

## THE SERVICE (1917-1921) MEDAL

### DATE OF GOVERNMENT DECISION:

26/5/1942

### CONDITIONS OF AWARD:

This medal is awarded in two classes:-

(a) Medal with bar to persons who are in possession of a military service certificate entitling them to a pension under the Military Service Pensions Acts in respect of active service in the period subsequent to 1916 and prior to 11 July 1921 and to those persons not in possession of a certificate who satisfy the Minister for Defence that had they applied for a pension, their service was such as would have merited the award of a pension.

(b) Medal without bar to persons who were members of Óglaigh na hÉireann (Irish Republican Army), Fianna Éireann, Cumann na mBan or the Irish Citizen Army for the three months ending on 11 July 1921.

### DESIGN:

A bronze circular medal approximately 39 millimetres 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**" (Ireland) appears horizontally across the centre of the medal in large letters (two on either side of the figure). The words "**Cogaí na Saoirse**" which are translated "The Fight for Freedom" appear below. The reverse shows a palm leaf symbolic of victory.



**OBVERSE**



**REVERSE**



**RIBBON**

### 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. The term "Black and Tan" was applied to the individual members of a body of auxiliary or quasi-military police employed by the British Government in Ireland during the latter part of the struggle for independence. The term "Black and Tan War" came to be applied to the struggle during that period because in the initial stages of organisation, its members wore a black tunic and tan trousers owing to shortage of the complete uniform.

### 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 "**Cómrac**", which is translated "Combat", with a St. Brendan's Knot at either side.

### WITH SUSPENDER:

Formalised animals incorporated in an interlaced Celtic design.