



THE

# PHALERIST

THE JOURNAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL  
PHALERISTICS ASSOCIATION

VOL. 1 - ISSUE #4  
OCT-DEC 2023



*Diseño de la medalla (ampliación).*



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COVER IMAGE: The Spanish Medalla de la Campaña (1936-1939)

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## From the President

The beauty of being international is the fact that we are always connected. Whenever or wherever a member is sleeping another one is surely awake and active on the forum.

I would love to see all members participating more in the forum and asking or answering questions related to orders and medals.

I encourage everyone to send us your articles, so we can publish them in a future issue of *The Phalerist*.

Again we all talk the same language, the “Medals” language.

Elie Ghossoub  
President, I.P.A.

## Secretary's Corner

Greetings! Our membership continues to grow. As of 1 September 2023, we have 252 members. Please tell your friends and fellow collectors about us and encourage them to join. It's a free resource for collectors of all levels of experience.

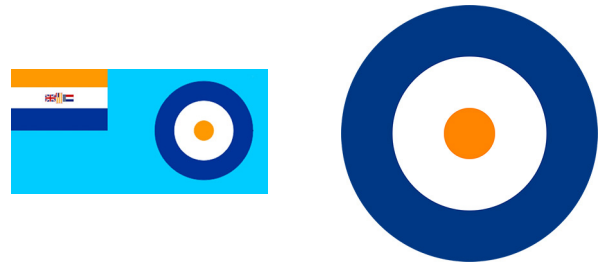
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Around the 1st of October, IPA should have available, as a free download, the proprietary IPA Personal Medal Database Software. It will be a handy software program that will allow you to catalog your collection on your computer. You will be able to upload the obverse and reverse of the order or medal, and enter vital data about the medal. It is included in your free IPA membership.

Michael B. Riley  
Secretary, I.P.A.

## A South African in World War II: Aircraft Mechanic Diederick Johannes Grobler

by Michael B. Riley



(L) Ensign of the South African Air Force 1940-1950  
(R) Roundel of the South African Air Force

The South African Air Force (SAAF), also known in Afrikaners as the Suid-Afrikaanse Lugmag, traces its roots to the formation of the South African Aviation Corp (SAAC). In November 1914, the South African Union Defence Force (UDF) decided that an aviation corps was necessary to conduct a campaign against German South West Africa. A Squadron was formed, including six (6) graduates from the Royal Flying School, who were recalled from Europe. The South African Aviation Corps was formed 5 February 1915 and on 6 May 1915 the Corps commenced reconnaissance and bombing operations against German South West Africa.

On 1 February 1920 the SAAC officially became the South African Air Force (SAAF). At this time it was the second oldest air force in the world. The pilots and aircraft support personnel worked and lived by their motto “Per Aspera Ad Astra” (Through Adversity to the Stars). The SAAF received an “Imperial gift” of 100 aircraft, spare parts, hangers and equipment from the British government. This gift included; 48 De Havilland 9's (Figure 1), 30 Avro 504k's (Figure 2), and 22 SE- 5a scout experimental (Figure 3)



Fig. 1 - De Havilland 9



Fig. 2 - Avro 504k



Fig. 3 - Royal Aircraft Factory SE-5a Scout Experimental

The first Air Force Base was established in 1921 at Zwartkop, South Africa. The SAAF established 38 Air Schools (A.S.) for their pilots as well as those from the Royal Air Force (RAF) and their allies. By September 1941, the SAAF had 1,709 military aircraft. During World War II (WWII), the SAAF saw its ranks swell to almost 32,000 personnel, of which 956 were pilots. Diederick Johannes Grobler was one of the many aircraft mechanics keeping the planes flying.

D.J. Grobler was born on 4 February 1926 to Mrs. H.S. Grobler in Bethel, Transvaal Province. Bethel is a rural town in the South Eastern area of the Province. It is a prosperous farming region where mainly potatoes and corn are grown.

In 1941, at the age of 15 he joined the Youth Training Brigade (Y.T.B.). Upon completion of the Y.T.B.'s goals he transferred to the Physical Training Battalion (P.T.B.). These schools prepared the participants for service in the military. The training generally lasted six (6) months to one (1) year, after which they were assigned to an Army, Navy, or Air Force unit. On 5 July, 1942, when D. J. Grobler was 16 years old, he was posted to the SAAF where he served until Honorably Discharged on 2 December 1946.

He began Aircraft Mechanic at the SAAF Air Schools (A. S.). His training began at 71 A.S. Basic Workshop Training Center in Johannesburg, South Africa (Figure 4). It is here that D. J. Grobler completed his aviation ground school course. He later studied airframes at 70 A.S. Kimberly, South

Africa.

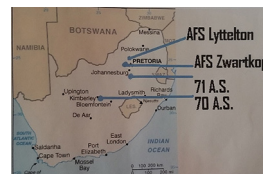


Fig. 4 - Map of South African Air Force Bases

His Service Record (Fig 5 & 6) also shows the he completed his basic flight training at 3 A.S. Elementary Flight Training School and 23 A.S. Service Flight Training School. These Aerodrome, Air Force Station (AFS) Zwartkop., near Pretoria. This base was established in 1920 as the Artillery and Aircraft Depot. In 1940 the base was renamed 1 Air Depot and was still in existence in 1979.

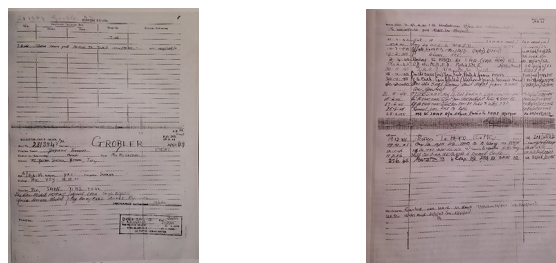


Fig. 5 & 6 - D.J. Grobler's Service Record

He then received advanced instruction in twin engine aircraft repair at the 29 Operational Training Unit (OUT) located near Niger. This training was for the maintenance and repair of the Bristol Beaufighter (Figure 7 & 8).



