

Commonly Used Citizens' Military Training Camps Medals

There were nine corps areas between 1921 and 1940 when the U. S. Army hosted Citizens' Military Training Camps. In general the nine corps areas changed slightly, but were:

First Corps Area-New England.

Second Corps Area-New York, New Jersey, and Delaware.

Third Corps Area-Pennsylvania, Maryland, D.C., and Virginia.

Fourth Corps Area-South of Virginia to Mississippi.

Fifth Corps Area-Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio, and West Virginia.

Sixth Corps Area-Wisconsin, Michigan, and Illinois.

Seventh Corps Area-Minnesota, N. Dakota and south to include Arkansas and Kansas.

Eighth Corps Area-Oklahoma, Texas, Colorado, New Mexico, and Arizona.

Ninth Corps Area-Montana and south and west, plus Alaska.

Widely used medals were those mainly sponsored by the Military Training Camp Association and by large civic groups. This shows some medals with similar or identical designs used across multiple corps areas or medals used in a corps area or a camp for more than one year.

One type of medal had the Great Seal eagle as its central design (right). The Great Seal medals, given as athletic awards, vary slightly in diameter, generally between 1.32 to 1.40 inches. Several different companies made these planchets and some are shown.



Another version of the GS medals have the military post and year struck at the top of the eagle. Below are examples for Fort Washington, MD, 1932 and Fort Sam Houston, Texas, 1939. To the right is another given at Fort Sam Houston, but in 1931 with the year in the second row.



The reverse of these medals have many minor variations but generally are as shown. The Corps Area is struck as part of the planchet.



Second are medals that show Victory crowning a kneeling athlete with a laurel. Like the previous medal, this was given for athletics. It has several variation starting with the naming or no of the corps areas at the bottom. Some of those with the corps area have it struck with the design, while others are engraved or even stamped, as shown.



A third type of common medal has wording *MILITARY TRAINING CAMP ASSOCIATION* and *NATIONAL SERVICE* around a US shield. These often come with tri-colored red, white, and blue ribbons, and with solid red, white, blue ribbons:



These vary by the reverse designs. All have around the reverse the raised lettering *CITIZENS' MILITARY TRAINING CAMP* and across the center *FOR EXCELLENCE*. Some have *CO.* for company above the *FOR EXCELLENCE* and some have the year in raised letters at the bottom. The two distinctions make the four variations. These all come with and without corporate markings:

1. Those without either *CO.* and the year.
2. Those with *CO.* and without a year.
3. Those with without *CO.* and with a year.
4. The last has both the *CO.* and year.



All of the above have both the *CO.*, and year.



The first of the above has the year at the bottom but not the CO. above FOR EXCELLENCE. The center has the CO. but no year, while the last has neither, although the year is engraved.



The Third Corps Area had medals that displayed Victory and an eagle (left). It comes in various metals: at least silver and bronze, and also at least two different reverses. Those medals with a wreath of oak boughs on the reverse were evidently made by the Robbins Company of Attleboro, Massachusetts. Similar obverse designs but impressed to Fort Howard, Maryland, and a year exist.



The Fifth Corps Area provided medals showing the four-state area. The first of these was the initial design that was on a plain-edged octagon (right). The reverse is blank. The second Fifth Corps Area medal design was more elaborate with laurel leaves on the spaces between a modified Maltese cross. On the obverse are impressed the camp location and year as shown for Fort Thomas, Ky. and Ft. Benjamin Harrison, Ind. Medals for Camp Knox are also known.





The Sixth Corps Area had a medal made by Josten's (lower right) that showed the sport at the lower part of the planchet. The top disk allows the year or other wording or design to be easily changed while the lower rectangle provides for a wide range of activities. The reverse of this particular award is engraved *BEST BOXER*. A near identical version in bronze for Camp Custer shows a high jump and is so engraved on the reverse.



The Seventh Corps Area provided medals with small planchets that included enameled red, white, and blue circles that also named the camp locations. Two are shown at the left. The first for volleyball has Ft. Crook in the white enamel, while the other for academics is from Fort Leavenworth.

Some CMTC camps gave their own unique medals of the same design over several years. These include medals with octagonal planchets given at Plattsburg, NY. Three versions are at the right. These are usually marked on the back with the year and sport although some are engraved, some have raised markings, and some have a combination of both engraving and raised marks. Dieges & Clust made these Plattsburg medals. The reverse of some of these Plattsburg medals are below.



Certainly other camps used medals of the same design for multiple years and other Corps Areas used the same design for several years. Readers whose CMTC medals were specifically made for a particular camp or for a Corps Area are asked to notify the author.

Besides the above medals, the Civitan Club provided citizenship medals (right) and the VFW gave a medal of standard design.

