

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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GOLD STAR MEDAL



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 USSR's highest award—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, dinghies 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 Kamanin, 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 Gritsevets, Grigori Kravchenko and Yakov Smushkevich were for the second time named Hero of the Soviet Union for feats performed in action on the Khalkhin 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 FOR PERSONAL
COURAGE

The Order for Personal Courage was established by a Decree of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet on December 28, 1988. As of June 7, 1989 it had been awarded to nearly 400 persons. It is made of silver and enamel, and was designed by A. Zhuk.

The Order for Personal Courage is bestowed on citizens of the USSR for courage and valor displayed in the rescue of human life, in fighting crime and national disasters, or in emergencies involving risk of life.

On December 1, 1993 a group of armed thugs seized a bus with 31 schoolchildren and took them hostage in Ordubekskaya in the Soviet Union. They demanded a ransom of \$ 2 million and a plane to take them to Israel. They threatened to blow up the

but, if their tears were not met
Natalie Yerkovich, a school-
teacher, volunteered to stay
with the kids as a surrogate
mom. It was not for her courage and
calm, the incident might have
ended in loss of life.

The Correction for State Security and the Ministry of the Interior managed to rescue the children and to capture the guerrillas. On February 3, 1985 the participants in the operation to rescue the children and capture the hijackers were awarded orders and medals. Natalya Yefremova was the first person to be awarded the Order for

ORDER OF LARGES
GLORY



The Order of Labor was established by a Decree of the USSR Supreme Soviet on January 18, 1934. It has conferred on over half a million people. It is made of silver-plating and enamel, and designed by V. Yegorov.

The Order of Laborers, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Class, is due to workers and is employed in industry, construction and other phases of the manufacturing for selfish and highly work at one enterprise, innovations, remarkable figures and ideas for growth. It is also a teachers for major merits in the

The first Orders of Glory were conferred August 9, 1974. It is worth noting that all were workers of the Soviet Engineering

at the Vladimir Engineering Works.

the first Order of Labor 3rd Class. The first holder of all three became Abbasov Yekim Agayev, a well-known Azerbaijani, in 1981.

During the Great Patriotic War a little over 250

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ORDER OF VICTORY



The Order of Victory is established by a Decree of the

Pridium of the
Sapromer Soviet on No.
2. 1943. It has been used
17 Soviet and foreign
It is made of platinum
oxide (18 carat is
rubber, and with design
Kuznetsov.

The Order is the highest military and has been conferred on 100,000 officers and marshals for successful execution of operations conducted by several groups of a radically changed situation in favour of

During the war was bestowed on the Soviet Union Zhukov, Alexander Joseph, Sushkov, Konstantin Rokossovsky, Rodion

were awarded the Order of Glory, 1st, 2nd and 3rd Class. Among them was General Gennadiy Gerasimovich, who was ready to return. He said that he wants to earn the Order of Labour Glory, 1st Class. To have a complete collection.

Koryukov. After the war he went back to his home town of Verkhni Tagil and became a construction worker. It was tough for him, because he had been wounded several times in the war and was in fact an invalid. The doctors persistently recommended that he switch to an easier job. But Koryukov would not give up the job he

Gennadi took part in the construction of several industrial projects in Sverdlovsk Region. He never dreamed that he would be honoured with the Order of Labour Glory, 2nd and 3rd Class, for his efforts in the sphere of peaceful construction. The war veteran is still not

The Order of Vectors is established by a Decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet on Nov. 2, 1943. It has been awarded

17 Soviet and foreign
It is made of plastic
oxide (1% carbide in
rubber, and with design
Kugnetsov.

The Order is the highest military and has been conferred on 100,000 officers and marshals for successful execution of operations conducted by several groups of a radically changed situation in favour of

During the war was bestowed on the Soviet Union Zhukov, Alexander Joseph, Sushkov, Konstantin Rokossovsky, Rodion

The Order of Victory is the highest military order. It has been conferred on general officers and marshals for the successful execution of military operations conducted by one or several groups of armies which radically changed the military situation in favour of the Soviet

Amer. During the war this sword was bestowed on Marshals of the Soviet Union Georg Zhukov, Alexander Vassilevsky, Joseph Stalin (twice), Konstantin Rokossovsky, Issa Konev, Rodion Malinovsky.