Fig. 7 & 8 - Bristol Beaufighter; plane with crew

Now that his Aircraft Mechanic training was complete, he joined the ranks of aircraft mechanics of the South African Air Force. D.J. Grobler served mainly in South Africa. However, from 10 April 1945 to 28 December he served in Egypt. He was later posted back to South Africa to SAAF H-Group which consisted of 5 and 10 Wing at AFS Lyttelton. This Air Force Station was opened in 1942 near the town of Lyttelton (now part of the town of Centurion, near Pretoria). AFS Lyttelton



housed the 75 A.S., which was part of the SAAF/RAF Joint Air Training Scheme. The school closed in 1945. These units operated a shuttle service of transport planes to ferry troops to and from the Middle East and Italy. These flights required the skills of D.J. Grobler and his fellow mechanics to keep the planes in the air. His last postings were to the Mobile Air Force Depot (MAFD) and finally SAAF Base Depot (S.B.D.). Aircrew were temporarily assigned to the MAFD prior to transfer to a new base. At the S.B.D. he was processed for discharge on 19 February 1946. His General Character was listed as Very Good. His Efficiency was listed as Satisfactory. He was 19 years old at the time of his discharge.

Diederick Johannes Grobler served Honorably and was awarded (L-R) the 1939-1945 War Medal and the Africa Service Medal (Figure 9).



Fig. 9 - D.J. Grobler's War Medal and Africa Service Medal

The War Medal 1939–1945 (Figure 10) was instituted by the United Kingdom on 16 August 1945 and was awarded to all full-time personnel of the armed forces and Merchant Navy for serving for 28 days, irrespective of where they were serving, between 3 September 1939 and 2 September 1945 inclusive, the full duration of the Second World War. In the Merchant Navy, the 28 days had to have been served anywhere at sea.



Fig. 10 - Obverse and Reverse of War Medal (1939-1945)

The qualification requirement for the award of the War Medal 1939–1945 to full-time military personnel was 28 days of service, wherever rendered. Qualifying service in the Merchant Navy was 28 days of service anywhere at sea during the qualifying period. Foreign citizens commissioned or enlisted into British Forces, who did not receive a similar award to the War Medal 1939–1945 from their own Governments, were also eligible to qualify for the award of this medal.

Full-time paid members of the specially approved colonial and other military forces, militarized police or militarized civilian bodies which were eligible to qualify for campaign stars, were also eligible to qualify by 28 days of service during the qualifying period as laid down for the force concerned, as follows:

- Aden Armed Police from 3 February 1939 to 2 September 1945.
- British Honduras Defence Force from 3 September 1939 to 3 December 1939.
- British Guiana Constabulary, excluding those who ceased to belong to the Force for reasons other than death, ill-health or age, from 3 September 1939 to 14 July 1945.
- British Guiana Military Band from 29 April 1942 to 8 May 1945.
- Cyprus Police Force employed on full-time military service from 10 June 1940 to 12 June 1941.
- Cyprus Volunteer Force from 2 June 1941 to 2 September 1945.
- Gambia Police Force from 5 July 1940 to 17 August 1940.
- Gambian Army Inland Water Transport on the SS Munshi from 21 July 1942 to 31 May 1944.
- Gibraltar Defence Force from 3 September 1939 to 2 September 1945.
- Gibraltar Security Police from 3 September 1939 to 2 September 1945.
- Nigeria Police Force from 23 July 1940 to 8 May 1945.
- Palestine Police Force from 27 May 1942 to 8 May 1945.
- Sudan Defence Force for full-time permanent service anywhere in the Sudan from 3 September 1939 to 8 May 1945.
- Trinidad Police Force from 3 September 1939 to

2 September 1945.

- Zanzibar Police Force from 3 September 1939 to 2 September 1945.

The qualification for the specially approved categories of uniformed civilians who were eligible to qualify for Campaign Stars was 28 days of service in the area of an army operational command overseas, or overseas from or outside the country of residence in non-operational areas subjected to enemy air attack or closely threatened. Service in the United Kingdom or in the territory of residence, other than in an army operational area, was not a qualification for these categories.

The medal was awarded to personnel whose required service period was terminated prematurely by death, disability due to service or capture as a prisoner-of-war and whose service qualified them for one of the Second World War Campaign Stars. Personnel who had received one of the Stars for service of less than 28 days were also awarded the War Medal (1939–1945).

The War Medal (1939–1945) is a disk, 36 millimeters (1.42 inches) in diameter. The non-swiveling straight bar suspender is attached to the medal with a single-toe claw mount and a pin through the upper edge of the medal. The British issue medals were struck in cupro-nickel, while those awarded in Canada (about 700,000) were struck in silver. The medal is sometimes incorrectly referred to as the “Victory Medal” for the Second World War.

The obverse shows the crowned effigy of King George VI, facing left and signed *PM*, the initials of designer Percy Metcalfe, below the truncated neck of the effigy. Around the perimeter is the legend *GEORGIVS VI D:G:BR:OMN:REX ET INDI-AE IMP*.

The reverse shows a lion standing wanton on the body of a double-headed dragon. The dragon's heads are those of an eagle and a dragon, to signify the principal occidental and oriental enemies during the Second World War. At the top, just to the right of center are the years *1939* and *1945* in two lines. The initials *ECRP* of designer Edward Carter Preston are near the rim at the nine o'clock

position. Preston also designed the bronze memorial plaque which was presented to the next-of-kin of British servicemen and women who fell during the First World War.

The British Honours Committee decided that Second World War campaign medals awarded to British forces would be issued unnamed, a practice followed by all but three British Commonwealth countries. The recipient's name was impressed on the rim of the medal awarded to Indians, South Africans and, after a campaign led by veteran organizations, by Australia. In addition, those awarded to personnel of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police who served only on the RCMPV St. Roch and of the Canadian Merchant Marine were named. In the case of Indians, the recipient's force number, rank, initials, surname and service arm or corps, and in the case of South Africans, the force number, initials and surname, were impressed on the rim in block capitals

The ribbon (Figure 11) is 32mm wide and contains the colors of the British Ensign. It has a narrow 2mm red stripe in the center which is bordered by a 2mm white stripes. Broad 7mm red stripes are at the edges with intervening 6mm blue stripes. The medallion is made of Cupro nickel or silver disk which is 36mm in diameter.



