

COMMEMORATIVE MEDAL OF THE 1914-1918 WAR ~ BELGIUM

The Commemorative Medal of the 1914-1918 War (French: Médaille Commémorative de la Guerre 1914-1918, Dutch: Oorlogsherinneringsmedaille 1914-1918) was a Belgian commemorative war medal established by royal decree on the 21st July 1919 and awarded to all members of the Belgian Armed Forces who served during the First World War that were eligible for the inter-allied victory medal.



Commemorative Medal Of The 1914-1918 War With Gold Bar & Crown ~ Belgium

Medal Description

The Belgian 1914-1918 Commemorative War Medal was struck from bronze, it was 47mm high by 31mm wide, triangular shaped and with rounded sides. On its obverse, the relief left profile of a helmeted soldier with a 29mm in diameter circular recess, the helmet adorned with laurels. Between the circular recess and the bottom left corner of the medal, the relief date “1914” in the lower right corner, the relief date “1918”. In the upper point of the triangle, above the circular recess, the relief images of a lion rampant with an oak branch to its left and a laurel branch to its right. On the reverse, near the top, the relief image of a crown surrounded by the same branches as the lion on the obverse, below the crown, the relief semi-circular inscription in French on two rows over the large relief dates “1914-1918”, “MEDAILLE COMMEMORATIVE / DE LA

CAMPAGNE” the inscription repeated in Dutch below the dates “HERDENKINGSMEDAILLE / VAN DEN VELDTOCHT” (COMMEMORATIVE MEDAL OF THE 1914-1918 CAMPAIGN).

Ribbon & Devices

The medal was suspended by a ring through the suspension loop to a 39mm wide red silk moiré ribbon with a 1mm wide central yellow stripe bordered by 1mm wide black stripes. Multiple devices were allowed for wear on the ribbon:

- a) A crown for volunteers; Silver bars, the 1st bar denoting a year at the front, consecutive individual silver bars denoting additional periods of six months at the front;
- b) Gold bar, worn in lieu of five silver bars;
- c) A red enameled cross for each wound received in combat;
- d) Naval anchor, for sailors also awarded the “Maritime Decoration”;
- e) “1916-R-1917” or “1916-R-1918” clasp to members of the Expeditionary Corps to Russia.

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Sources

Wikipedia Web-Site ~ Belgian Military Decorations & Medals; Belgian Civic Decorations & Medals – www.wikipedia.com.uk

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