00	40.00	60.00
Canadian Meritorious Service Cross	MSC	n/a	-----	10.00	-----
Canadian Meritorious Service Medal	MSM	n/a	-----	10.00	-----

WAR MEDALS

Military General Service Medal	Chateauguay	6,000.00	-----	125.00	100.00
	Chrystler's	6,000.00	-----	125.00	100.00
	Fort Detroit	6,000.00	-----	125.00	100.00
Cdn General Service Medal	F.R. 1866	700.00	-----	50.00	110.00
	F.R. 1870	700.00	-----	50.00	110.00
	R.R. 1870	2,000.00	-----	50.00	110.00
Unnamed Specimen	1 / 2 bars	350.00	-----	50.00	110.00
Egyptian Medal 1884-1885	Nile 1884-85	2,200.00	450.00	60.00	70.00
	Nile/Kirbekan	4,500.00	550.00	70.00	100.00
Khedive's Bronze Star		250.00	150.00	50.00	60.00
North West Canada	Named no bar	1,000.00	900.00	50.00	-----
	Saskatchewan	1,800.00	-----	80.00	-----
Queen's South Africa	To LSH(RC)	3,000.00	-----	50.00	110.00
Standard bars		850.00	350.00	50.00	110.00
King's South Africa	Two bars	5,000.00x	200.00	20.00	110.00
1914 Star	With Bar	2,000.00x	260.00	30.00	35.00
1914-1915 Star		200.00	80.00	25.00	25.00
British War Medal	1914-1918	60.00	35.00	25.00	50.00
Mercantile Marine War Medal	1914-1919	500.00x	100.00	20.00	20.00
Victory Medal	1914-1918	50.00	30.00	20.00	20.00
WWI Trio	1914/15 Star BW/VM	400.00	350.00	-----	95.00
WWI Pair	British War / VM	125.00	100.00	-----	70.00
1939-45 Star		25.00	25.00	15.00	20.00
Atlantic Star		75.00	75.00	15.00	20.00
Air Crew Europe Star		500.00x	300.00	20.00	25.00
Africa Star		25.00	25.00	20.00	20.00
Pacific Star		75.00	75.00	15.00	20.00
Burma Star		65.00	60.00	15.00	20.00
Italy Star		25.00	25.00	15.00	20.00
France and Germany Star		35.00	35.00	15.00	20.00
Defence Medal		45.00	30.00	15.00	45.00
Canadian Volunteer Service Medal		40.00	-----	15.00	-----
Canadian Volunteer Service Medal	Clasp	10.00	-----	15.00	-----
Newfoundland WWII Vol Service Medal		2,500.00x	-----	15.00	60.00
War Medal (1939-1945)		30.00	25.00	15.00	35.00
Korea Medal		250.00	175.00	10.00	60.00

United Nations Medals

United Nations Korea		45.00	45.00	15.00	15.00
United Nations Emergency Force		40.00	40.00	12.00	-----
All others		35.00	35.00	10.00	15.00

International Commission Medals

ISCS		350.00	-----	15.00	16.00
ICCS		350.00	-----	15.00	16.00
MFO		65.00	65.00	15.00	30.00
ECMMY		65.00	65.00	15.00	-----
NATO Medals (all bars and all ribbons)		50.00	50.00	25.00	20.00
NATO Bars		-----	-----		
15.00	10.00				

Commemorative Medals

King Edward VII	(1902)	150.00	150.00	-----	55.00
King George V Silver Jubilee Medal	(1935)	50.00	50.00	25.00	-----
King George VI Coronation Medal	(1937)	50.00	40.00	15.00	-----
Queen Elizabeth II Coronation	(1953)	85.00	65.00	15.00	40.00
Canadian Centennial Medal	(1967)	150.00	-----	10.00	10.00
Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee Medal	(1977)	200.00	130.00	10.00	10.00
Canada 125th Anniversary Medal	(1992)	175.00	-----	10.00	10.00
Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal	(2002)		180.00		
Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal	(2012)				

None on Market yet

Long Service and Good Conduct Medals					
Permanent Forces of the Empire	GV	400.00	-----	25.00	-----
Army LS / GC	GV	350.00	100.00	25.00	-----
	GVI	375.00	110.00	25.00	-----
	EIIR	475.00	140.00	25.00	-----
Naval LS GC	GV	600.00	170.00	25.00	50.00
	GVI	900.00	180.00	25.00	50.00
	EIIR	900.00	150.00	25.00	50.00
Air Force LS / GC	GVI	500.00	125.00	25.00	50.00
	EIIR	900.00	175.00	25.00	50.00
RCMP LS / GC	GV	1,400.00	-----	30.00	-----
	GVI	1,350.00	-----	15.00	-----
	EIIR	900.00	-----		
10.00		15.00			
Colonial Auxiliary Forces Officer's Decoration	VR	700.00	550.00	25.00	-----
	EVIIR	900.00	600.00	25.00	-----
	GV	600.00	450.00	25.00	55.00
Colonial Auxiliary Forces Long Svc Medal	GV	350.00	-----	25.00	-----
Efficiency Decoration Canada	GVI	225.00	-----	35.00	-----
	EIIR	400.00	-----	35.00	-----
Efficiency Medal Canada	GV	250.00	-----	20.00	-----
	GVI	300.00	-----	20.00	-----
	EIIR	350.00	-----	20.00	-----
Naval Volunteer Reserve Decoration	GVI	1,250.00x	250.00	25.00	-----
Naval Volunteer LS and GC	GVI	1,000.00x	200.00	15.00	15.00
Air Efficiency Award	GVI	750.00x	200.00	20.00	-----
Canadian Forces Decoration	GVI	200.00	-----	15.00	-----
	EIIR	110.00	-----	15.00	10.00
Service Medal Order of St. John	Victoria	75.00	75.00	25.00	15.00
Commissionaires Long Service Medal		35.00	-----	10.00	15.00
CURRENT CANADIAN MEDALS					
Canadian Volunteer Medal Korea		200.00	-----	25.00	15.00
Gulf and Kuwait Medal		250.00	-----	25.00	15.00
Somalia Medal		250.00	-----	15.00	15.00
South West Asia Medal		300.00	-----	15.00	15.00
General Campaign Star		300.00	-----	12.00	20.00
General Campaign Medal		250.00	-----	12.00	20.00
Special Service Medal		30.00	-----	25.00	15.00
Canadian Peacekeeping Medal		200.00	-----	10.00	15.00
EXEMPLARY SERVICE MEDALS					
Police Exemplary Service Medal		150.00	-----	10.00	10.00
Corrections Exemplary Service Medal		300.00	-----	10.00	10.00
Fire Service Exemplary Service Medal		150.00	-----	10.00	10.00
Coast Guard Exemplary Service Medal		300.00	-----	10.00	10.00
Emergency Medical Services Exemplary Service Medal		400.00	-----	10.00	10.00
Peace Officers Exemplary Service Medal		400.00	-----	12.00	10.00
Memorial Cross	GV	300.00	-----	-----	12.00
	GVI	500.00	-----	-----	-----
	EIIR	n/a	-----	-----	-----
Murmansk Medal	USSR	45.00	45.00	-----	-----

x - in a group with at least one named medal
n/a - no medals for sale in past decade

PHOTO CREDITS

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