Fig. 11 - War Medal (1939-1945) Ribbon



Fig. 12 - War Medal (1939-1945) Ribbon with Mention-in-Despatches Emblem

The Africa Service Medal (Figure 13) was instituted on 23 December 1943 by King George VI in his capacity as South African head of state, and was awarded in addition to the British campaign stars and medals awarded for the war. It was instituted by King George VI on 23 December 1943. The medal was awarded to members of the Union Defense Forces, the South African Police, and the South African Railways Police. The member

of one of the three services had to volunteer for service outside South Africa for 30 days between 6 September 1939 and 2 September 1945. Although originally awarded for service within Africa it was later awarded for service by South Africans anywhere in the world.



Fig. 13 - Obverse and Reverse of the Africa Service Medal

The Africa Service Medal was awarded to members of the Union Defence Forces, the South African Police and the South African Railways Police. To qualify for the medal, a member of those services must have volunteered for war service outside South Africa and must have served, either at home or abroad between South Africa's declaration of war on 6 September 1939 and 2 September 1945 inclusive, continuously for thirty days or part-time for at least eighteen hours in non-continuous training. As the name indicates, the medal was originally intended for service in Africa, up to the defeat of the Axis forces in North Africa in 1943, but it was later extended to cover service anywhere in the world, up to the end of the war in the Pacific on 2 September 1945.

Union Defence Force land forces served in East Africa in 1940 and 1941, North Africa from 1941 to 1943, Madagascar in 1942, and Italy in 1944 and 1945. The South African Air Force served in all these campaigns, as well as in West Africa from 1943 to 1945, Sicily in 1943 and South-East Europe from 1943 to 1945, and provided air support to the Warsaw uprising in 1944. Naval forces and seconded personnel served in the Mediterranean from 1941 to 1945, Greece in 1941, the Arctic convoys from 1941 to 1945, the Java Sea in 1942, Sicily in 1943, the Indian Ocean from 1943 to 1945, the D-Day invasion in 1944, and the Pacific in 1945.

In addition to the Africa Service Medal, the South African Medal for War Services was instituted in

1946 to reward voluntary unpaid service in support of the South African war during the Second World War.

The medal was struck in silver to a design suggested by Field Marshal Jan Smuts. It is 36 millimeters in diameter and 3 millimeters thick at the raised rim, and is affixed to the suspender by means of claws and a pin through the upper edge of the medal. The recipient's name, rank, unit and number were impressed on the edge. The obverse depicts a map of Africa, surrounded by the name of the medal in English and Afrikaans, *AFRICA SERVICE MEDAL* at left and *AFRIKA-DIENS-MEDALJE* at right. The reverse depicts a prancing springbok against a landscape background. There is no inscription.

The ribbon (Figure 14) is 32mm wide. The center stripe is 18mm wide and orange-red in color (the color of the shoulder flash worn by South African volunteers). Next to the center stripe is a 3mm gold stripe and finally a 3mm green stripe at the outside edge.



Fig. 14 - Africa Service Medal Ribbon

The King's Commendation (South Africa) (1939–45), denoted by a bronze King Protea flower emblem (Figure 15a & 15b), was authorized to be worn on the ribbon of the Africa Service Medal and could be awarded for valuable services in connection with the Second World War. The Commendation could be awarded posthumously and was the equivalent of a Mention in Despatches, but for services rendered away from the battlefield. The full-size emblem, worn on the ribbon with the medal, is 19 millimeters high, and the miniature to be worn on the ribbon bar is 9 millimeters high.



Fig. 15a - Africa Service Medal Ribbon with King's Commendation emblem



Fig. 15b - King's Commendation Emblem

South African Volunteers, like Diederick Johannes Grobler, served with pride and distinction. Aircraft Mechanics like DJ kept the planes in the air and provided a valuable service to the Allies in World War II. Those Airmen who lost their lives are remembered by the memorial (Figure 16) erected in their honor at Zwartkop, South Africa, the site of the first South African Air Force.



Fig. 16 - SAAF Memorial at Zwartkop, South Africa

### Correspondence

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### Digital Resources

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## The Grand Cordon of The Order of Merit

by Elie Ghossoub

This is the first order not to be designed under the French mandate. It was totally designed by the Lebanese government after the independence. Although similar in shape to some world orders especially the Soviet Union order of Saint Alexander Nevsky, surely without the center, but this order is considered to be of a significant beauty although simple in design, but the combination of silver, red and gold colours along with the sash's green and white, this combination gave it the beauty I adore in this order.



Order of Saint Alexander Nevsky - Soviet Union





The Grand Cordon of The Order of Merit - Lebanon

By Law on 10 May, 1957, a special grade was created: The Grand Cordon of The Order of Merit and consists of a Sash, Breast Star and a Medal. Breast Star: Silver disc bearing a red enamel five-pointed star with the word *LEBANON* in the middle written with Gold, with a width of 80mm.

Medal or Badge: same as the breast star but smaller with 59mm width.

Sash: Bi-colour, white in the middle edged by two green stripes that are both equal to the white one.

The Lebanese Order of Merit Grand Cordon Grade is granted to:

- Heads of national and foreign legislative bodies.
- Heads of national and foreign ministries.
- Princes or Crown Princes.
- Members of the Trusteeship Council



The Grand Cordon of The Order of Merit



The Grand Cordon of The Order of Merit

The main fact that this order contains gold on the edges of the red star and the word *LEBANON* itself being written with gold, lead the greediness

of metal finders to destroy this beauty in order to extract the gold from it selling it as scrap gold (although not much weight), ignoring the fact that this order being complete in its original state would sell at a higher value than the value of silver and gold it has combined.

Below are two examples of an uncirculated breast star of the order of Merit Grand Cordon and a breast star of the same order touched by greediness.



