

## The Service (1917-1921) Medal

On 26 May 1942 the Government approved the recommendation of the Minister for Defence, Mr Oscar Traynor, T.D., that a medal with bar should be issued to those in possession of a military service certificate entitling them to a pension under the Military Service Pensions Acts, 1924 and 1934 in respect of the period subsequent to 1916 and prior to the 11 July 1921. Those not in possession of a certificate, but who could satisfy the Minister that had they applied for a pension - their service was such as would have merited the award of a pension - would also be issued the medal with bar.

A medal without bar was to be issued to persons who were members of Óglaigh na hÉireann (Irish Republican Army), Na Fianna Éireann, Cumann na mBan and the Irish Citizen Army not less than three months prior to the 11 July 1921. The examination and granting of posthumous medal claims and awards to dependants has been administered by the Department of Defence.

Close to 70,000 Service (1917-1921) Medals were issued.

# An Bonn (1917-1921) Seirbhíse

## The Service (1917-1921) Medal

### Conditions of award:

This medal is awarded in two classes:-

Medal with bar to persons who rendered active service in either of the periods (a) the period commencing on the 1st April, 1920, and ending on the 31st March, 1921, or (b) the period commencing on the 1st April, 1921, and ending on the 11th July, 1921.

Medal, without bar to persons whose service is not deemed to be active military service, but who were members of Óglaigh na hÉireann, (Irish Republican Army), Na Fianna Éireann, Cumann na mBan or the Irish Citizen Army for the three months ended on the 11th July, 1921.

### Design:

A bronze circular medal approximately one and three fifth inches (39mm) in diameter bearing on the obverse the Arms of the Four Provinces of Ireland. In the centre appears a standing figure, facing front, depicting a Volunteer, a member of a guerrilla force – termed “Flying Column” - of the period 1917 -1921 in typical dress (trench coat and cap with rifle, revolver and bandoleer). The word “**ÉIRE**” (meaning Ireland) appears horizontally across the centre of the medal in large letters (two on either side of the figure). The words “**COΣΑΘΗ ΝΑ ΣΑΘΙΡΣΕ**” which are translated “The Fight for Freedom” appear below. The reverse shows a palm leaf symbolic of victory.

### Ribbon:

Black (to the observer’s left) and tan in two vertical panels. The combination of the colours black and tan was adopted by reason of its association with the terms “Black and Tan” which had a particular significance in relation to the struggle for independence during the years 1917-1921.

### Suspension bar:

The suspension bar from which the ribbon is suspended bears a Celtic interlaced design.

### Service bar:

The bar which is joined to the suspender bears the inscription “**COMRAO**”, which is translated “Combat”, with a St. Brendan’s Knot at either side.



OBVERSE



REVERSE



RIBBON