by the Medal for Valiant Labor (created in 1938 and shifted to a pentagonal ribbon in 1943) while meritorious work was rewarded with the Medal for Distinguished Labor (Figure 8) (created in 1938 and redesigned onto a pentagonal ribbon in 1943). The police, fire services, and general civilian population could also receive the Medal for Bravery in a Fire (1957) and the Medal for Saving Life from Drowning (1957).

Border troops received the Medal for Distinction in Guarding the State Border of the USSR (created in 1950). Good service by the police was recognized with the Medal for Distinguished Service in the Preservation of Public Order (1950). Childbearing at a level below that required for the title of “Heroine” was rewarded with the Order of Maternal Glory in three classes for, respectively, nine, eight, or seven children, and the Motherhood Medal in two classes for, respectively, six or five children. These motherhood awards were established in 1944.

**CAMPAIGN MEDALS**

It is almost an understatement to say that, second to the Revolution, the Great Patriotic War was the most important event in the history of the Soviet Union. A range of campaign medals were created for this conflict. Roughly, they fall into four general categories: medals for defense (eight medals); capture (four medals); liberation (three medals); and victory (two medals). Medals were awarded for the defense of Soviet territory from German attack for Leningrad (1942), Odessa (1942), Sebastopol (1942), Stalingrad (Figure 9) (1942), Moscow (1944), Kiev (retrospectively created long after the war in 1961), the Caucasus (1944), and the Soviet Polar Regions (1944). The capture of enemy cities was commemorated with medals for Budapest, Koenigsberg, Vienna, and Berlin (Figure 10) (all created in 1945). Similarly, services in the liberation of Belgrade, Warsaw (Figure 11), and Prague also received campaign medals (all created in 1945). Medals were awarded in 1945 for the victory over Germany (Figure 12) and Japan.

Labor services in support of the war effort were rewarded with the Medal for Valiant Labor in the Great Patriotic War (created in 1945), while a medal was also awarded in two classes to those who served as partisans during the war (created in 1943).

Postwar economic reconstruction and development...

General good service in the military (usually on retirement) was commemorated with the Medal for a Veteran of the Armed Forces of the USSR (1976) while similar civilian service received the Medal for a Veteran of Labor (1974). Service in developing international military ties received the Medal for Strengthening Military Cooperation (1979), which was awarded to members of both the Soviet military and friendly foreign armed forces.

ANNIVERSARY MEDALS

Jubilee medals were awarded in two major categories, celebrating anniversaries of the founding of the Red Army and commemorating anniversaries of victory in
the Great Patriotic War. Medals were issued for the 20th, 30th (Figure 13), 40th, 50th, 60th, and 70th anniversaries of the Red Army. Victory during the Great Patriotic War was commemorated by medals on the 20th, 30th, 40th (Figure 14) anniversaries. Some of these had separate reverse designs for military, labor, and foreign recipients. Interestingly, these medals have continued to mark new anniversaries, both officially and unofficially, after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

A medal celebrating the centennial of Lenin’s birth was created in 1969 and was awarded in separate varieties to military personnel, workers, and non-Soviet citizens. The creation of the Soviet police and militia is commemorated by the Jubilee Medal for 50 Years of the Soviet Militia (1967). The anniversaries of major Soviet cities were also commemorated by jubilee medals: Moscow (800 years in 1947), Leningrad (250 years in 1957), and Kiev (1500 years in 1982).

LONG SERVICE MEDALS

From 1944 to 1957 the highest State awards had been used for long service awards. In the eyes of many, this served only to cheapen the Order of Lenin, the Order of the Red Banner, the Order of the Red Star, and the Medal for Combat Service. In 1957, such awards for long service were stopped, the orders were restored to their earlier positions and roles, and a new sequence of Irreproachable Service Medals were created for 20, 15, and 10 (Figure 15) years of service. Separate and distinct medals and sequences existed for the armed forces, the Ministry of Internal Affairs (the MVD, both centrally and in the individual republics), and the Committee of State Security of the USSR (KGB).

Bibliography:


STOLEN MEDALS

Glenn Browning (OMSA #2050) reports that the medals and badges listed below have been stolen. He would appreciate hearing from those members who might have knowledge of any of these medals and badges being offered for sale. Please contact Glenn by phone at 281-689-5577 or the JOMSA Editor.

1. United States Navy group to Admiral Robert S Quackenbush, Jr. in a handcrafted box. The Admiral’s service ribbons and wings were in the upper portion of the box and his medal group including a United States Navy Legion of Merit and the insignia of an Officer of the Order of the British Empire were in the bottom of the box.

2. A World War II German Kreigsmarine group to Chief Petty Officer Brenner. His German Cross is the six-rivet Austrian type. The group also includes his 1939 1st Class and 2nd Class Iron Crosses, a four-year Long Service Medal, a blue, silk, shooting cord, a Black Wound Badge, Destroyer, Anti-Submarine (the splash type) badges, and various breast eagles and rank insignia. Also with the group are wedding photos, identification books from the 1950s, and two listings of his awards and stations.

3. A Nazi pilot’s badge made of German silver. It is marked “C E Junker, Berlin” (leaning “L” variety) and has traces of removed engraving.

4. A World War I Reuss Honor Cross in gold and silver with frosted-black glass arms and slight damage to the center piece.

5. A United States Navy officer’s submarine badge marked “Meyermetal.” It has a long pin with a right-angle stickpin on the conning tower.

6. A United States Navy officer’s submarine badge marked “Meyermetal” with two small prongs on the reverse, with a stickpin at right angle on the conning tower.