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- Collection of Elie Ghossoub

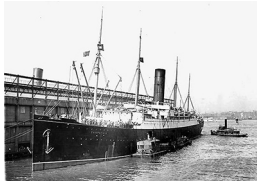


## RMS *Carpathia* Medals

by Edward J. Emering

On the evening of April 15, 1912, Harold Cottam was sitting in the *Carpathia*'s radio room when he heard the unbelievable, *Titanic*'s distress signal. During the next three and a half hours, *Carpathia* made its way to the *Titanic*'s location navigating the dangerous ice fields. Upon arrival, the found the unsinkable ship had gone to the bottom two hours earlier. Discovering the lifeboats, *Carpathia* spent the next four hours rescuing 705 passengers. After some indecision as where to land, it

was decided to head to New York harbor where it arrived on Thursday evening, April 18.



RMS *Carpathia*

The grateful survivors, through the *Titanic* Survivors Committee, commissioned a medal for the officers and crew of the *Carpathia*. Known as the *Carpathia* Commemorative Medal or simply the *Carpathia* Medal, the obverse featured a starboard view of the *Carpathia* sailing amongst icebergs with the lifeboats of R.M.S. *Titanic* in the water. The obverse is bordered with dolphins and surmounted by Neptune's head with a flowing beard. At the base of the obverse is a crossed anchor and staff. The reverse is inscribed, *PRESENT-ED TO THE CAPTAIN OFFICERS AND CREW OF RMS CARPATHIA IN RECOGNITION OF GALLANT AND HEROIC SERVICE FROM THE SURVIVORS OF THE SS TITANIC APRIL 15TH 1912 DIEGES & CLUST NY.* (maker's mark). Senior officers, including Captain Rostron, were given 14-karat yellow gold medals, junior officers received silver medals and the crew received bronze medals. In total, 304 medals were awarded, 14 gold, 110 silver and 180 bronze. Based on commentary, there may have been a small number, which were not awarded.



Gold, Silver and Bronze *Carpathia* Medals



Reverse Inscription and Captain Rostron's Knight Commander of the British Empire (pre-1937)

Values for the original medals range from 5,000 bps for a bronze medal, 8,000 bps for a silver medal and 18,000 to 25,000 bps for a gold medal. Copies exist, but the provenance of the originals are generally accurate.



Sir Arthur Henry Rostron's Congressional Gold Medal

Captain Rostron was knighted as Knight Commander of the British Empire during January 1919 by King George V. He was later a guest of President William Howard Taft at the White House, where he was presented with a Congressional Gold Medal, the highest honor the United States Congress could confer upon an individual.

In a sad postscript, *Carpathia* was sunk on July 17, 1918 after being torpedoed three times by the German submarine *U-55* off the southern Irish coast with a loss of five crew members.



Do you have an article  
that you would like  
to see published?

Contact the Editor-in-Chief:  
[editor@phaleristics.org](mailto:editor@phaleristics.org)

# The Spanish Medalla de la Campaña (1936-1939)

by Antonio Prieto Barrio

The concept to differentiate between individuals who achieve certain merits and to allow them to express their status through the right to wear an award has existed from the times of ancient Egypt until today. Regardless of what form of government or its cultural traditions, most nations adopt an honours system of orders, decorations and medals. Spain is no different; its honours system dates from 1666.

After the outbreak of the Civil War in Spain, both sides of the conflict felt the need to establish awards to satisfy the need to reward their people. The Republican Government, by decree of March 5, 1937 established for its citizens, be they military or civilian, awards for service and deeds in defence of the Republic. Weeks before, in late January<sup>1</sup>, the Nationalist Army established, by decree, awards for the military for merit in the campaign. This decree established the Medalla de la Campaña (Campaign Medal) to be awarded to those who participated actively in operations or served in the line of fire. The same award would be for all ranks of the military. The only difference, for service in the rearguard, would be in the ribbon.

In October 1937, a competition to choose the model for this award opened to all Spanish artists and manufacturers<sup>2</sup>. The shape, size, allegories and material would be a free choice for the contestants. The ribbon was the exception, as it had to indicate either service in war operations (vanguard) or in the rearguard. If a manufacturer won the competition, then it would be granted exclusive manufacturing rights for the medal. If the winner were a private individual, then a prize of 2,000 pesetas would be granted and the Secretary of War would commission the making of the medal with the manufacturer deemed most beneficial. The competition established a condition that the award should have a single price throughout Spain. Thus, the manufacturers had to show the prices of the medal, the same for those acquired by the state as for those sold to private individu-

als.

In late November, after the deadline, the competition was declared void<sup>3</sup>. Unfortunately, it has not been possible to identify the manufacturers and artists in the competition, neither are the submitted designs known. A few months later, in March 1938, a new competition opened between national manufacturers to supply some 50,000 Campaign Medals<sup>4</sup>. A specimen medal was shown at the Ministry of National Defence, available to those wishing to compete, so that the manufacturers should provide a sample of the medal, indicating the price to supply the stated quantity, also the time needed to deliver the entire order. The medal had to be delivered complete with ribbon and brooch. Of the total, 48,000 with the vanguard ribbon and 2,000 with the rearguard ribbon.

In May, and for presenting the model that best fitted the competition's conditions, the medal making was awarded to Industrias Egaña in the Basque town of Motrico (Guipuzcoa)<sup>5</sup>. At the end of the campaign in March 1939<sup>6</sup>, a new tender was invited for the manufacture of several military awards, including 70,000 Campaign Medals – 60,000 for the vanguard, the remainder for the rearguard. As with the previous competition, all medals had to be delivered complete with ribbon and brooch<sup>7</sup>. Similarly, the price per medal had to be given and it could not exceed 4.90 pesetas.

