

## VOLUNTEER COMBATANT'S MEDAL 1914-1918 ~ BELGIUM

The Volunteer Combatant's Medal 1914-1918 (French: Médaille du Combattant Volontaire 1914-18, Dutch: Medaille van de Vrijwillige Strijder 1914-1918) was a Belgian wartime service medal established by Royal Decree on the 17<sup>th</sup> June 1930 and awarded to Belgian citizens and foreign nationals who voluntarily enlisted for service in the Belgian Armed Forces during the First World War.



### Volunteer Combatant's Medal 1914-1918 ~ Belgium

#### Award Statute

The Volunteer Combatant's Medal 1914-1918 was awarded for voluntary enlistment and service in a combat unit in a danger zone for not less than six months during the First World War. Later, the eligibility criteria were extended to include volunteers older than 40 years of age who had served three months in a combat unit in a danger zone, who were older than 50 years of age who had served for one month in a combat unit in a danger zone, and medical personnel who had served for two years in non-occupied Belgium. Additional provisions were made regarding to youngsters who had fled occupied Belgium and persons who were wounded in action and posthumous awards.

### Awards Description

The Volunteer Combatant's Medal 1914-1918 was a 36mm in diameter bronze circular medal topped with a crescent shaped (30mm at its base) section giving it a nearly oval shape of a height of 50mm. On its obverse at right front, the relief image of the head of a helmeted First World War Belgian soldier facing left and partially hidden behind him, the relief image of the head of an 1830 volunteer also facing left and wearing a bonnet typically worn by the revolutionaries. The crescent section bears the relief image of the Belgian crown over laurel branches. On the reverse, along the outer circumference, is the Latin inscription "VOLUNTARIIS PATRIA MEMOR", and in the centre the years 1914-1918. The medal was suspended by a ring through the suspension loop to a silk moiré royal blue ribbon.

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### Sources

Wikipedia Web-Site ~ Belgian Military Decorations & Medals; Belgian Civic Decorations & Medals – [www.wikipedia.com.uk](http://www.wikipedia.com.uk)

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