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ORDERS AND MEDALS OF YUGOSLAVIA

[Comment!.. The following report is one of several taken from Informativni prirucnik o Jugoslaviji, a handbook published irregularly since late 1948 by the Yugoslav Directorate for Information.]

According to Yugoslav law, orders and medals are awards for outstanding service to the peoples of Yugoslavia and the state in war and peace and are granted by the Presidium of the federal People's Assembly as follows: on the proposal of the president of the Government of Yugoslavia to civilians, and on the proposal of the Supreme Commander of the Yugoslav Armed Forces to military personnel. (The Law on Orders and Medals of the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia, Sluzbeni list, FNRJ /Official Gazette of the FNRJ/ No 89, 1946)

HISTORY OF YUGOSLAVIA'S ORDERS

On 15 August 1943 a decree of the Supreme Command of the National Liberation Army of Yugoslavia on decorations in the National Liberation War established the first decorations in postwar Yugoslavia as follows:

1. Order of People's Hero
2. Order of the Partisan Star: First, Second, and Third Class
3. Order of National Liberation
4. Order of Valor
5. Medal of Valor
6. Order of Brotherhood and Unity

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These decorations were granted during the National Liberation War and after the liberation until the Yugoslav Constitution was proclaimed on 31 January 1945, and the Presidium of the Federal People's Assembly organized.

The first decree of the AVNOJ (Antifascist Council of National Liberation of Yugoslavia) issued on 24 July 1944, provided for decoration with the Order of National Liberation for extraordinary service and outstanding valor from the beginning of the liberation struggle to 24 July 1944. Under this decree 20 of the most prominent proletarian and shock brigades of the National Liberation Army were decorated.

A commission for gathering data and making proposals for decorations was a part of the Commission for National Defense in the National Liberation Committee of Yugoslavia. This commission issued instructions and explanations on decorations to all main and corps staffs. Personnel were proposed for decoration as follows:

For the Order of People's Hero: the most noted heroes, soldiers, leaders, organizers, or pioneers of the army who died in the field, prison, or concentration camp, and living soldiers or leaders especially well known and beloved for their heroism, who were absolutely irreproachable and already heroes to the people.

For the Order of the Partisan Star, First Class: Military leaders, commandants, and political commissars of brigade rank and higher, noted for their command work; and in exceptional cases, commanding officers of lower rank and soldiers who were particularly heroic, but not entitled to the order of People's Hero.

For the Order of Partisan Star, Second Class: military leaders of higher rank, or commandants of battalions and companies noted for their command work, and soldiers noted for special bravery in battle and for special services.

For the Order of Partisan Star, Third Class: leaders of high or low rank for special valor and suffering in battle, and soldiers for special bravery in battle.

For the Order of Valor: officers and soldiers for valor.

For the Medal of Valor: soldiers and lower-ranking officers for bravery in some battle. This medal was a group decoration.

For the Order of National Liberation: Pioneers of the national uprising, organizers of the National Liberation Army, and persons who contributed to the winning of the National Liberation War.

For the Order of Brotherhood and Unity: political and military leaders noted for their work in achieving unity and brotherhood among the people; and military units which moved from one section of the country to another helping to develop the uprising, thereby contributing to the development of brotherhood among the people.

Decoration with more than one order was governed by the following conditions:

One person could be recommended for more than one decoration. A division commander, for instance, could be granted the Order of the Partisan Star, Second Class, for his command work, the Order of Brotherhood and Unity for his services in creating brotherhood and unity, and the Order of Valor for bravery.

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A person who had received the Order of the Partisan Star could not be recommended for the Medal of Valor, but could be proposed for the Order of Valor. The Order of the Partisan Star did not automatically qualify a person for the Order of Valor; he had to meet the conditions for both.

Every soldier and leader, who in the course of time demonstrated that he deserved a higher decoration, could be recommended for it.

Higher staffs of the army could recommend civilians for decoration who performed special services for the army by collecting contributions or information, acting as scouts, etc. Civilians were entitled to all decorations except the Order of the Partisan Star, which was an exclusively military decoration.

Corps staffs had the right to award the Order and Medal of Valor. A list of persons decorated and the usual personal history of each were submitted to the Presidium of the Antifascist Council of National Liberation of Yugoslavia for review and confirmation. In the mean time the individual decorated was entitled to wear the decoration.

Decorations were conferred at a ceremony before a battalion or brigade, with the ceremony being conducted by a member of a higher staff. A short speech was made first, then the decorated person was given his decoration and congratulated by shaking hands.

Decoration of wounded, disabled veterans, and dead was governed as follows. If those to be decorated were in a hospital, the staff of the unit concerned sent an officer to the hospital who conferred the decoration. This also applied to Yugoslav wounded personnel in Italy. Decorations for those who died in the field, in prison, or concentration camps, were awarded on some holiday or on the anniversary of the day they died. Such decorations were conferred on their relatives if they were worthy.