Industrias Egaña won the competition with the only tender submitted under the specified terms, and a net unit price of 4.50 pesetas, whatever the version<sup>8</sup>. From these facts, we understand the final model was chosen without an open competition. Its design appears to be the work of Captain Aurelio Perote Martínez. The shape chosen for the medal is circular, being 33mm in diameter, 3mm thick and with a border 3mm wide. The bronze medal has a blued finish in matt black<sup>9</sup>. The obverse has gilt on the border and the visible parts of the swords of the Cruz Laureada de San Fernando<sup>10</sup>. The reverse has gilt on the eagle, on its talons appearing through the yoke, and over the border's inscription except for *ARRIBA ESPAÑA*.



The obverse shows a lion, representing Spain, crushing a dragon, bearing the hammer and sickle of communism, underfoot. This is over a cross of the four laureate swords. There is a rising sun in the upper right quadrant and the date of Alzamiento (The Uprising), *17 DE JULIO 1936*, in the upper left quadrant. The border shows laurel leaves on the right and on the left oak leaves.

The reverse shows an eagle in flight whose talons pass under a yoke to hold below the Spanish coat of arms<sup>11</sup>. To the right there is a sheaf of arrows and at the base a helmet. The upper part of the border's inscription reads *ARRIBA ESPAÑA*, and around the remainder the words *GENESIMO (Generalísimo) FRANCO, UNA GRANDE LIBRE IMPERIAL ML. HSP. GLOR.* (Miles Hispaniae Gloriosus).

Atop the medal, a 5mm diameter ball suspension is laterally pierced by a 16 mm diameter ring, through which a 30mm wide ribbon (red, gold-en-yellow, red) passes to suspend the medal from the brooch. The ribbon is edged in black for service in the vanguard and in green for rearguard service.

There is research an author may develop in the not too distant future concerning the possible use of a red wound cross' embroidered onto the ribbon. This arises from a liberal interpretation of part of a provision from 1912 extending the adoption of the red cross, used for those wounded in the Rif campaign, to all who had been wounded in previous campaigns. And partly from the Wartime Decorations Rules of 1925, whereby those with minor wounds would not be entitled to the Medalla de Sufrimientos por la Patria but would have the right to a red cross on the ribbon of the campaign medal<sup>13</sup>. However, this is another story for another time.

In 1942, the Campaign Medals at the ministry were authorized for sale through industrialists engaged in the trade, and a schedule of conditions for the supply of the medals was available in the *Habilitación del Material* at the Ministerio del Ejército<sup>14</sup>. We can observe from many examples of Campaign Medals for the first period, up to the mid-

forties, that they usually appear aged and have a diamond-like shape at the top on both sides<sup>15</sup>. They also show two other distinctive features, the inscriptions are much better defined and easy to read, and the reverse is not concave, as in later periods, but flat, or slightly convex.

The medal struck for several years and known as the Egaña model came wrapped in transparent greased paper, and in white or light green cardboard boxes. It usually has a short ribbon with three stitches to the folded-over part, at the edges and in the centre, to give it shape. The brooch has a matt gilt finish. The pin and its spiral fixings are made from a single length of wire, attached across the centre of the brooch. At least three German firms also distributed this medal during the first half of the forties and from their catalogues it seems unlikely the medals were made in Germany<sup>16</sup>. More probably they were made in Italy by the company Lorioli, so it seems from images of the finished and unfinished sides of the medal.

In the sixties and seventies, the quality and finish of the medal, ribbon and brooch were poorer and for the most part the medals had no markings.

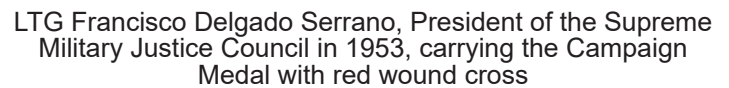
The pieces made in the last twenty or thirty years by various private companies to meet demand from collectors or to replace lost originals, are with materials and techniques different from the originals, resulting in terrible quality and finish, well below those of previous periods. This long period of production results in an undetermined number of variants, and that is without any modification to the approved design. It allows us to find, on the obverse and reverse, many combinations of marks or no marks, and there is no reliable documentary evidence substantiating why this is or to guide us to the dating of the pieces. Neither does there seem to be a rationale linking the variants to the vanguard and rearguard versions, as they appear with either ribbon.

Several dies must have been used. They gave rise to the variants we now encounter, whose essential differences are the makers' marks on the medal, the different finishes, the detail of the designs and their quality<sup>17</sup>. This medal cost the state



Rarely has a medal had so many variants, many of which we present here, in this paper. It is likely a thorough and detailed study of the pieces in the hands of individual collectors and private institutions would identify more variants.

In Memoriam of James Whittaker (passed away in January 1, 2023). Spanish translation.

[illegible]

*Disegno della medaglia seguita*



AGMAV



(L-R): Wilhelm Deumer, Schickle, Steinhauer & Luck, Petz  
& Lorenz



A circular gold medal with a central emblem featuring a lion and a swan, surrounded by a laurel wreath and a ribbon. The medal is attached to a ribbon with a red and white pattern.



A circular gold medal with a lion rampant on the left and a swan on the right, with the date '1836' at the top. The medal is surrounded by a laurel wreath.



Type 1a2 (Lorioli. Italy)





Type 1a3 (Petz & Lorenz. Germany)



Type 3a



Type 1b



Type 3b



Type 1b1



Type 3c



Type 2



Type 3d



Type 2a



Type 4



Type 2b



Type 4a





Type 4a1



Type 4f



Type 4b



Type 4g



Type 4b1



Type 4h



Type 4c



Type 5



Type 4d



Type 6



Type 4e



Type 7







Type 7ag



Type 7b2



Type 7a



Type 7c



Type 7a1



Type 7c1



Type 7a2



Type 7d



Type 7b



Type 7g



Type 7b1



Type 8







Type 8a



Type 8a1



Type 8b



Type 9



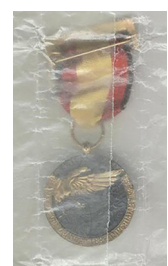
Type 6 Vanguard



Type 4a Rearguard



Credits. Collection or courtesy from  
 AJBJ (3c, 7c, 8). Fernando Ballester Orell (1a, 4a1). MAR2  
 (1a1, 1a2, 7a). Carlos Lozano Liarte (4). Maciej Nawrocki  
 (1a3, 3d, 4g, 6). Jack (1b, 1b1, 2a, 3a, 4a, 4b1, 7, 7a1,  
 7a2, 7b1, 7b2, 7c1, 8a1, 8b, 9). Militaria Barcelona (3b,  
 4f, 4h, 8a). SCP (7ag). Johan Deville (4b). JMGC (4c, 4d).  
 JABT (4e). Others (2, 2b, 5, 7b, 7d, 7g).



