

Colonel Leonid Brezhnev, Chief Political Officer of the 18th Army, very rare war-time typed document signed, 14 December 1943.

Eventually became General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, ruling USSR from 1964 to his death in 1982. VG condition.

One-page document, 10 3/4 x 7 1/4". Addressed to Maj. Gen. Shatilov, Commander of the Political Department of the Ukrainian Front. Recommendation to approve captain Yakov Zakharov in the position of Assistant Editor of the division newspaper The Red Warrior which he already occupied de facto. Brezhnev gives him a stellar review both as a professional newsmen and as a communist. Brezhnev's signature is first under the text of the document in black ink, followed by the signature of the Chief Personnel Officer of the 18th Army Lt. Col. Evdokimov, in red pencil.

In very good condition. The left margin, with its staple holes and minor rips, is folded onto the back of the page so that wear does not affect the document. The paper is very clean and wrinkle-free.

A Khrushchev protégé, Brezhnev had no qualms about overthrowing his mentor. Only a one star General by the end of WW 2, he had himself promoted to Marshal of the Soviet Union. The only recipient of the Order of Victory to have its award posthumously revoked.

The 18 years of Brezhnev's reign were full of internal struggle for power but he managed to prevail and become the de-facto absolute ruler of 1/6 of the Earth's landmass. He brought some level of improvement of living conditions for the Soviet people, and a lot of stability (some called it stagnation) which is still causing nostalgia among the older population, some of whom are willing to trade the turbulent abundance of modern Russia for the meager but immutable existence of the Brezhnev era.

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