

Temporary Duplicate Award Document for a Medal for the Defense of Stalingrad, issued on 15 August 1943 to

Guards Sergeant Mikhail Zhmarev (Михаил Иванович Жмареv), 40th Guards Tank Regiment.

Single-page, 5¼" x 7½" certificate typed on a plain sheet of paper. Marked "duplicate" in the upper left corner. The citation and general layout are the same as the standard Stalingrad Medal certificate. In the lower part, there is an ink stamp of the 40th Guards Tank Regiment mentioning many honorifics and awards of the unit and a hand-signature of its commander Guards Col. Gavrilyuk.

The document is well worn but still sound and in good overall condition. It has been folded in two for storage and has minor separations and a small clip at the margins near the fold lines. There is also some wear and a small tear at the upper edge. A sheet of backing paper has been applied to verso to keep the document sound. The document shows a minimal amount of foxing and normal age toning but is completely free of soiling or stains.

This is an extremely rare WW2 award certificate! It is uncommon to see even a standard campaign medal document issued after the war and marked "duplicate": in most instances if there was a need for a replacement, the authorities typically wouldn't bother to mark it as such. A temporary replacement typed for this specific purpose on a blank sheet is practically unheard of, especially one issued to a tanker and in as early as August 1943.

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