Original box of the Egaña model and presentation on the greased paper

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KEY: AGMAV: General Military Archive of Ávila; BOE is the Official State Gazette; CL the Legislation Series; Gaceta de Madrid is like The London Gazette

## End Notes

1: Decree 192 of 26 January 1937, determined the awards, for merit in the campaign, to be awarded (BOE 99).

2: Order of 17 of October 1937, opened a competition to choose the model of the Campaign Medal under the rules given (BOE 362).

3: Order of 27 November 1937, declared void the competition announced on 17 October (BOE 404).

4: Order of 26 March 1938, to purchase 50,000

copies of Campaign Medal (BOE 522).

5: Order of 5 May of 1938, awarded the making of the Campaign Medal to “Industrias Egaña” at Motrico (BOE 563). In 1870, this company was set up and dedicated to the manufacture of military emblems by stamping. In 1972, the company Juan Egaña was set up in the town of Eibar, dedicated to the production of advertising and promotional items such as pins, key chains, etc. And, affected by the crisis, it closed in 1991.

6: Order of 9 March 1939, invited tenders from national suppliers for the manufacture of several military awards (BOE 71).

7: It was given to all participants of the Civil War on the Nationalist side, including the foreign contingents of the German Condor Legion<sup>1</sup>, the Italian Corps of Volunteer Troops, the Volunteer Portuguese Legion ‘Viriatos’, the French Bandera ‘Jeanne d’Arc’, the White Russians Detachment, the Irish Brigade or Legion Saint-Patrick, and foreign individuals.

8: Order of 3 April 1939, awarded to Industrias Egaña of Motrico, the making of the military awards specified on 9 March (BOE 96). Industrias Egaña also made the Red Cross of Military Merit, the War Cross, the Wound Medal and the Military Medal. They made for civil authorities, for example, the Volunteers of Alava Medal, the Commemorative Medal of The Uprising (del Alzamiento) Navarra, the Volunteers of Guipuzcoa Medal, and the Veteran of Santander Medal. They also made medals for civil associations such as the Bicentennial of the Royal Academy of History and religious medals such as the Congregation Mother of Good Counsel.

9: The finish evokes Damascene, the art of inlaying gold or silver into a darkly blued iron or steel background to produce intricate patterns, with Toledo and Eibar the two main centres for this type of craftsmanship in Spain. The Campaign Medal is not made by this technique, as it seems that first it is all gilded, and then the appropriate parts are blued.

10: The Royal and Military Order of Saint Ferdinand. This is the highest Spanish military decoration, dating back to the time of the Peninsular War, established by the Cortes of Cadiz in 1811. Commonly known as the “Laureada”, its basic design is of a Greek cross formed by four swords,

whose hilts are joined in the centre, surrounded by a laurel wreath.

11: The coat of arms was formed using the heraldry of the Reyes Católicos, replacing the coat of arms of Sicily by that of the ancient kingdom of Navarra. In heraldic terminology: Quarterly. 1 and 4 grand quarters counterquartered, first and fourth Gules a castle triple-turreted each turret with three embattlements Or masoned Sable gate and windows Azure, second and third Argent a lion Gules crowned langued and armed Or, 2. and 3. per pale Or four pallets Gules and Gules on a chain in cross, saltire and orle Or an emerald. A coronet with eight flowers of which five visible.

12: Anagram artistically combining the letters V, I, C, T, O and R and is known as Victor. This is a purely academic honour and alludes to the degree of doctor.

13: Royal Order of 8 November 1912 (CL 219) and Royal Decree of 10 April 1925 (Gazette of Madrid 102).

14: For example, in the Official Diary, number 25 of 31 January.

15: The design of this diamond, pineapple or balloon may have led to confusion for some collectors and authors who argue that the medals struck in 1938 had the Victor symbol engraved. So far, there is no known piece of this kind issued to coincide with the departure of the foreign volunteers.

16: It is worth remembering that some Spanish decorations, and this one especially, were given to the German and Italian soldiers who participated in the Spanish Civil War. The Campaign Medal appears in several catalogues of German manufacturers of the time. In Steinhauer & Luck’s as *Spanische Feldzugs* (obverse in full size and miniature), in Schickle’s as reverses in full size (1084), miniature (1085) and stickpin (1086). The images reproduced in both catalogues include the diamond already commented upon. By contrast, Wilhelm Deumer’s includes an image of the obverse (17477), without diamond, as *Feldzugs-Medaille*.

17: Other minor details that differentiate variants are the locations of the marks, the gap between the end of the oak leaves and the laurel wreath, the detail and finish of the national coat of arms, etc.

18: He wears a ring hitch instead of the usual ball.

Made of Petz & Lorenz possible.

19: Most of the pieces of this type do not include on the obverse, the rear right leg of the lion.

20: Sterling silver first law and brand-boom of manufacturer 18 PM.

21: There are golden specimens, without paint, understanding that they are not finished.

22: Other details. Obverse: Lion's ears and head, bigger. Type and location of letters. It does not use V, but U in JULIO. Narrower sword leaves, disappearing the knob and guard. León claws. Dragon with head and scales different in addition to the back of the legs and the position of the body. Reverse: Eagle's eye and peak. Yoke and arrows. Bigger helmet. Crown and yoke of the shield. The SS is missing in the abbreviation of GENERALÍSIMO and VNA passes to UNA. The position of the points. From ML disappears the L and ends with a B, instead of R.

