

WORLD WAR TWO MEDALS

THE 1939 - 1945 WAR MEDAL

TERMS

The war medal was awarded to all full-time personnel of the armed forces and merchant marines for serving for 28 days between 03 September 1939 and 02 September 1945.

BAR

A single oak leaf emblem is worn to signify a Mention-in-Despatches or the silver oak leaf to signify a King's Commendation for Brave Conduct is worn on this medal. There is no bar other than these emblems.

DESCRIPTION

A circular, silver (.800 fine) medal, 36-mm in diameter.

The British issue medals were made of cupro-nickel.

OBVERSE

The obverse shows the crowned coinage effigy of King George VI, facing left and the legend:

GEORGIVS VI D: BR: OMN: REX ET INDIAE IMP:

REVERSE

The reverse shows a lion standing wanton on the body of a double-headed dragon. The dragon's heads are those of an eagle and a dragon to signify the principal occidental and oriental enemies. At the top, just right of centre are the dates (in two lines): **1939 1945**

MOUNTING

A plain, straight non-swivelling suspender with a single-toe claw.

RIBBON

The dark blue ribbon is 32-mm wide and has three centre stripes (2-mm) white, red and white plus 5-mm red edges.

NAMING

The medals were issued unnamed, except those to the Canadian Merchant Marine, which were named on the rim.



DATES

The medal was established on 16 August 1945.

ISSUED

There were 700,000 issued, including 4,450 to the Canadian Merchant Marine.

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¹ Major-General Harry Foster, CBE, DSO, CD – MID on his 1939/1945 War Medal
Major Marial M. Mosher, ONS, CD, Canadian Women Army Corps – a Professor at Mount Saint Vincent University
Both groups on display at the Citadel, Halifax, Nova Scotia
Colonel John Franklyn McLean, DSO, CD, Seaforth Highlanders of Canada
Lieutenant Wilfred Francis Gildersleeve, MC, Seaforth Highlanders of Canada (his CVSM should have a clasp on it)
Both Medal groups displayed at the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada Museum, Vancouver, British Columbia
Colonel Stanley Alfred Lee, OBE, MC – with an MID on his 1939/1945 War Medal – Royal Canadian Signals Corps Museum in Kingston, Ontario
Military Cross for WWI