

"Stasi Decorations and Memorabilia, VOLUME 3", Ralph Pickard.

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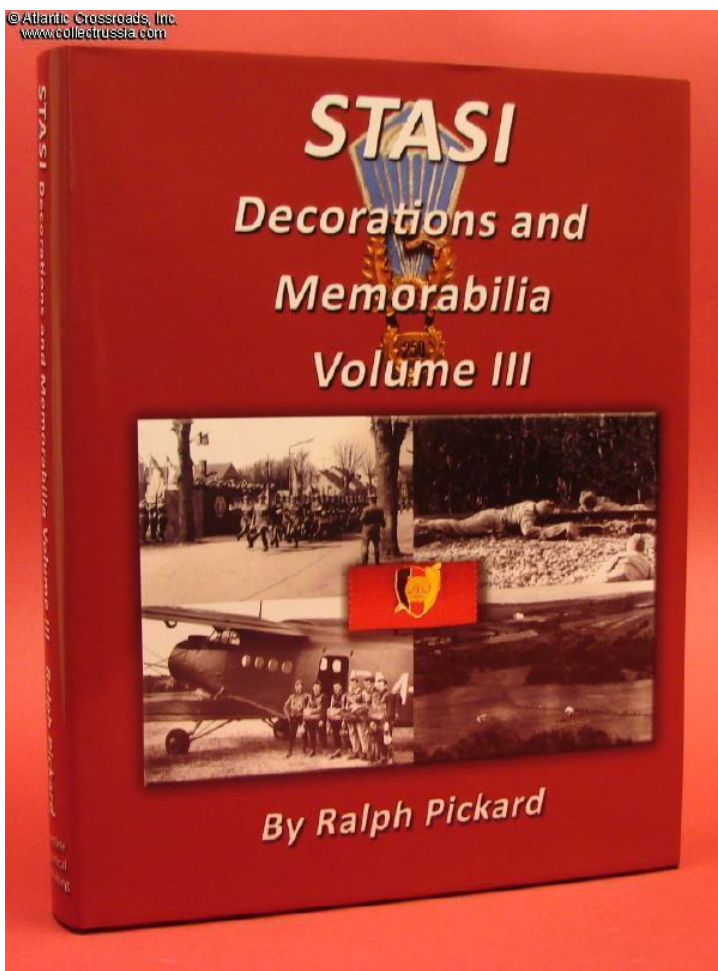
This is the much awaited third volume of the extremely popular Stasi collector's guide series of books by Pickard. It is hard to imagine, but Volume III is even better illustrated than the previous two. All three volumes together include over 900 pages with over 1700 illustrations!

The book delves ever further into the fascinating subject of DDR notorious secret police and its memorabilia. The book shows a number of Stasi documents, badges, and non-portable awards that did not appear in the previous books. Moreover, the third volume of Pickard's work provides a far more detailed history of MfS (STASI) and focuses on its cooperation with KGB and State Security of other Eastern Bloc countries. Consequently, widely represented in this massive volume are groups of medals and decorations issued to state security officers of Warsaw Pact that include DDR awards - accompanied by detailed identification of the awards and in many cases, explanation of their significance. Photos of German and foreign documents are likewise accompanied by detailed description and in some cases, full English translation of the text. To even greater extent than the previous volumes, the book is richly illustrated by period photographs of Warsaw Pact intelligence officers. Some of these photos are truly exceptional, for example those showing parachute training of MfS special operations units.

A result of years of painstaking research, this book is truly a gift to the collecting community and Cold War historians alike. With only 750 copies in print, this book may soon be out of print and become a scarce collectible in its own right!

Item# 32716

\$70.00



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ANTI-FASCISM AND THE MJS IN EAST GERMANY

Following World War II, the role of the anti-fascist movement in the struggle against National Socialism was celebrated, especially when members of the Communist Party were involved. The movement was later expanded to include those who had fought in the Spanish Civil War—Spanish fighters—as the members of the International Brigade in the mid-1930s, as well as partisan fighters, who struggled against the Nazis during World War II.

Even though only a very small percentage of the East German population was comprised of veteran anti-fascist fighters, their numbers were overrepresented in forming the post-World War II anti-fascist structure in East Germany. Some of the early members of the MJS were also former anti-fascists.