23: Other details. Obverse. Lion's head and claws. Type and location of letters. Wide and defined sword leaves. Dragon with different scales and the location of the body and claws. Reverse: Eagle's wing. Rope, number thickness, definition of feathers and arrow's tip. Helmet with a single rivet. Crown and ends of the shield. Missing the O in the abbreviations of GENERALÍSIMO and FRANCO.

24: Other details. Obverse: different vegetal ornament. Less careful typography. Shorter swords and are worse defined, without guard and fist. The sword oriented at nine, disappears under the right leg of the lion. Longest lion's tail.

25: Carries a ring hitch instead of the usual ball.

26: Carries a ring hitch instead of the usual ball.



## People's Republic of Poland Medal of Victory and Freedom (1945)

by Michael B. Riley

The Medal of Victory and Freedom 1945 (Polish: Medal Zwycięstwa i Wolności 1945) (Figure 1 & 2) was awarded to those who participated in World War II against Nazi Germany. The medal was established by a decree of the Council of Ministers and approved by the State National Council

(Krajowa Rada Narodowa) on October 26, 1945. The medal was established to commemorate the victory of the Polish Nation and its allies over the barbarism of Hitlerism, and to award persons who helped in this victory and triumph by their actions or suffering, in this country or abroad, by May 9, 1945.

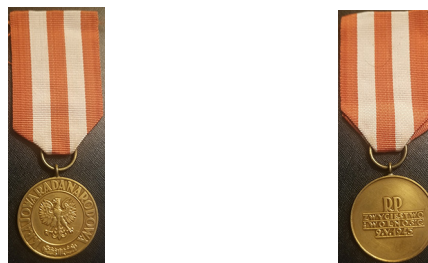


Fig. 1 & 2 - Obverse and Reverse of Medal of Victory and Freedom (1945)

The Medal for Victory and Freedom 1945 was awarded to:

- soldiers of the Polish People's Army (Ludowe Wojsko Polskie) in the USSR
- soldiers fighting in the invasion of Poland in 1939
- soldiers of the Polish Armed Forces in the West, provided that they come back to Poland after the war
- Poles who fought against Germans in allied armies
- Polish partisans fighting in the country or abroad
- members of the Soviet, Yugoslav or French partisan units.
- armed forces members who served at least three months by May 9, 1945, in auxiliary units, helping in the victory.

The Medal is round and 33mm in diameter. The obverse shows the white eagle, which is the coat of arms of Poland, in the center surrounded by the inscription: *KRAJOWA RADA NARODOWA*. The reverse bears the inscription *R.P. / ZWYCIĘSTWO / I WOLNOŚĆ / 9.V.1945* ("Polish Republic / Victory / And Freedom / 9 May 1945"), in four lines. The ribbon (Figure 3) is 35mm wide, with three red stripes and two white stripes, each 7mm wide. From 1960 the ribbon was 33mm wide.

There are many variations of the medal. The original striking of this medal had a short White Eagle with wide legs. Another variant had bold to narrow



letters.



Fig. 3 - Ribbon of Medal of Victory and Freedom (1945)

In order of precedence, the Medal of Victory and Freedom (1945) was worn after the Medal za Odrę, Nysę, Bałtyk (Medal for the Oder, the Nissa and the Baltic).

The medal was awarded by the Prime Minister, and from 1958 by the Council of State. It ceased to be awarded in 1992. 671,698 Medals of Victory and Freedom (1945) were awarded by 1985. It was first awarded on 9 May 1946.

Here is an unattributed group (Figure 4) L-R- Order of Polonia Restituta, 5th class, Chevalier, Cross of Merit, Silver, Oder and Neisse and Baltic Medal, Medal for Victory and Freedom, Medal of Merit for National Defense, Gold, Medal for Struggle in Defense of Peoples Rule.



Fig. 4 - Unattributed Medal Bar

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## Images

[https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/5/5e/POL\\_Medal\\_Zwycięstwa\\_i\\_Wolności\\_BAR.svg](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/5/5e/POL_Medal_Zwycięstwa_i_Wolności_BAR.svg)



# Captain Boris Emelyanovich Golubev

by Kyrill Bosch



Fig. 1 - Captain Boris Emelyanovich Golubev in his younger years

Captain Boris Emelyanovich Golubev, seen in his younger years as a cadet in figure 1, was born in 1913, on the 19th of July in the village of Posobkovo in the Kaduysky district within the Volodga Region of the Russian SSR. This village holds a total population of 10, according to the 2002 census.

Captain Golubev was drafted into the army in 1932 in the Leningrad region while his background was that of a working-class man. Boris Emelyanovich Golubev only reached the age of 29 as he was killed on 7 June 1942 while on a combat mission. He sadly never returned from this mission and was declared KIA in 1943, a year after he was shot down. The remains of his plane and personal items were found in 2018.



Fig. 2 - Captain Boris Emelyanovich Golubev exiting his aircraft, possibly an Ilyushin IL-2

Captain Golubev joined the Red Army in 1932 and was drafted in the Leningrad region. He was a pilot and commander of the 1st aviation squadron, 18th assault aviation regiment, chf 118 ap vvs of the 18th Guards artillery regiment of the Black Sea Fleet Air Force during the war (in 1941) flying an IL 2 ground assault equipped aircraft. During his short time before his death, he carried out 27



successful ground strike missions against several targets. Captain Golubev was recommended for a state award by his commanding officer, Captain and Hero of the Soviet Union Alexei Antonovich Gurbrij, both can be seen together in figure 3. The examples named in the citation are quite extensive as in “kills.” With his 27 successful missions Captain Golubev eliminated quite a few enemy positions and troops.



Fig. 3 - Captain Boris Emelyanovich Golubev and Captain and Hero of the Soviet Union Alexei Antonovich Gurbrij

A few examples of his strikes within a month (30/10/1941 to 27/11/1941):

On 30.10.1941, a ground strike against an enemy artillery position and troops concentration near Saky and Balganak. The mission resulted in suppression of two field guns with their crews, which was confirmed by intelligence troops.

On 15.11.1941, a ground strike against a large concentration of enemy troops near the settlement of Varnutka. The ground strike resulted in the destruction of up to 25 vehicles carrying enemy troops.

