

Photo ID #6278 of NKVD Private Aleksandr Skripak, issued on 18 February 1941.

Measures approx. 2½" x 3¼" (6.5 x 8.5 cm), standard size for NKVD IDs of the period. Hard-covered, bound in rubberized red cloth with an impressed Soviet state emblem of pre-1948 model and date "1941". Issued by the Lvov Regional Department of NKVD, the ID has the appropriate stamps and shows that Anatoliy Pavlenko served as driver of the Motor Vehicle Transportation Department of the Lvov Directorate of the NKVD. The photo shows Skripak wearing a uniform with plain collar tabs, so although his rank is not stated, we can assume that he was a private. The department chief's signature is near the bottom of the second page.

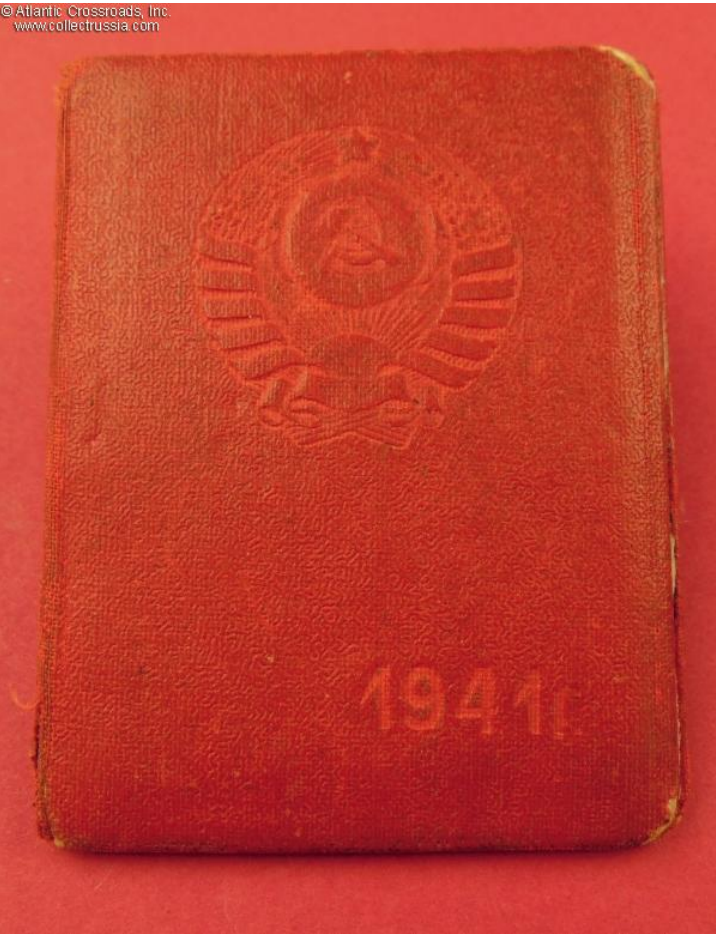
Although there is no mentioning of what specific vehicle Skripak was driving, it is very possible that he was a driver of one of the feared black sedans (commonly known as Chernyi Voron or "black raven") that carried people off at night to NKVD prisons for interrogation - usually never to be seen again. Note that the Lvov (Lviv) region where he served had been annexed by the Soviet Union from Poland in the 1939 invasion; it was overrun by the Germans at the first stage of the Operation Barbarossa in June 1941 - just a few months after the ID was issued.

In very good to excellent condition. The cover shows only minimal wear, mostly at the corners, while being completely free of stains or significant soiling. The binding is tight. The interior is overall clean showing only a modest soiling and discoloration along the edges; the writing and stamps are completely legible. As is often the case with the surviving Soviet IDs of this type and vintage, there is a thin vertical strip of paper glued to the edge of the first inside page apparently to attach the ID to the archival file.

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