

FRANCE

COMMEMORATIVE WAR MEDAL 1914-1918

The 'Médaille Commemorative de la Guerre 1914-1918' was awarded to soldiers and sailors for service during the First World War. Civilians also received the medal provided they fulfilled the criteria of the award statute.

The medal was established on the 23rd June 1920 for award to military personnel who served during the First World War between the 2nd August 1914 and the 11th November 1918. The same time, period applied to civilians who served in the army or the French Interior.

The circular round 33mm diameter bronze medal has an integral decorated bar for ribbon suspension.

On the obverse is an effigy of a youthful Minerva in profile facing left, wearing a helmet of 1914, representing France.

She is holding laurel leaves and the hilt of a sword as a cross in her left hand and signed below around the edge



'A MORLON' – The

Obverse of The French Commemorative War Medal 1914-1918

French engraver and medallist Pierre-Alexandre Morlon (1878-1951). On the reverse is inscribed 'GRANDE GUERRE 1914-1918' and circumscribed 'REPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE'. Originally, a clasp 'ENGAGÉ VOLONTAIRE' was awarded to those who had volunteered for enlistment. This was replaced when the Croix du Combattant Volontaire 1914-1918 medal was created in 1935.

The majority, of these medals were made by the Paris Mint and have a bronze cornucopia hallmark. Other rarer examples were produced by medallists J. Gatty of Paris, L. Janvier and L. Berchot of Paris, Leon Chalin and Arthus Bertrand also of Paris and have their individual makers bronze hallmarks.



Reverse Of The French Commemorative War Medal 1914-1918

The conditions for award of the Commemorative War Medal 1914-1918 were contained in the Award Statue:

- a. All French soldiers and sailors present under arms or on board French warships, and merchant seaman.
- b. All foreign soldiers and sailors who served under French authority or aboard a French ship, excluding those that were posted there.
- c. Officers and active persons of additional land subdivision railways.
- d. Nurses, doctors, pharmacists, managers of French or foreign nationality who served in the French army medical units or on a voluntary basis.
- e. Civil guards, police officers and firefighters of bombed cities, having been officially registered between those dates of eligibility and to have fulfilled their duties during the bombing.
- f. Police officers and the City of Paris, The Seine, the inspectorate staff of the Paris Police, staff officers of the assets of the granting of Paris and civil guards, all of whom having been militarized by decree of 7th, 9th, and 19th August and 21st September 1914.
- g. French soldiers who are abroad, who have served in the ranks of the French Army, enlisting during the war in the Allied and Associated Armies of France.

- h. Colonial workers employed in the work of national defence in France, provided they have served a period of six months between the dates of eligibility.
- i. People of French or foreign nationality who served in the war zone in the works below designation, accredited to the French high command or under this command:

Various works, the soldier home, feeding stations etc.

Knights of Columbus.

American Red Cross.

Mobile Sanitary Sections of the French Red Cross and foreigners in the French army.



Makers Hallmark ~ J. Gatty



Makers Hallmark ~ Paris Mint



Makers Hallmark ~ Léon Chalin



Makers Hallmark ~ Janvier-Berchot

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Sources

Wikipedia Web-Site ~ www.wikipedia.org – 1914-1918 Commemorative War Medal (France)

Medal-Medaille Web-Site ~ www.medal-medaille.com

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Roger Coleman