

Soviet Second World War Veteran Badges, Paul Schmitt.

C. 2008, English text, 8 1/2" by 11" format soft cover w. gloss finish, 79 pp., over 400 color photos.

This is the first ever English language reference on what has always been an interesting - and until now scarcely researched - field of collecting. Soviet Patriotic War Veteran "tinnies" are significant both for their historical references and because they were issued exclusively to surviving participants of the battles. Unlike the innumerable jubilee and souvenir pins, they could not be purchased at Souzspechat' kiosks and in most instances, did not have a price stamped on the reverse. Most of the veteran pins were produced in relatively small numbers seldom exceeding 5000, reflecting the small number of the former unit servicemen still alive.

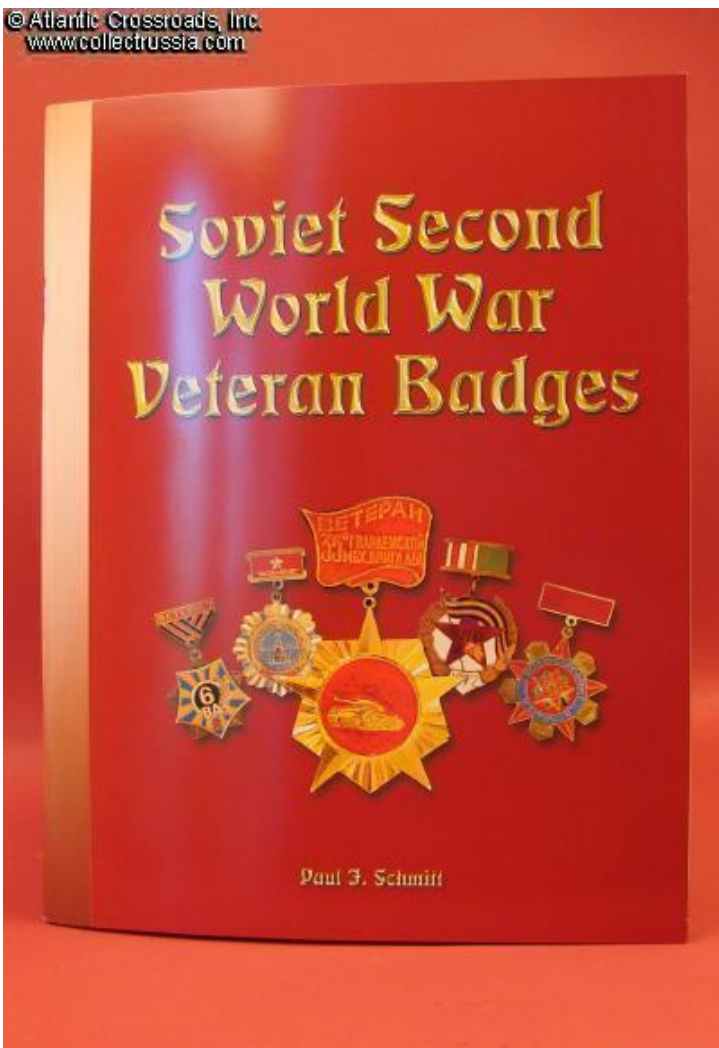
This booklet contains an informative introduction, over 400+ identified badges in color with their description and comments, logical arrangement system, a chart of 45 identified trademarks, bibliography, and photographs of veterans wearing their pins. Arranged by military units from the front level down to regiment with air force, naval, partisan, battle participants, specialized units, and even some badges of unknown provenance.

Written by the highly regarded author of the "Echoes of War" and co-author of "The Comprehensive Guide to Soviet Orders and Medals", this book utilized his years of collecting experience as well as fluent knowledge of Russian language. Although written for a militaria collector, the catalog may also prove an excellent tool for a historian: a unit pin in the veteran's post-war photo often provides the only clue to his WW2 service.

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Ground Forces Armies

1 Ukrainian Front
Obverse: Suspension rings, the Order of the Great Patriotic War ribbon. Reverse: "Southern Front" (Ukrainian text). Document dated 15 September 1945.



