

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

...to believe that all of her
...had been killed. She put
...the notifications of their
...deaths and continued to wait
...for them.
...The inhabitants of the village
...opened a museum to the
...Stepanovs. One of its most im-
...portant exhibits is a picture of
...the Hero Mother, a grey-haired
...woman in a kerchief with a kind
...but sad face.



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 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, dirigibles and aircraft were sent out. Soviet pilots managed to reach the ice floe camp and rescue the people. Seven of them—Sigmund Levanevsky, Vassili Molokov, Mavriki Slepnyov, Nikolai Kamantin, 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 Griitsevets, Grigori Kravchenko and Yakov Smushkevich were for the second time named Hero of the Soviet Union for feats performed in action on the Khatkhin 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 GLORY

The Order of Glory was established by a Decree of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet on November 8, 1942. The Order has three classes, the 1st Class being the highest. The Order of Glory, 3rd Class, was awarded 948,069 times; 2nd Class, 46,362 times; and 1st Class, 2,582 times. The insignia of the Order of Glory, 1st Class, is made of gold and enamel; 2nd Class, of silver, gold plating and enamel; and 3rd Class, of silver and enamel. They were designed by N. Moskalov.

The Order of Glory was conferred on privates and sergeants of the Soviet Army. Air Force junior lieutenants could also be recommended for the award if they distinguished themselves by acts of valour, and displays of courage and integrity in the defence of the Soviet Union. The award was conferred in the following succession—3rd Class, 2nd Class and 1st Class—for outstanding performance of specific combat exploits as listed in the Order's Statutes. Special awards for soldiers



became holders of the Order of all three classes. All the platoon leaders were awarded the Order of Alexander Nevsky; all the company commanders, the Order of the Red Banner. Major Boris Yamalyanov and Lieutenant Mikhail Guryev were honoured with the title of Hero of the Soviet Union.

Israeli, assistant leader of a combat engineer platoon. Later he was awarded the Order of Glory, 2nd and 1st Class. Among the first group of men to earn the Order were several privates of the Czechoslovak Brigade that fought under Ludvig Svoboda in the USSR.

The first Order of Glory, 2nd Class, was conferred on Privates S. Baranov and A.

There was one remarkable case during the Great Patriotic War of 350 privates and sergeants of a single battalion being awarded the Order of Glory.

On January 14, 1945 the 1st Battalion of the 215th Guards Infantry Regiment was assigned the mission of seizing the enemy's forward trenches in a sector of the Vistula-Order hiddenhead. Through a concerted

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duced many awards during the Great Patriotic War, the Order of the Red Banner retained its initial prestige as a decoration for bravery in combat. The honour of this award was bestowed on 238,000 officers, 3,270 army units and formations for their dauntless spirit, courage and heroism.

Many citizens of other countries were decorated with the Order of the Red Banner. Among them were the French pilot of the Normandy-landings, the Niemen Fighter Regiment, who defended Russia's airspace together with their comrades-in-arms; Staff-Captain Bogumir Lomsky of the Czechoslovak Army Corps, who later became his country's Minister of National Defence; the Tudor Vladimirescu Infantry Division of the Romanian Army, which took part in action against the Wehrmacht; and Rubén Ruiz Ibarri of Spain, who earned this award during the first month of the war.

Commander Hinton, RN, commanding officer of HMS *Harrier*, a sloop, was awarded the Order of the Red Banner for bravery in the removal of mines and in fighting enemy submarines.

ORDERS OF USHAKOV AND NAKHIMOV



The Orders of Ushakov and Nakhimov were established by a Decree of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet on March 3, 1944. The Order of Ushakov, 1st Class, was awarded 47 times; the Order of Ushakov, 2nd Class, 194 times; the Order of Nakhimov, 1st Class, 80 times; and the Order of Nakhimov, 2nd Class, 467 times. The Orders of Ushakov and Nakhimov, 1st and 2nd Class, were conferred on close to 800 officers and 28 naval units and formations. The Order of Ushakov is platinum, gold, silver and enamel and the Order of Nakhimov, gold, silver and enamel. They were designed by M. Shipilevski, A. Diodorov, B. Khomich and Y. Berkov.