Throughout the early periods of the Cold War, the East German government made a concerted effort to keep former Nazi Party members from any civilian, military or government positions of consequence. By 1965, more than 12,000 individuals had been sentenced to prison, and a few were even executed for their Nazi past (war criminals).

During the Cold War, there was an emphasis on educating the East German population on the accomplishments of the anti-fascist struggle during the Nazi period. Tours to former concentration camps were a popular tool in that effort and medals, badges and other memorabilia were presented to survivors. Anti-fascist committees were formed to assist in the effort to educate the general populace. Their focus was generally on memorializing deceased anti-fascist fighters such as Ernst Thälmann and Ernst Schneller.

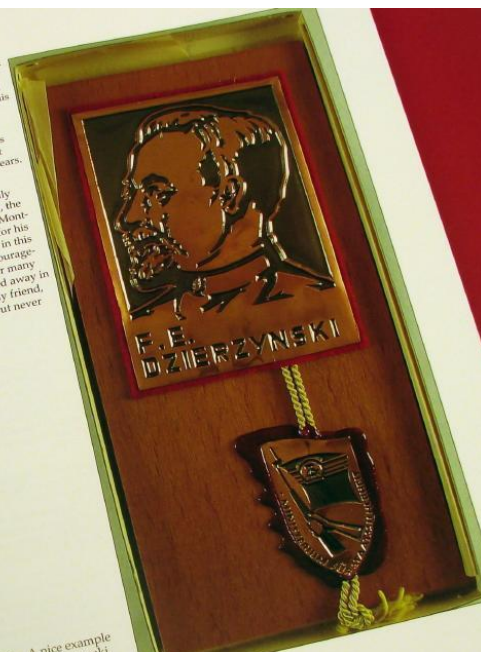
These anti-fascist committees were all part of the Komitee der Antifaschistischen Widerstandskämpfer (abbreviated as KdAW and translated as Committee of Victims of the created in 1953 after the Vereinigung der Verfolgten des Naziregimes (VVN—Association of Victims of the Nazi Regime) was disbanded by the leadership of the Sozialistische Einheitspartei Deutschlands (SED—Socialist Unity Party of Germany). The VVN had been created in 1947 and most of its members were already part of the Kommunistische Partei Deutschlands (KPD—Communist Party of Germany). Since the original association had chapters in both East and West Germany, the East German leadership viewed it with suspicion and as a launching pad for western spy operations. The integration of the members of the East German region into the VVN into the KdAW occurred rather seamlessly, and the successor organization allowed the East German government greater control of the VVN, the KdAW and the ban on the East German branch.



STASI Decorations and Memorabilia. Bob, thank you very much. I am appreciative of all your work and support for this book project.

I also want to thank other friends and fellow collectors for your continued support and discussions over the years. It is much appreciated.

Lastly, I want to personally thank a very close friend, the Ambassador Hugh Montague from Virginia, for his support and assistance in this endeavor, and the encouragement he provided over many years. Sadly, he passed away in May 2017. Thanks, my friend, you will be missed but never forgotten.



Anti-Fascism and the MJS in East Germany

Figure 747 An example of a KdAW envelope that was sent to an MJS officer, whose name has been redacted. The officer used the envelope for note taking in 1964. This envelope was produced in 1964.

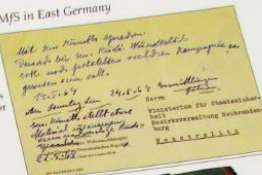


Figure 748 DDR medal bar that belonged to Generalmajor Kurt Lohberger, who was not a member of the MJS organization, illustrating the "Hans Beimler Medal" and the "Medal for Fighters Against Fascism 1933-1945." These feature a five-sided ribbon mount, with the "Hans Beimler Medal" specially designed for that



Anti-Fascism and the MJS in East Germany

Medal for Fighters Against Fascism 1933 – 1945 Award Document. This award was established in 1958. The medal and award document were presented to those who fought against the Nazi regime, prisoners in concentration camps and International Brigade fighters who fought during the Spanish Civil War.