On 18.11.1941, a ground strike against the armored cars and troops near Muskanya – a direct hit of the rockets destroyed up to five vehicles.

On 22.11.1941, a ground strike against enemy troops concentration and a mortar battery located on the slopes of hill 555,3 and 479,4. The successful mission resulted in elimination of up to a battalion of enemy troops and up to four mortar positions, which forced the enemy to seize their advance. For the success in his ground assault missions, the commander of the Coastal Army Major-General PETROV (figure 4) issued a gratitude to then Senior Lieutenant and later Captain GOLUBEV.



Fig. 4 - Major General and Hero of the Soviet Union Mikhail Petrovich Petrov

On 25.11.1941, he delivered a ground strike against the enemy troop concentration and the enemy mortars near Tashliq. The mission resulted in destruction of two enemy mortars and up to two platoons of the enemy troops.

For these and other strikes, with a total of 27 *“Comrade GOLUBEV is a fearless pilot participating in the struggle against the Facist barbarians and deserves a state award.”*

This was agreed on by the Battalion Commisar, Leonov.

The conclusion of his superiors is that he is to be bestowed with an Order of the Red Banner by the Commisar of the Black Sea Navy, Senior Politruk Poryadin and Major General Nikolai Ostryakov, the commander of the Air Force of the Black Sea Navy.

Major General Ostryakov was killed on 24 April 1942 together with Major General Korobkov by a German air raid attack on the air force reparation workshops in Sevastopol. Both were posthumously declared Hero of the Soviet Union after their deaths, on 14 June 1942.



Fig. 5 - Order of the Red Banner of Captain Boris Emelyanovich Golubev № 21902, found with the wreckage of Captain Golubev his Ilyushin IL-2 in 2018

Then Senior Lieutenant Golubev was awarded with the Order of the Red Banner № 21902 by conclusion of the superior officers, Major General Ostryakov and Senior Politruk and Commissar of

the Airforce Poryadin on 27 November 1941. This order was found back in 2018, with the wreckage of his IL-2 aircraft when searching for dug in ground positions of forces stationed around Leningrad thus confirming the death and crash site of Captain Golubev on 7 June 1942. Major General Ostryakov can be seen in figure 6.



Fig. 6 - Major General, posthumous Hero of the Soviet Union and Commander of the Airforce, Black Sea Navy Nikolai Alekseevich Ostryakov

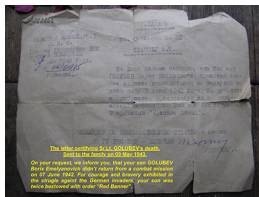


Fig. 7 - A letter written on 9 May 1943 stating the death of Captain Boris Emelyanovich Golubev, stating that he earned 2 Orders of the Red Banner for courage and bravery against the German invaders

Captain Golubev earned another Order of the Red Banner on 12 August 1942, posthumously. On 9 May 1943 Captain Golubev's family was informed that their son, and possibly brother would never return home and that he was killed in action while on active duty and did not return from a combat mission. When the crash site was found in 2018 a plaque was placed on the crash site. The unveiling was attended by his last living relative, the wife of his son, who was still alive in 2018.

At the time of his death Captain Golubev was serving as Deputy Commander, 1st Squadron, of the 18th Aviation Regiment of the Black Sea Fleet. He got shot down over the town of Posobkovo in the Chernovtsy district in the Leningrad region on the 7th of June 1942. The crash site can be seen in figure 8.



Fig. 8 - Captain Boris Emelyanovich Golubev crash site, near the city of Sevastopol, marked with a red star

His daughter-in-law also provided a few photos of Captain Golubev in an interview of which one includes him and his son, both can be seen in figure 9. Sadly, his son never learned about the fact that his father's crash site was found in 2018 and never learned the exact fate of his father as he died before the plane was found. His death certificate does state the name of the mother of his wife as Elena Denisovna Oleynikova.



Fig. 9 - Captain Boris Emelyanovich Golubev with his son, date unknown

## Political career of Captain Boris Emelyanovich Golubev

According to the certificate which states that Captain Golubev was Killed in Action in 1942 he was a member of the VKPb since 1940. Due to his (early) death, his views on the country politics aren't known.

In figures 10, 11 and 12 we can see Captain Golubev with members from his squadron / regiment in December 1941.



Fig. 10 - Captain Boris Emelyanovich Golubev with his Ilyushin IL-2



Fig. 11 - Captain Boris Emelyanovich Golubev and Captain and Hero of the Soviet Union Alexei Antonovich Gubrij



Fig. 12 - Captain Boris Emelyanovich Golubev with his squadron in December 1941

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Koronev, I. Citation ORB Golubev, 2022

## Images

Major General and Hero of the Soviet Union  
Mikhail Petrovich Petrov

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Major General, posthumous Hero of the Soviet Union and Commander of the Airforce, Black Sea Navy Nikolai Alekseevich Ostryakov

[https://ru.wikipedia.org/wiki/%D0%9E%D1%81%D1%82-%D1%80%D1%8F%D0%BA%D0%BE%D0%B2,\\_%D0%9D%D0%B8%D0%BA%D0%BE%D0%BB%D0%B0%D0%B9\\_%D0%90%D0%BB%D0%B5%D0%BA%D1%81%D0%B5%D0%B5%D0%B2%D0%B8%D1%87#/media/%D0%A4%D0%B0%D0%B9%D0%B-B:Ostryakov\\_NA.jpg](https://ru.wikipedia.org/wiki/%D0%9E%D1%81%D1%82-%D1%80%D1%8F%D0%BA%D0%BE%D0%B2,_%D0%9D%D0%B8%D0%BA%D0%BE%D0%BB%D0%B0%D0%B9_%D0%90%D0%BB%D0%B5%D0%BA%D1%81%D0%B5%D0%B5%D0%B2%D0%B8%D1%87#/media/%D0%A4%D0%B0%D0%B9%D0%B-B:Ostryakov_NA.jpg)



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