The Orders of Ushakov and Nakhimov, 1st and 2nd Class, are bestowed on naval officers

for outstanding success in the planning, execution and support of naval operations which achieved victory over a numerically superior enemy, beat off an enemy offensive operation, or ensured successful naval operations, preserving the main friendly forces and inflicting serious damage on the enemy. The 1st Class of both orders is the highest.

The orders were named after the distinguished Russian Admirals Fyodor Ushakov (1744-1817) and Pavel Nakhimov (1802-1855).

The first Order of Ushakov, 1st Class, was bestowed on Vice-Admiral Vladimir Tributs, Baltic Fleet Commander, and the first Order of Nakhimov, 1st Class, on Rear-Admiral Nikolai Feldman.

ORDER OF HONOUR

On March 3, 1988 a Soviet-Canadian Arctic expedition comprising 13 young men departed from Point Barrow in Severnaya Zemlya, USSR. The expedition, the first to cover the nearly 2,000 kilometres between the USSR and Canada on skis across drifting ice floes in a single season, set foot on Canadian territory on June 1. This was the first time in the history of Arctic exploration that two continents separated by an ocean were connected by a ski trail. It was also the first time that people from two countries belonging to different political systems engaged in such close cooperation on polar ice. The expedition executed a pioneering and unique set of medical studies for Soviet and Canadian research centres. All of its participants were awarded Soviet orders and medals by the Soviet government on December 8, 1988. Some were honoured with the Order of Friendship of Peoples.



The Order of Honour was established by a Decree of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet on December 28, 1988. It replaced the Order of the Badge of Honour instituted on November 25, 1935. The Order of Honour has been presented to nearly 400 people. It is made of silver and enamel, and was designed by D. Galyadkin.

The order is conferred on citizens of the USSR for outstanding achievements in production, scientific research and social, cultural and other forms of social activity, for promotion of economic, scientific, technological, cultural and other ties between the USSR and other countries, and for significant contribution to basic and applied research.

The first Order of the Badge of Honour was awarded to Artykbaï Tilyabáyev, manager of the Batý Collective Farm in

Uzbekistan, in 1936 for high yields of cotton. The first collective to earn this Order was open hearth plant No. 2 of the Kirov Steel Works in Makeyevka. Among the recipients of the Order of the Badge of Honour were many servicemen. During the Great Patriotic War (1941-1945) more than 66,000 servicemen received it.

By the time the Order of Honour was introduced in 1988 the Order of the Badge of Honour had been conferred on a million and a half people. Estonian composer Gustav Ernesaks is widely known in the USSR. He is the organiser and chief conductor of the famous song festivals held in Estonia in which tens of thousands of singers take part.

Though over 80, Gustav Ernesaks continues to compose music in traditional Estonian national style. He is the author of the National Anthem of the Estonian Soviet Socialist Republic.

On December 29, 1988 Ernesaks was given the first Order of Honour for his contribution to Soviet musical art.

MEDAL FOR VICTORY OVER GERMANY IN THE GREAT PATRIOTIC WAR OF 1941-1945, MEDAL FOR VICTORY OVER JAPAN, AND MEDAL FOR ASSIDUOUS LABOUR EFFORT IN THE GREAT PATRIOTIC WAR OF 1941-1945



These medals were established by Decrees of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet on May 9, 1945, September 30, 1945 and June 6, 1945 respectively. They were awarded to over 32 million people. The medals are made of brass and copper.

These medals were bestowed on all servicemen, civilian employees of the Armed Forces who took part in action on the battlefronts of the Great Patriotic War and against the Japanese militarists, and also on all civilians who contributed

men were honoured with orders and medals for their contribution to the victory of this campaign. Eighty-seven were awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union. Many officers and men of the Mongolian People's Army who fought side by side with their Soviet comrades-in-arms were also awarded Soviet orders and medals. The Medal for Victory over Japan was bestowed on 1,818,000 persons.

Effort in the Great Patriotic War of 1941-1945.

When the collapse of Nazi Germany marked the end of hostilities in Europe, militant Japan had no intention of surrendering. It still hoped either to win a campaign under favourable conditions or to secure peace on acceptable terms. That was why it rejected the ultimatum presented to it by the USA, Great Britain and China on July 26, 1945. In keeping with the commitments assumed by the Soviet government at the Big Three Summit Conference in the Crimea, the

