

"Stasi Decorations and Memorabilia, VOLUME 3", Ralph Pickard.

C. 2018, English language text, 318 pages, fully illustrated in color, BIG 11" x 8.5" format Hardcover with dust jacket.

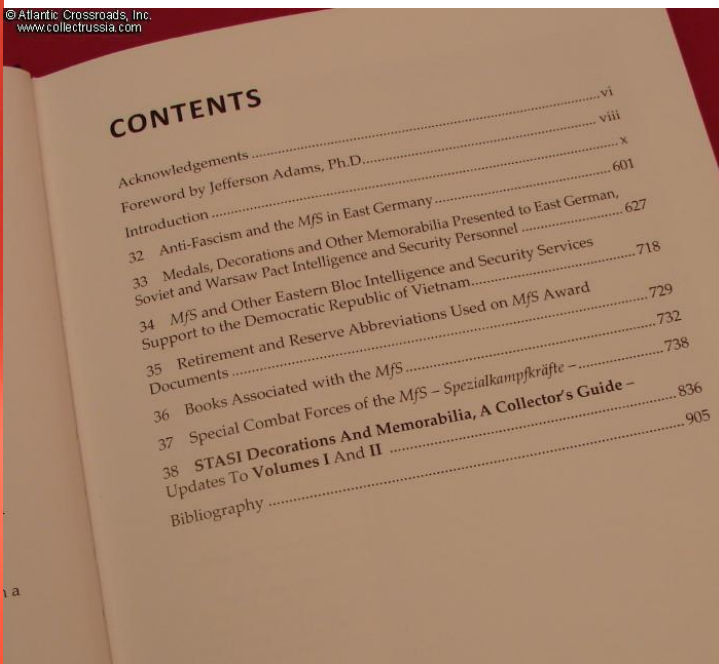
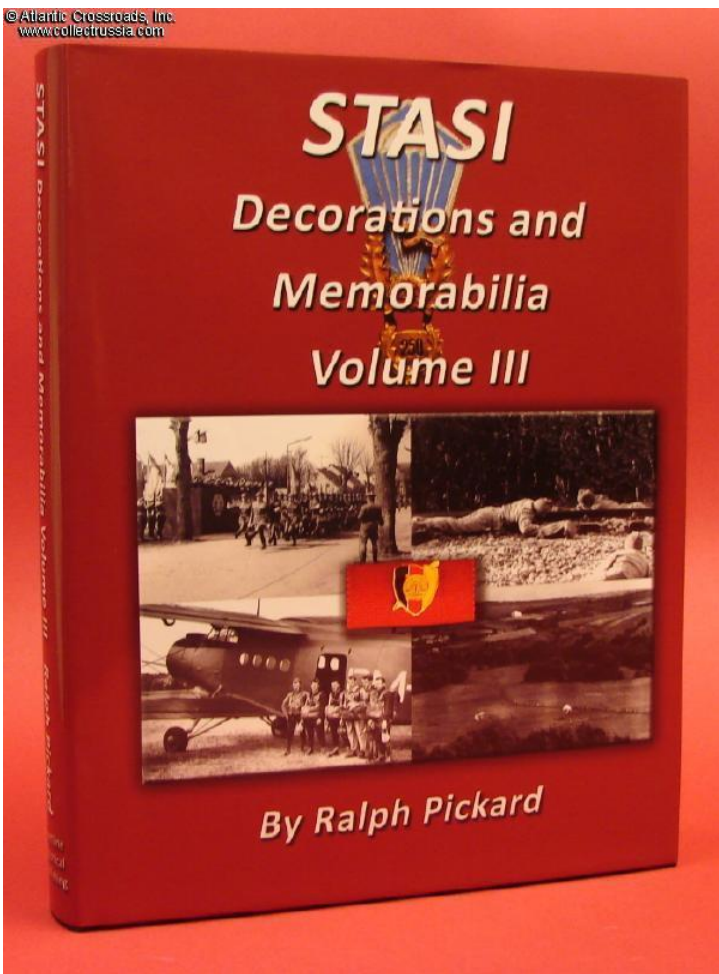
This is the much awaited third volume of the extremely popular Stasi collector's guide series of books by Pickard. It is hard to imagine, but Volume III is even better illustrated than the previous two. All three volumes together include over 900 pages with over 1700 illustrations!

The book delves ever further into the fascinating subject of DDR notorious secret police and its memorabilia. The book shows a number of Stasi documents, badges, and non-portable awards that did not appear in the previous books. Moreover, the third volume of Pickard's work provides a far more detailed history of MfS (STASI) and focuses on its cooperation with KGB and State Security of other Eastern Bloc countries. Consequently, widely represented in this massive volume are groups of medals and decorations issued to state security officers of Warsaw Pact that include DDR awards - accompanied by detailed identification of the awards and in many cases, explanation of their significance. Photos of German and foreign documents are likewise accompanied by detailed description and in some cases, full English translation of the text. To even greater extent than the previous volumes, the book is richly illustrated by period photographs of Warsaw Pact intelligence officers. Some of these photos are truly exceptional, for example those showing parachute training of MfS special operations units.