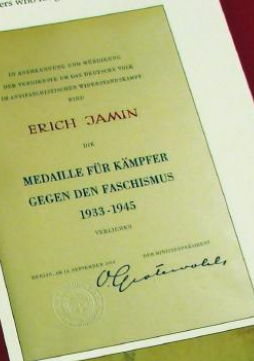
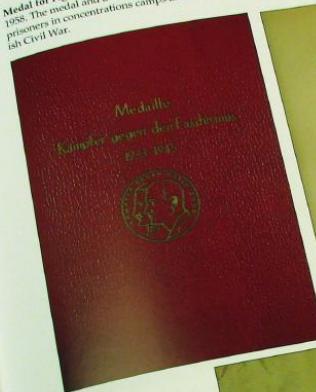


Figure 750 An example award document for the Medal for Fighters Against Fascism 1933 – 1945 and identification card authorizing the wear of the medal. These were presented to MJS Oberst Erich Jamin in 1958.



Medals, Decorations and Other Memorabilia Presented to East German, Soviet and Warsaw Pact Intelligence and Security Personnel

During his career, he was known to have been presented the following foreign awards: The Cuban Medal for the 30th Anniversary of the Revolution; the 20th Anniversary of Cuban State Security; the Czechoslovakian Medal for the 30th Anniversary of the Czechoslovakian Uprising; the Polish Badge of Distinction in Service to the Nation in Gold; the Soviet Order of Friendship of Nations; the Soviet Medal for Strengthening Combat Cooperation; the Soviet Medal for the 40th Anniversary of Victory in the Great Patriotic War; the Soviet Badge for the 60th Anniversary of the KGB; and the Soviet Badge for the 60th Anniversary of the KGB Border Guards.



1st Deputy Minister Angel Karlov.

Figure 777 1st Deputy Minister Angel Karlov's medal and award grouping.



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Medals, Decorations and Other Memorabilia Presented to East German, Soviet and Warsaw Pact Intelligence and Security Personnel

Medal and Award Document for the 30th Anniversary of Victory in the Great Patriotic War. The medal was established in 1975.

As with the other Soviet 30th Anniversary of Victory medals and award documents illustrated in both Volumes I and II of STASI Decorations and Memorabilia, this medal and award document to foreigners is extremely rare. Only a little more than 5,000 of these medals were presented to foreigners, compared to the more than 14 million 30th Anniversary Medals awarded to combat veterans and labor front veterans.

Of interest, is the fact that foreigners were also awarded the combat veteran version of the 30th Anniversary of Victory in the Great Patriotic War Medal. There are examples of the combat veteran medal presented to MJB officers in both Volume I (Figure 154) and Volume II (Figure 303) of STASI Decorations and Memorabilia.

Figure 786 Medal and Award Document for the 30th Anniversary of Victory in the Great Patriotic War.



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Medals, Decorations and Other Memorabilia Presented to East German, Soviet and Warsaw Pact Intelligence and Security Personnel

Other examples of the Soviet Order of the Red Star presented to non-Soviet citizens (foreigners) can be found in Volumes I and II of STASI Decorations and Memorabilia in Figures 156, 316, 317 and 318. The backing of this Order of the Red Star was converted from a screw-back to a pin-back mount by the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Council in 1970.

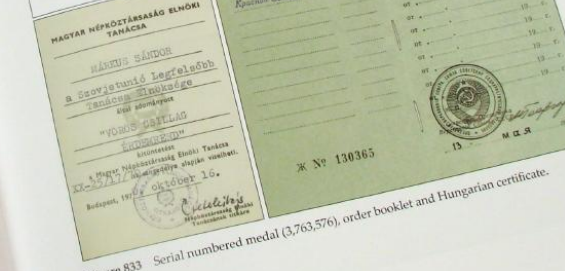


Figure 833 Serial numbered medal (3,763,576), order booklet and Hungarian certificate.

Medals, Decorations and Other Memorabilia Presented to East German, Soviet and Warsaw Pact Intelligence and Security Personnel

Badge and Award Booklet for the 50th Anniversary of the KGB. The badge was established in 1967 and manufactured at the Moscow Mint.



Figure 855 This badge and award booklet were awarded to Colonel István Agócs in 1970. The document has a facsimile signature of KGB Chairman Yuri Andropov.

The engraving on the dagger grip reads: "To István Agócs from the Ministry of the Interior of the Hungarian Republic - 10 X (October 1988) The hall- and room marks of the Hungarian State Mint in Budapest are stamped on the scabbard. It is unknown how much, if any, previous medal units may be in the dagger."



