

BRITISH GALLANTRY AWARDS

DISTINGUISHED CONDUCT MEDAL DCM

TERMS

The DCM was awarded to Warrant Officers, non-commissioned officers, and men, serving in any of the sovereign's military forces for distinguished conduct in the field. It was thus the second highest award for gallantry in action (after the Victoria Cross) for all army ranks below commissioned officers and was also available to navy and air force personnel for distinguished conduct in the field (this latter option was discontinued in 1993).



BARS



A silver, laurelled bar was awarded for a subsequent act or acts of distinguished conduct in the field.

DESCRIPTION

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

OBVERSE

1. During Queen Victoria's reign, the obverse was the Shield used on the Army Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.



2. **King Edward VII:** uncrowned, in Field Marshal's uniform, facing left, with the legend: EDWARDVS VII REX IMPERATOR

3. **King George V:** uncrowned, in Field Marshal's uniform, facing left, with the legend: GEORGIUS V BRITANNIAE IN REA ET INDIAE IMP

4. **King George VI:**

(a) For WW2 - A crowned effigy, facing left, with the legend: GEORGIUS VI D: G:BR:OMN:REX ET INDIAE IMP:

(b) For Korea - A crowned effigy, facing left, with the legend: GEORGIUS VI DEI GRA:BRITANNIAE: REX FID: DEF:+

Medals issued to Canadians in Korea were the second type King George VI, rather than EIIR medals.

REVERSE

The reverse has: FOR / DISTINGUISHED / CONDUCT / IN THE FIELD in four lines, with a horizontal line through a small oval wreath below the wording. Some Edward VII medals had the word CANADA above the inscription.

MOUNTING

An ornate scroll suspender attached to the medal by a single-toe claw.

NAMING

Impressed in plain block capitals around the rim of the medal are the regimental or equivalent number, rank, initials, surname and unit of the recipient.

RIBBON

The crimson ribbon is 32-mm wide with a dark blue central stripe (10-mm).

DATES

The DCM was created on 04 December 1854, because of the Crimea War and was first awarded to a Canadian on 19 April 1901 for service in South Africa.

ISSUED

2,132 DCMs to Canadian Army and RCAF (WO2 James R. McLeod, DCM, RCAF in WWII)

38 first bars

1 second bar (Sergeant George Hilton Soles, DCM**, Seaforth Highlanders of Canada)

		DCM	1 st Bar	2nd BAR
South Africa:	Canadian Army	16	0	0
WW1:	Canadian Army	1947	36	1
WW2:	Canadian Army	161	1	0
WW2:	RCAF	1	0	0
Korea:	Canadian Army	7	1 *1	0



¹ Corporal Leo MAJOR, DCM*, R22eR, received a bar to the DCM in Korea. He received the DCM with the Regiment de la Chaudiere during WW2.

Staff Sergeant Armando GRI, DCM, MM and WO2 (later Major) John Stanley Grimmond, DCM earned their DCMs with the Canadian Scottish Medals are on display in the Canadian Scottish Museum in Victoria, B.C.

**CONSPICUOUS GALLANTRY MEDAL (Sea)
CGM**

TERMS

The medal is awarded to Chief Petty Officers, Petty Officers and Men of the Navy (or Army and Air Force personnel of equal rank serving with the fleet) who distinguish themselves by acts of pre-eminent bravery in action with the enemy. (Discontinued 1993)



BAR

A silver, laurelled bar was awarded for additional acts of pre-eminent bravery. No Canadians ever received a bar.

DESCRIPTION

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

OBVERSE

The obverse displays a crowned effigy of **King George VI**, facing left, and the legend: GEORGIVS VI D: G:BR:OMN:REX ET INDIAE IMP:

REVERSE

The reverse shows the legend FOR / CONSPICUOUS / GALLANTRY in three lines encircled by a laurel wreath and surmounted by an Imperial Crown.

MOUNTING

A straight suspender is fastened to the medal with a single-toe claw.

NAMING

CPO Bernays A-321 was impressed in small non-serif capitals on the rim. AS Kerwin V2312 was engraved on the rim.

RIBBON

The white ribbon is 32-mm wide and has dark blue edges (3-mm wide).

DATES

On 13 August 1855, a modified MSM with the inscription: FOR CONSPICUOUS GALLANTRY was instituted for the Crimea War. The Conspicuous Gallantry Medal was introduced on 07 July 1874. The CGM was amended when the DSM was introduced on 14 October 1914. The CGM was discontinued in 1993.

ISSUED

Two only to the RCN in WWII:

A/CPO Max BERNAYS, CGM, RCNR for steering *HMCS Assiniboine* during the destruction of a U-Boat.
Able Seaman Michael Roderick KERWIN, CGM, RCNVR when a fierce fire broke out in *HMCS Haida*.



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² Acting Chief Petty Officer Max Bernays, CGM, HMCS Assiniboine, RCN – medals in Canadian War Museum
Flight Sergeant (later Squadron Leader) Kenneth William Brown, CGM, CD, 617 Squadron - RCAF tunic with ribbons
Sergeant Peter Engbrecht, CGM, RCAF – Medals

**CONSPICUOUS GALLANTRY MEDAL (FLYING)
CGM**

TERMS

The medal was awarded to Warrant Officers, non-commissioned officers and men distinguishing themselves by acts of pre-eminent bravery whilst flying in active operations against the enemy.