A result of years of painstaking research, this book is truly a gift to the collecting community and Cold War historians alike. With only 750 copies in print, this book may soon be out of print and become a scarce collectible in its own right!

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\$70.00



ANTI-FASCISM AND THE MFS IN EAST GERMANY



Following World War II, the role of the anti-fascist movement in the struggle against National Socialism was celebrated, especially when members of the Communist Party were involved. The movement was later expanded to include those who had fought in the Spanish Civil War—Spanishkämpfer—as well as partisan fighters, who struggled against the Nazis during World War II.

Even though only a very small percentage of the East German population was comprised of veteran anti-fascist fighters, their numbers were overrepresented in forming the post-war leadership structure in East Germany. Some of the early members of the MFS were also former anti-fascists.

Throughout the early periods of the Cold War, the East German government made a concerted effort to keep former Nazi Party members from any civilian, military or government positions of consequence. By 1965, more than 12,000 individuals had been sentenced to prison, and a few were even executed for their Nazi past (war criminals).

During the Cold War, there was an emphasis on educating the East German population on the accomplishments of the anti-fascist struggle during the Nazi period. Tours to former concentration camps were a popular tool in that effort and medals, badges and other memorabilia were presented to survivors. Anti-fascism committees were formed to assist in the effort to educate the general populace. Their focus was generally on memorializing deceased anti-fascist fighters such as Ernst Thälmann and Ernst Schneller.

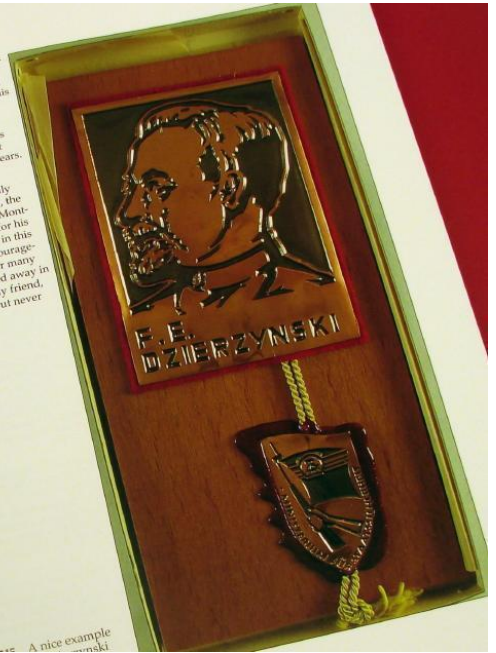
These anti-fascism committees were all part of the *Komitee der Antifaschistischen Widerstandskämpfer* (abbreviated as *KdAW* and translated as Committee of Antifascist Resistance Fighters), which was created in 1953 after the *Verfolgten der Nazizeit* (Victims of the Nazi Regime) was disbanded by the leadership of the Socialist Nazi Regime (SED - Socialistische Einheitspartei Deutschlands (SED - Sozialistische Einheitspartei Deutschlands (KPD - Communist Party of Germany)). Since the original association had chapters in both East and West Germany, the East German leadership viewed it with suspicion and as a launching pad for western spy operations. The integration of the members of the East German region of the *KdAW* into the *KdAW* allowed the East German government greater control of the *KdAW* and the ban on the West German branch.



STASI Decorations and Memorabilia. Bob, thank you very much. I am appreciative of all your work and support for this book project.

I also want to thank other friends and fellow collectors for your continued support for your continued support and discussions over the years. It is much appreciated.

Lastly, I want to personally thank a very close friend, the late Ambassador Hugh Monteleone from Virginia, for his support and assistance in this endeavor, and the encouragement he provided over many years. Sadly, he passed away in May 2017. Thanks, my friend, you will be missed but never forgotten.



Anti-Fascism and the MFS in East Germany

Figure 747 An example of a KdAW envelope that was sent to an MFS officer, whose name has been redacted. The officer used the envelope for note taking in 1964. This envelope was produced in 1964.



Figure 748 DDR medal bar that belonged to Generalmajor Kurt Lohberger, who was not a member of the MFS organization, illustrating the "Hans Beimler Medal" and the "Medal for Fighters Against Fascism 1933-1945." These feature a five-sided ribbon mount, with the "Hans Beimler Medal" specially designed for that purpose.



Anti-Fascism and the MFS in East Germany

Figure 750 An example award document for the Medal for Fighters Against Fascism 1933-1945 and award document were presented to those who fought against the Nazi regime, prisoners in concentration camps and International Brigade fighters who fought during the Spanish Civil War.

