

Russian Helmets: from Kaska to Stalshlyem, 1916-2001 Robert Clawson.

In English. New textbook on Soviet Helmets with photos and diagrams. Hardcover 128 pages, many photographs more than half in color. Showing details of helmets, inside and out. C. 2002, best work on Soviet helmets to date.

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RUSSIAN HELMETS:  
from Kaska to Stalshlyem  
1916-2001

by  
Robert W. Clawson

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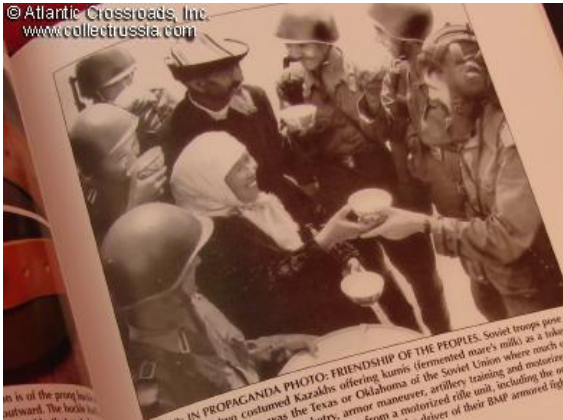


**FRENCH MODEL 1917 ADRIAN IN RUSSIAN SERVICE.** The helmet is one allocated to the Imperial Russian army forces fighting in Russia. It bears a Russian double-headed eagle in the front, painted olive just as is the helmet. The eagle has been attached through the two holes punched in the helmet for the French branch of service device. It has the original seven finger leather French one-piece liner. This museum display helmet is painted in what the Russians term "olive" color. It is not entirely clear whether or not this is a museum repaint to put it in conformity with the seemingly often ignored Russian paint specification.

painted a tan-olive as illustrated. Of those defending the homeland Russian Imperial Guards forces were the first to be issued the helmets. The helmets became first known to the enemy when Austro-Hungarian troops faced General Aleksey Brusilov's breakthroughs on the southwestern front in the summer of 1915.



**SECOND MODEL-EXPERIMENTAL (PARATROOPER) HELMET.** The next step for the designers in 1938 was to produce a somewhat more elegant model, less severely pronounced side dips (more like the Italian M-33) and pointed front brim in the Italian style. This model, rumored to have been designed for use by the very large Red Army airborne force, was vented, but continued to use the M-36 stocking liner and suspension system with a clearly unsuitable chin strap. It was not adopted for paratrooper use. Soviet airborne forces experimented in the post war years with the use of a Polish designed steel jump helmet but also used limited acquisition and brief testing. They still pump today in soft headgear.



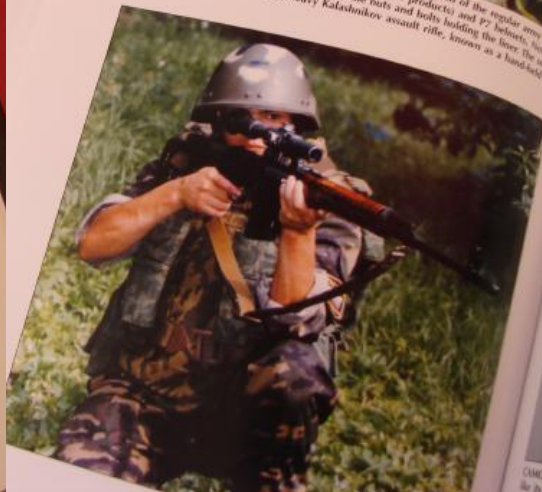
**SSH-40s IN PROPAGANDA PHOTO: FRIENDSHIP OF THE PEOPLES.** Soviet troops pose for a photo with two costumed Kazakhs (fermented mare's milk) as a token of welcome. Kazakhstani was the Texas or Oklahoma of the Soviet Union where much of the open spaces were used for rocketry, armor maneuver, artillery training and motorized rifle field exercises. The troops illustrated are from a motorized rifle unit, including the one with the soft humped tanker's helmet. The latter is the driver of their BMP armored fighting vehicle.

### Paint and Decoration

The Soviet armed forces continued to paint their helmets with an updated form of *nitrokraska* of the kind of olive-green shade known in the west as olive-drab. However, as with earlier models, color standardization was never achieved until the new SSH-60 and SSH-68 appeared. SSH-40 colors ranged from forest-green to true olive-drab. It really depended on what paint lot was available. Helms produced at tank factories often got whatever shade of green was being sprayed on the tanks, also very rarely standardized. Throughout the Cold War, no outside decoration (marmes) was applied to army helmets. Those of the naval infantry (marines) used either a red star outline or a solid red star level. Some Soviet helmets (including the Polish wz. 50 used in limited quantities) were decorated by the Russian letters C and D, which were stenciled on, also at the



**THE P7 IN ACTION.** This photo shows two motorized riflemen of the regular army in full combat gear, including fragmentation vests (NIJ Stal products) and P7 helmets, in the rough nature of the terrain construction and the rub and bobs holding the rifle. The soldier on the left is manning an RPK, heavy Kalashnikov assault rifle, known as a hand-held machine gun.



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