

Orders and Medals of the USSR, by Georgy Putnikov.

This 40 page small format paperback guidebook which originally appeared in 1990 is a handy reference on Russian orders and medals. Completely English text, with photos and captions for every Soviet military and civilian order and medal in existence as of 1990. Also includes number of pieces issued and other interesting information.

This is the 2nd 1994 edition of this popular guide. Highly recommended for anyone seeking an inexpensive but complete reference work on Soviet medals & orders.

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ORDERS AND MEDALS OF THE USSR

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GOLD STAR MEDAL



The Gold Star Medal was established by a Decree of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet on October 16, 1939. The title of Hero of the Soviet Union was introduced earlier, on April 16, 1934. Close to 12,700 persons have been honoured with it. The medal is made of gold (21.5 grammes), and was designed by I. Dubassov.

The Gold Star Medal is special. It is presented to Heroes of the Soviet Union together with the USSR's highest award—the Order of Lenin—and a Diploma of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet (this practice started on July 29, 1936). The title of Hero of the Soviet Union is conferred on a person for services to the state involving heroic behaviour on an individual or collective basis.

On July 12, 1933 a polar expedition set off from Leningrad on the steamship *Chelyuskin*. Heading the expedition was the famous scientist and explorer Otto Schmidt. The goal was to cover the Northern Sea Route in a single navigation season.

In September the steamship

became icebound in the Chukchi Sea. On February 13, 1934, the *Chelyuskin* was crushed by the ice and sank. The members of the expedition, including ten women and two children, and the crew had been forced to take refuge on a drifting ice floe. They could not possibly get to the land.

Otto Schmidt sent out a plea for help over radio. And help arrived. Icebreakers, steamships, dinghies and aircraft were sent out. Soviet pilots managed to reach the ice floe camp and rescue the people. Seven of them—Sigmund Levanovsky, Vassili Molokov, Mavniki Slepnyov, Nikolai Kamanin, Mikhail Vodopyanov, Anstoli Lyapidevsky and Ivan Doronin—were the first to be honoured with the title of Hero of the Soviet Union on April 20, 1934.

On August 1, 1939 the air force pilots Sergei Gritsevets, Grigori Kravchenko and Yakov Smushkevich were for the second time named Hero of the Soviet Union for feats performed in action on the Khalkhin Gol River.

The first men to be three-time recipients of the title of Hero of the Soviet Union were the fighter pilots Alexander Pokryshkin (1944) and Ivan Kozhedub (1945). The title was conferred on Marshal Georgi Zhukov four times.

ORDER OF LARGES
GLORY



The Order for Personal Courage was established by a Decree of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet on December 28, 1988. As of June 1, 1989 it had been awarded to nearly 400 persons. It is made of silver and enamel, and was designed by A. Zheg.

The Order for Personal Courage is bestowed on citizens of the USSR for courage and valor displayed in the rescue of human life, in fighting crime and natural disasters, or in emergencies involving risk of life.

On December 1, 1993 a group of armed thugs seized a bus with 31 schoolchildren and took them hostage in Ostropokazhe, in the Soviet north. They demanded a ransom of \$2 million and a plane to take them to Israel. They threatened to blow up the

Is it, if their hearts were not met?
Natalie Yarkson, a school
teacher, volunteered to stay
with the kids as a hostage.
Was it not for her courage and
calm, the incident might have
ended in loss of life.

The Interior Ministry of the USSR and the Ministry of the Interior managed to rescue the children and to capture the criminals. On February 3, 1985 the participants in the operation to rescue the children and capture the fugitives were awarded orders and medals. Natalya Yefremova was the first person to be awarded the Order for Personal Courage.

The Order of Labor was established by a Decree of the USSR Supreme Soviet on January 18, 1934. It has been conferred on over half a million people. It is made of silver-plating and enamel, as designed by V. Voznesensky.

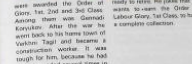
The Order of Labor
1st, 2nd, and 3rd Class
and to workers and
employed in industry, in
construction and other
branches of the manufacturing
for sailors and highly
work at one enterprise,
innovations, researches,
tions and ideas for pro-
ficiency. It is also
teachers for major
ments in the education

The first Orders of Glory were conferred August 9, 1974. Its members were workers of the Soviet Engineering

Moscow, coal mining, metallurgy, and engineering. Arrangements for the construction of the Kuzbassugol, and steel works of the Zaporozhzhia Works. Mikhail Kain, at the Vladimir Engineering Works.

During the Great War a little over 2.56

10



with award the Order of Glory, 1st, 2nd and 3rd Class. Among them was Genadi Koryukov. After the war he went back to his home town of Vukhrem Tagil and became a construction worker. It was tough for him, because he had

Gennadi took part in the con-

struction of several industrial projects in Sverdlovsk Region. He never dreamed that he would be honoured with the Order of Labour Glory, 2nd and 3rd Class, for his efforts in the sphere of peaceful construction. The war veteran is still not



ORDER OF VICTORY



established by a decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet on 18.12.1943. It has been awarded 17 Soviet and foreign awards (18 carat gold, rubies, and was decorated with the Order of Lenin).

highest military in
been conferred on
fionz and marshals
peaceful execution
operations conduct
several groups of
radically changed
situation in favor
Army.

During the war
was bestowed
the Soviet
Zhukov, Alexan
Joseph, Sosa
Konstantin, Ro
Konev, Rodio