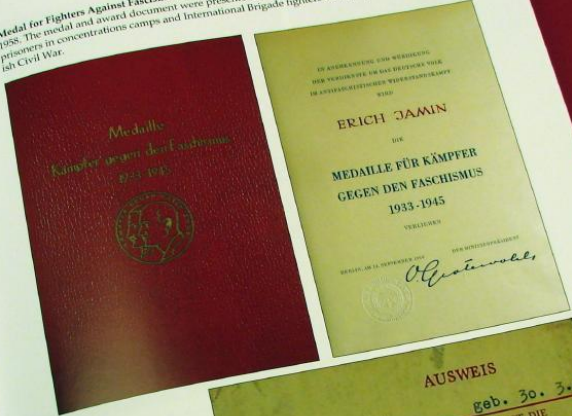
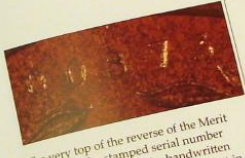


Figure 750 An example award document for the Medal for Fighters Against Fascism 1933-1945 and award document were presented to those who fought against the Nazi regime, prisoners in concentration camps and International Brigade fighters who fought during the Spanish Civil War.



Medals, Decorations and Other Memorabilia Presented to East German, Soviet and Warsaw Pact Intelligence and Security Personnel

Note that the serial number seen in the Merit Medal Award Document in Figure 867 was entered by hand. In many cases, the award documents from this time period did not reflect hand-entered serial numbers, even though the medal itself may have had it stamped on its reverse. For more information, refer to the illustrations in STASI Decorations and Memorabilia, Volume II, pages 581 through 584.



The very top of the reverse of the Merit Medal has the stamped serial number 00873, which matches the handwritten serial number in the award document in Figure 867.

Figure 868 Polish and East German medals worn during the Cold War by Matvienko.

The medals in Figure 868 are the Polish Medal of Victory and Freedom — 1945 and the East German Merit Medal of the National People's Army in Bronze. Of interest, both foreign awards were mounted together by Matvienko on a Soviet medal mount.



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shows two separate knives, one with and without its scabbard. The knife in the sheet is serial number 9072 on the handle, the stamped serial number on the other knife is located on the opposite side of the handle.



NVA Paratrooper Cutting Knife (Kappmesser). These paratrooper cutting knives were produced throughout the Cold War in differing variations. The Reconnaissance Company soldier from the top left photograph in Figure 970, second from the left, appears to show a Cutting Knife with its cord placed in the special pocket located on his upper pants leg. The photographed NVA Paratrooper Cutting knives on this page show the East German Kappmesser on the top and the Polish WZ-65 Kappmesser on the bottom (with and without their sheaths).

Special Combat Forces of the MFS - Spezialkampfbatterie



Figure 946 Two photographs from 1971 taken at FAB Elmshorn show Reconnaissance soldiers about to board an East German AN-2 Coss propeller aircraft.



Special Combat Forces of the MFS - Spezialkampfbatterie

Name		Rank		Service Number		Date		Remarks	
Hans-Jürgen Riedl	1945	1945	1945	1945	1945	1945	1945	1945	1945

Figure 965 Reconnaissance Company soldier Hans-Jürgen Riedl's jump log used from through the mid-1970s.



Figure 966 Two studio photographs taken in 1971 showing Riedl with and without his Fallschirmjäger beret. The dark-colored Fallschirmjäger beret worn in some of the photographs shown in this chapter is not officially worn in public settings, because the Reconnaissance Company was a secret unit within the Wachregiment Feliks Dzierzynski. Without the Fallschirmjäger beret, the only other distinction in uniform that a soldier was from an airborne or special operations unit within the MFS was the DD (Dynamo) Badge worn on the tunic.

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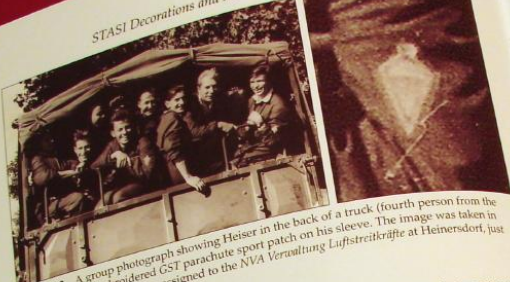


Figure 993 A group photograph showing Heiser in the back of a truck (fourth person from the left), wearing an embroidered GST parachute sport patch on his sleeve. The image was taken in September 1959, while he was assigned to the NVA Verwaltung Luftstreitkräfte at Heinersdorf, just north of Berlin.

Figure 994 Embroidered GST parachute sport patch, as worn from 1955 through 1959. Some sources indicate the patch was only worn until 1957, however, Heiser continued to wear his patch after 1957, as shown in Figures 993 and 1000.



Figure 995 Heiser's personalized jump log, which numbered 347 pages.

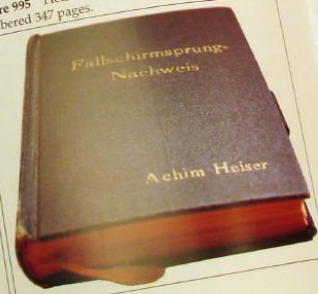


Figure 996 Heiser's GST parachute sport patch. Note the boots, parachute jump harness, and the East German...

