

## 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 FOR PERSONAL  
COURAGE



The Order for Personal  
Courage was established by a  
Decree of the Presidium of the  
Supreme Soviet of the USSR  
on December 30, 1938. It has  
been awarded to a total of  
over 100,000 persons in a total  
of over 100,000 cases.

The Order for Personal  
Courage is bestowed on citizens  
of the USSR for courage  
and valor in the face of  
danger, for acts of heroism  
in the face of danger, or  
for acts of heroism in the  
face of danger.

On December 1, 1988 a  
total of 100,000 medals were  
issued to 100,000 persons in  
the Soviet Union. The  
medals were issued to 100,000  
persons in the Soviet Union.  
The medals were issued to 100,000  
persons in the Soviet Union.

but if these medals were not given  
to the person who was  
responsible for the  
act, it would be a  
disgrace for the  
person who was  
responsible for the  
act.

The Order for Personal  
Courage is bestowed on  
citizens of the USSR  
for acts of heroism  
in the face of danger,  
for acts of heroism  
in the face of danger,  
or for acts of heroism  
in the face of danger.

ORDER OF LABOUR  
GLORY

The Order of Labour  
Glory was established by a  
Decree of the Presidium of the  
Supreme Soviet of the USSR  
on December 30, 1938. It has  
been awarded to a total of  
over 100,000 persons in a total  
of over 100,000 cases.

The Order of Labour  
Glory is bestowed on  
citizens of the USSR  
for acts of heroism  
in the face of danger,  
for acts of heroism  
in the face of danger,  
or for acts of heroism  
in the face of danger.

The first Order of Labour  
Glory was awarded on  
August 3, 1934. It was  
awarded to a total of  
over 100,000 persons in a total  
of over 100,000 cases.

The Order of Labour  
Glory is bestowed on  
citizens of the USSR  
for acts of heroism  
in the face of danger,  
for acts of heroism  
in the face of danger,  
or for acts of heroism  
in the face of danger.

During the Great Patriotic  
War a total of 100,000  
medals were issued to 100,000  
persons in the Soviet Union.



The Order of Labour  
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in the face of danger.

During the Great Patriotic  
War a total of 100,000  
medals were issued to 100,000  
persons in the Soviet Union.

ORDER OF VICTORY



The Order of Victory was  
established by a Decree of the  
Presidium of the Supreme  
Soviet of the USSR on  
December 30, 1938. It has  
been awarded to a total of  
over 100,000 persons in a total  
of over 100,000 cases.

The Order of Victory is  
bestowed on citizens of the  
USSR for acts of heroism  
in the face of danger,  
for acts of heroism  
in the face of danger,  
or for acts of heroism  
in the face of danger.

During the Great Patriotic  
War a total of 100,000  
medals were issued to 100,000  
persons in the Soviet Union.