This medal was intended to equate to the DCM for service in the field and the CGM (Sea) for service with the fleet.



BAR

A silver, laurelled bar was awarded for additional acts of pre-eminent bravery. No bars ever awarded to a Canadian

DESCRIPTION

Identical to the CGM (Navy) described on the previous page.

RIBBON

The light blue ribbon is 32-mm wide with narrow dark blue edges (3-mm).

NAMING

The serial number (except for Warrant Officers), abbreviated rank, initials, name and service are engraved on the rim in plain sans serif capital letters.

DATES

On 10 November 1942, the CGM (Sea) was extended to Army and Air Force Personnel whilst flying in active operations against the enemy. Discontinued 1993.

ISSUED

There were 12 CGMs to the members of the RCAF, and 7 to RAF members serving with the RCAF during WW2.

RCAF Recipients

Sergeant John Calder Bailey, CGM, 622 Squadron
Flight Sergeant Kenneth William Brown, CGM, CD, 617 Squadron
Sergeant William Harry Cardy, CGM, 427 (RCAF) Squadron
Flight Sergeant Jackson Chartis Cook, CGM, 103 Squadron
Flight Sergeant William Eugene Crabe, CGM, 170 Squadron
Sergeant Peter Engbrecht, CGM, 424 (RCAF) Squadron
Flight Sergeant Alan William Jessup Larden, CGM, 218 Squadron
Flight Sergeant Robert Burton Maxwell, DFC, CGM, 168 Squadron
Sergeant George William Meadows, CGM, 166 Squadron
Warrant Officer, Richard Jack Meek, DFC, CGM, 626 Squadron
Flight Sergeant Joseph Vincent Russell, CGM 15 Squadron
Sergeant Leonard Franklin Williamson, CGM, 428 (RCAF) Squadron

GEORGE MEDAL GM

TERMS



The medal was awarded only for acts of great bravery and was intended primarily for civilians. Awards to the military were confined to actions for which purely military honours are not normally granted.

BAR

The silver, slip-on bar is laurelled and is awarded for a further act of great bravery. Four bars to Canadians; all to RCN.

DESCRIPTION

The circular silver medal is 36-mm in diameter.

OBVERSE

The obverse shows a crowned effigy of the reigning monarch and a legend:

George VI (facing left)

a) GEORGIVS VI D:G:BR:OMN:REX ET INDIAE IMP: (1940 - 1949)

b) GEORGIVS VI DEI GRA BRIT:OMN:REX FID:DEF:+ (1949 - 1952)

(shown Above)

Elizabeth II (facing right)

a) ELIZABETH II D:G:BR:OMN:REGINA F:D: (1952 - 1959)

b) ELIZABETH II DEI GRATIA REGINA F.D. (1959 - 1964) (shown above)

REVERSE

The reverse shows St. George on horseback slaying the Dragon with the legend **THE GEORGE MEDAL** around the top edge of the medal.

MOUNTING

A single-toe scroll claw at the top of the medal has a hollow ball through which a larger silver ring passes.

RIBBON

The red ribbon is 32-mm wide with five equally spaced thin blue stripes.

NAMING

Names are engraved in Roman capital letters (usually with serifs). Servicemen normally have their first name and surname in full (plus rank, and regiment or corps), while civilians have only their surname and initials.

DATES

The George Medal was established on 24 September 1940.

ISSUED

Canadians have received 77 George Medals to Canadians (with 1 cancelled), plus 4 bars (31 or them EIIR types)

		Medal	Bar	Cancelled	
WW2	Canadian Army	12	0	0	
WW2	Royal Canadian Navy	7	4	0	
WW2	Royal Canadian Air Force	20	0	0	
WW2	Canadian in the RAF	1	0	0	
WW2	Civilians	3	0	0	
Korea	Canadian Army	1	0	0	(1 EIIR)
Post War	Canadian Army	7	0	0	(6 EIIR)
Post War	RCN	6	0	0	(6 EIIR)
Post War	RCAF	8	0	0	(7 EIIR)
Post War	Canadian in the RAF	1	0	0	(1 EIIR)
Post War	Cdn in Palestine Police	1	0	0	(1 GVI)
Post War	Civilians	7	0	1	(7 EIIR)
Post War	RCMP	2	0	0	(2 EIIR)
Post War	Toronto Police Department	1	0	0	(1 EIIR)

(31 EIIR)

The citations to all 77 George Medals to Canadians can be found in the book produced by Unitrade Press, '1000 Brave Canadians'. This is the only source where all the citations have been reproduced.

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³ Flight Lieutenant Robert Sabourin receives his George Medal from Princess Elizabeth – note this was a 1959 award but is a GVI medal.
 Sergeant Joseph Lessard, GM, CD received his George Medal for bravery in the Congo.
 Flight Lieutenant Vince McLean, GM – medals in the Air Force Museum at CFB Trenton
 Hollingam GM WO Bernard Waugh Hollingam, GM, CD, PPCLI – in the PPCLI Museum, Calgary, Alberta