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Medals, Decorations and Other Memorabilia Presented to East German, Soviet and Warsaw Pact Intelligence and Security Personnel

Note that the serial number seen in the Merit Medal Award Document in Figure 867 was entered by hand. In many cases, the award documents from this time period did not reflect hand-entered serial numbers, even though the medal itself may have had it stamped on its reverse. For more information, refer to the illustrations in STASI Decorations and Memorabilia, Volume II, pages 581 through 584.



The very top of the reverse of the Merit Medal has the stamped serial number 00873, which matches the handwritten serial number in the award document in Figure 867.

Figure 868 Polish and East German medals worn during the Cold War by Matvienko.

The medals in Figure 868 are the Polish Medal of Victory and Freedom – 1945 and the East German Merit Medal of the National People's Army in Bronze. Of interest, both foreign awards were mounted together by Matvienko on a Soviet medal mount.



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STASI Decorations and Memorabilia Volume III

East German Paratrooper knives. Knives on this page are shown as examples of the knives carried by East German paratroopers and Underground Resistance Company soldiers during the Cold War.



shows two separate knives, one with and one without its scabbard. The stamped serial number on the other knife is located on the opposite side of the handle.



NVA Paratrooper Cutting Knife (Kampfschneider). These Paratrooper Cutting knives were produced throughout the Cold War in different variations. The Reconnaissance Company soldiers shown in the top photograph in Figure 945 have their K-M-64 knives strapped down on top of their reserve parachute. The NVA Paratrooper Combat Knives on this page

NVA Paratrooper Cutting Knife (Kampfschneider). These Paratrooper Cutting knives were produced throughout the Cold War in different variations. The Reconnaissance Company soldier from the top left photograph in Figure 970, second from the left, appears to show a Cutting Knife with the cord placed in the special pocket located on his upper pants leg. The photograph shows the East German Kampfschneider on the top and the Polish WZ-65 Kampfschneider on the bottom (with and without their sheaths).

Special Combat Forces of the MFS – Spezialkampfkräfte –



Figure 946 Two photographs from 1971 taken at FAR Ellersberg show Reconnaissance soldiers about to board an East German AN-2 Coss propeller aircraft.



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Special Combat Forces of the MFS – Spezialkampfkräfte –

Hans-Jürgen Riedel's jump log used from 1967 through the mid-1970s.	
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Figure 965 Reconnaissance Company soldier Hans-Jürgen Riedel's jump log used from 1967 through the mid-1970s.



Figure 966 Two studio photographs taken in 1971 showing Riedel with and without his Fallschirmjäger beret.

The dark-colored Fallschirmjäger beret worn in some of the photographs shown in this chapter is not officially worn in public settings, because the Reconnaissance Company was a secret unit in Wachregiment Feliks Dzierzynski. Without the Fallschirmjäger beret, the only other distinction is that a soldier was from an airborne or special operations unit within the MFS was the DD (Dachverband) Badge worn on the tunic.

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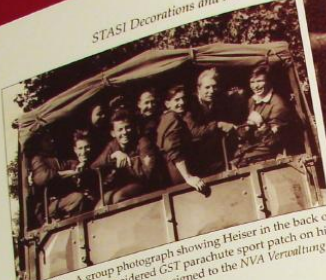


Figure 993 A group photograph showing Heiser in the back of a truck (fourth person from the left), wearing an embroidered GST parachute sport patch on his sleeve. The image was taken in September 1959, while he was assigned to the NVA Verwaltung Luftstreitkräfte at Heinersdorf, just north of Berlin.



Figure 994 Embroidered GST parachute sport patch, as worn from 1955 through 1959. Some sources indicate the patch was only worn until 1957, however, Heiser continued to wear his patch after 1957, as shown in Figures 993 and 1000.

Figure 995 Heiser's personalized jump log, which numbered 347 pages.

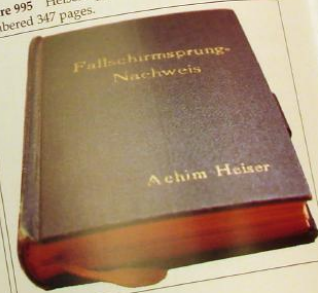


Figure 996 Heiser's GST parachute sport patch. Note the boots, parachute jump, and the East German flag.



Spec

