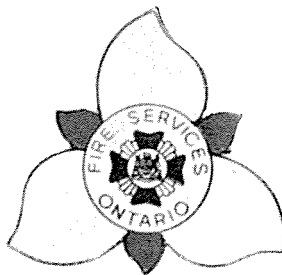


THE FIRE SERVICES LONG SERVICE MEDAL
OF ONTARIO, CANADA

DAVID CERULL

The Fire Services Long Service Medal was first awarded in 1971. It is awarded for 25 years of service as a full-time or volunteer firefighter with a fire department in the province of Ontario, Canada. Active service time spent in the Canadian Armed Forces during time of war is also considered as "fire service" time. On the following page is an "Extract from Regulation 353 made under The Fire Marshals Act." This "Extract" both sets forth the rules under which this medal is given and provides a description of the award.



THE FIRE SERVICES LONG SERVICE
MEDAL (OBVERSE).

LADIES' BROOCH, ONTARIO FIRE
SERVICES.

**Extract from
Regulation 353 made under The Fire Marshals Act**

The Fire Services Long Service Medal

10. - (1) In this section, service as a member of the public fire services shall include:
- (a) service as a full-time fire fighter or a volunteer fire fighter as defined in The Fire Departments Act;
 - (b) employment in the service of the Crown in right of Ontario or any agency of the Crown in right of Ontario as a fire fighter or in a capacity related to the prevention or investigation of fire; and
 - (c) active service in the Canadian Forces in World War II, or the Korean War.
- (2) The Fire Marshal shall grant a medal, which shall be known as "The Fire Services Long Service Medal", to any person who has served as a member of the public fire services for a total of twenty-five years or more.
- (a) A person who retired from the public fire services before the 1st day of January, 1985 after serving for a total of twenty-five years or more but less than thirty years is eligible to receive and upon application to the Fire Marshal shall be granted The Fire Services Long Service Medal.
- (3) (Revoked)
- (4) The medal shall be worn on the left breast, subordinate to all Canadian and British military decorations.
- (5) When a medal is awarded the name of the recipient shall be published in the Ontario Gazette.
11. - (1) The Fire Services Long Service Medal shall be a circular medal of rhodium plated metal 1 3/8 inches in diameter,
- (a) bearing on the obverse the Maltese cross on which is superimposed the coat of arms of Ontario and the inscription "Fire Services Ontario"; and
 - (b) bearing on the reverse the inscription "For long service The Fire Marshals Act".
- (2) The medal shall be suspended from a metal bar by means of a ribbon 1-1/4 inches in width comprising a red stripe 10/32 of an inch in width in the centre and on each side,
- (a) a white stripe 3/32 of an inch in width bordered by a green stripe 5/32 of an inch in width; and
 - (b) a red stripe 7/32 of an inch in width at the edge of the ribbon.

This "Extract" does not mention the brooches which are given to the wives of the recipients. These brooches are in a very attractive Ontario trillium motif. At the center of this white flower design is found a miniature copy of the obverse of the Long Service Medal. This miniature varies from the medal in that the Maltese cross is red and the background is white. These brooches help recognize that wives of firefighters make a sacrifice by having husbands whose duty it is to perform hazardous tasks under trying circumstances. These brooches also acknowledge the roll played by these women in the ladies' auxiliary of fire departments.

AUTHOR'S NOTE: I wish to thank Sidney E. Oxenham, Chairman of the Ontario Fire Marshals Award Committee, for providing the information and photographs on which this article is based.

.....

S.S. CITY OF BERLIN - NOVEMBER 29, 1878

In November 1878, the S.S. City of Berlin, with a full cargo and a complement of passengers, set sail for New York. The ship was a barque rigged steamer of the Inman Line.

A heavy gale arose in mid-Atlantic and threatened the S.S. City of Berlin to the extent that she shipped some very dangerous seas, losing all her boats, the saloon skylight being carried away, filling the saloon and many of the cabins with sea water. The storm lasted for the full day of November 29, abating shortly thereafter. Due to the professional conduct of the Captain and crew there was no loss of life.

On arrival at New York a subscription was raised from the passengers and silver medals were presented to the Captain and crew. The medal is described in British Naval Medals by The Marquess of Milford Haven as being circular, 1.45 inches in diameter, silver, both sides engraved, fitted with a loop and ring for suspension. The obverse carries a starboard quarter view of a barque rigged steamer (the S.S. City of Berlin) nearly on her beam ends in a heavy sea (a rope border surrounds). On the reverse is the inscription "PRESENTED BY THE PASSENGERS / OF THE / S.S. / CITY OF BERLIN / FOR GALLANT CONDUCT / DURING THE STORM / NOV. 29th. 1878." A rope border surrounds.

Reference: British Naval Medals, by Admiral The Marquess of Milford Haven (Prince Louis of Battenberg until 1917), PC, GCB, L1D, etc.

- Captain Jack Boddington.