1 Ukrainian Front
Obverse: "Veteran" - a Ukrainian Order of the Patriotic War ribbon. Reverse: "Southern Front".



Steppe 2 Ukrainian Front, Trans-Baikal Front
Obverse: "Veteran of the Steppe, 2 Ukrainian Front, Trans-Baikal Front, 1945-1946". Reverse: Smooth finish with unknown trademark.



Trans-Baikal Front
Obverse: "Veteran 'Trans-Baikal Front'". Reverse: Smooth finish with Moscow #116 trademark. Two pins for attaching obverse star and red star device.



Navy

556 Rifle Regiment
Obverse: "Veteran of the 556 Rifle Regiment". Reverse: "Pribaltic Front, base has circular suspension" (Ukrainian text). Comments: Document #148 trademark.



Black Sea Fleet
Obverse: "Veteran of the Double Red Banner Black Fleet". Reverse: Heavy suspension features Victory over Germany campaign ribbon. Base is smooth finish with Moscow #128 trademark.



756 Air Defense Regiment
Obverse: "Veteran of the 756 Air Defense Regiment". Reverse: Multiple-circle finish, each containing a star. Base #58 trademark.



Black Sea Fleet
Obverse: "Veteran of the Black Sea Fleet". Reverse: "Sevastopol" and water is a famous landmark in one of Sevastopol's bays. Comments: Document is dated 21 June 1975, serial-numbered 13,270, and indicates printing of 1974. Bears stamp signature of Admiral V. Tribun.



Air Force

Black Sea Naval Infantry Veterans
Obverse: "Naval Infantry Veterans, Black Sea Fleet". Reverse: Smooth finish.



8 Naval Infantry Brigade
Obverse: "The 8 Naval Infantry Brigade, Black Sea Fleet". Reverse: Suspension has a smooth finish. Body has concentric rings.



81 Naval Infantry Brigade
Obverse: "The 81 Red Banner Naval Infantry Brigade 1941-1945". Reverse: Suspension has a smooth finish and Leningrad #206 trademark. Base has smooth finish with few concentric rings.



1 Air Army
Obverse: "Veteran" on suspension and aviation branch insignia shown. Reverse: "The First Air Army 1941-1945" (Ukrainian text). Comments: Document bears 1978 date.



Specialized Units

Stalingrad 50th Anniversary
Obverse: "50th Anniversary of the Stalingrad Victory". Reverse: Suspension has knuckled checkerboard finish. Base has rough finish.



Liberation of Tavriya
Obverse: "Veteran, The Liberation of Tavriya, 1943". Order of the Patriotic War depicted on the suspension. Reverse: Smooth finish.



Airborne 50th Anniversary
Obverse: "1940". Reverse: Multiple small circle finish.



Liberation of Ukraine
Obverse: "1941-1945. In Memory of the fighting for Ukraine". Depicted is the giant "Motherland" statue in Kiev. Colors on suspension are those of Ukrainian Soviet republic. Reverse: Smooth finish. Suspension has Kharkov #256 trademark. Comments: document dated 12 April 1984, serial-numbered 10.



Partisan



Bryansk
Obverse: "A Partisan of Belarus 1941-1945" (written in Belarusian)
Reverse: Smooth finish, no inscription

WWII in Europe

Obverse: "Partisan of the Second World War in Europe 1941-1945"
Reverse: Smooth finish with inscription "Partisan-Internationalist"

Comments: Strange use of the phrase "Second World War" and not "Great Patriotic War," perhaps due to this badge being awarded to foreigners.



Crimea
Obverse: "Crimean Partisan WWII 1974"
Reverse: Suspension is slightly polished. On base, two concentric circles, center circle and smooth finish.
Comments: Document dated 1974.

Bryansk

Obverse: "To a Participant of the All-Union Gathering of Partisans and Underground Members, Bryansk 80"
Reverse: Smooth finish with Kiev #58 trademark on suspension. Base has "The Bryansk Forest readled harshly" presumably a line from a famous poem or song.



Crimea
Obverse: "Crimean Partisan 2004"
Reverse: Small circle trademark on suspension

ANNEX A: TRADEMARKS (Information from U.Y. Korzhik's Catalogue)
