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Légion d'Honneur et des Ordres de Chevalerie

The Order of the red star (USSR) before the WW2 by Rafail TAZUTDINOV

To quote this article:

Rafail Tazutdinov, « The order of the red star (USSR) before World War 2 », *phaleristics articles* (online magazine), 2022-S-5

Source : [Articles de phaléristique de sociétaires \(amis-musee-legiondhonneur.fr\)](https://amis-musee-legiondhonneur.fr)



2022-S-5

The order of the red star (USSR) before World War 2

By Rafail Tazutdinov

On 6 April 1930, two orders were created by the decree of the Presidium of the Central Executive Committee of the USSR: the Order of Lenin and the Order of the Red Star. According to its statutes, the Order of the Red Star could be awarded to servicemen for outstanding services in the defence of the USSR, both in wartime and in peacetime.

As of 1 January 1995, the Order of the Red Star had been awarded 3,876,740 times, making it the most widely awarded military order in the former USSR (with the exception of the 2nd degree of the Order of the Great Patriotic War in the specific version awarded in 1985 on the 30th anniversary of the end of the Great Patriotic War).

However, it is known with certainty that before and in the early years of the Second World War, this order was rarely awarded (with the exception of the Soviet-Finnish War of 1940), which increased its value in the eyes of its recipients: only 19,960 copies of this order had been awarded before 22 June 1941..

Years	Amount	Numbers of award
1931	11	1-3, 5-7, 9-13
.....		
1935	211	453-712
.....		
1938	1136	3063-4173
.....		
1940	11907	6615-18592
Total before July 1941 : 19,960 awards.		

The only mass award prior to this date was made on 21 March 1940, when a decree was issued "On the award of orders and medals of the USSR to the command and soldiers of the Red Army for the exemplary performance of the combat missions of the Command on the front of the fight against the Finnish White Guard and the valor and courage shown at the same time", which mentioned 1,953 persons decorated with the Order of the Red Star.

Two different types were produced before 1941, the second type having 2 successive hallmarks on its reverse:

The first type was produced by the GOZNAK manufacture (ГОЗНАК) (1930s-1936) and is very rare. The badges were produced by the famous Fabergé workshop, no more than 800 were created. The order itself is hollow inside.

The second type was produced by the Soviet Mint and had two successive hallmarks:

- MONDVOR (МОНДВОР) (1936- mid 1940), and
- MONETNYI DVOR (МОНЕТНЫЙ ДВОР) (from mid 1940)







The decision to change the hallmark from MONDVOR (МОНДВОР) to MONETNYI DVOR (МОНЕТНЫЙ ДВОР) was made in April-May 1940.

Anecdotally, a number of awards produced at that time had a hallmark error: In the MONETNYI DVOR hallmark (МОНЕТНЫЙ ДВОР) the two words were applied with separate punches. However, a number of coins were mistakenly punched with the inscription MONDVOR DVOR (МОНДВОР ДВОР), the

master responsible for the production having used by mistake the old hallmark with the inscription MONDVOR (МОНДВОР) instead of the hallmark with the inscription MONETNYI (МОНЕТНЫЙ). These errors, very rare in peacetime when the mint had time to process orders correctly, were not repeated on subsequent orders, but the incorrectly hallmarked coins were nevertheless issued to their recipients.

GOZNAK (ГОЗНАК)	MONDVOR (МОНДВОР)	MONETNYI DVOR (МОНЕТНЫЙ ДВОР)
		
		

MONDVOR (МОНДВОР) et MONETNYI DVOR (МОНЕТНЫЙ ДВОР) hallmarks transition:

Photos du revers	Numéros	Poinçon
	11213	MONDVOR (МОНДВОР)
	12001	MONDVOR DVOR (МОНДВОР ДВОР) – overwritten DVOR
	12301	MONETNYI DVOR (МОНЕТНЫЙ ДВОР)
	12457	MONETNYI DVOR (МОНЕТНЫЙ ДВОР)
	12460	MONDVOR DVOR (МОНДВОР ДВОР)
	12956	MONETNYI DVOR (МОНЕТНЫЙ ДВОР)

Resources:

- <http://mondvor.narod.ru/ORStar.html>
- <https://forum.faleristika.info/>