NEW ORDERS AND MEDALS ESTABLISHED AT END OF WAR

With the Law on Orders and Medals of 9 June 1945, the Presidium of the Antifascist Council of National Liberation of Yugoslavia, established the following additional orders and medals:

1. Order of Liberty
2. Order of Service to the People: First, Second, and Third Class
3. Order of Brotherhood and Unity: First and Second Class (the decree of the Supreme Command had established this order without classes)
4. Order of Labor; First, Second, and Third Class
5. Medal of Service to the People

Army and corps commands awarded the Order and Medal of Valor and Medal of Service to the People to 176,304 persons for military achievements during the liberation struggle. All these decrees were confirmed by the 1945 decisions of the Presidium of the Antifascist Council of National Liberation of Yugoslavia, by the decisions of the Federal Constitutional Assembly in 1946, and by the decisions of the Presidium of the Federal People's Assembly in 1946 and 1947.

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RANK OF ORDERS AND MEDALS

With the enactment of the Constitution of Yugoslavia on 31 January 1946 and the Law on Orders and Medals of Yugoslavia on 31 October 1946, only the Presidium of the federal People's Assembly of the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia is authorized to award decorations.

According to the Law on Orders and Medals, Yugoslav decorations rank as follows:

1. Order of People's Hero
2. Order of Liberty
3. Order of the Partisan Star, First Class
4. Order of National Liberation
5. Order of Service to the People, First Class
6. Order of Brotherhood and Unity, First Class
7. Order of the Partisan Star, Second Class
8. Order of Service to the People, Second Class
9. Order of Brotherhood and Unity, Second Class
10. Order of the Partisan Star, Third Class
11. Order of Valor
12. Order of Service to the People, Third Class
13. Medal of Valor
14. Medal of Service to the People

Since 31 October 1946, the following decorations have been established by special regulations or amendments:

1. Order of the Yugoslav Flag, First, Second, Third, Fourth, and Fifth Class (the 26 November 1947 law changing and amending the Law on Orders and Medals, Sluzbeni list, FNRJ, No 101, 1947)
2. Medal of Labor (the 31 December 1947 law changing and amending the law on Orders and Medals, Sluzbeni list, FNRJ, No 107, 1947)
3. Order of Hero of Socialist Labor (the 1 December 1948 Law on the Order of Hero of Socialist Labor of the FNRJ, Sluzbeni list, FNRJ, No 106, 1948).

STATUTES ON DECORATIONS

Statutes enacted by the Presidium of the federal People's Assembly cover all decorations except the Order of Liberty, Order of the Yugoslav Flag (all classes), Order of Hero of Socialist Labor, Order of Labor (all classes), Medal of Labor, and Medal of Service to the People, for which statutes have not yet been enacted.

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The statutes contain a description of the decoration, detailed explanation of services for which the decoration is awarded, possible privileges accruing to the owner of the decoration or his family, and other regulations in connection with the awarding and wearing of decorations.

Decorations may be awarded to individuals or to military units, establishments, enterprises, or other organizations. The recipient of a decoration may be decorated with the same decoration he holds or with a different decoration, but cannot be decorated with a lower-ranking decoration. In cases of awarding the same decoration it is customary for it to be of the next higher class.

A decoration may be taken away from the recipient only by decree of the Presidium of the federal People's Assembly because of a court sentence for a criminal act, or behavior that has made the recipient unworthy of the decoration.

The Presidium of the federal People's Assembly awards decorations to foreigners as follows: to civilians upon the recommendation of the President of the Government of Yugoslavia, and to military personnel upon the recommendation of the Supreme Commandant of the Armed Forces of Yugoslavia.

Citizens of Yugoslavia may not accept or wear decorations of a foreign state without permission of the government of Yugoslavia. Members of the Yugoslav Army may not accept such decorations without permission of the Minister of People's Defense.

ESTABLISHMENTS WHICH AWARD DECORATIONS

In the Presidium of the federal People's Assembly, the Office of Orders carries out all functions concerned with the awarding of decorations, preparation of decrees on decorations, keeping of records on all decorated persons, etc.

It is planned to revise the present laws on decorations to have a single unified law. A draft for such a law has already been prepared, which also provides for the establishment of some new decorations. The Presidium will issue statutes for those decorations for which no statutes have yet been issued, and a statute on the rank of decorations.

Collecting data and opinions, and examining and recommending decorations for civilian persons are as follows:

1. Councils on Decorations act as advisory organs to the heads of state establishments, offices, and enterprises in recommending outstanding blue- and white-collar workers and work collectives for decoration.

There are Councils on Decorations in enterprises of federal or republic significance, in srez, city, and ward (reon) people's councils, in the Oblast People's Council of Kosovo-Metohija, in the Main Executive Council of the People's Assembly of the Vojvodina; in ministries, committees, commissions, and establishments of the government; in the Presidium of the federal government, and in the presidiums of the republic governments.

2. The Secretariat for Personnel Service in the federal government and the republic Secretariats for Personnel Service do preliminary work for the Council in the Presidency of the federal or republic government concerned.

Proposals for decoration of blue- and white-collar workers of an enterprise are submitted to the organ for personnel service of the appropriate federal or republic ministry.

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Proposals for decoration of blue- and white-collar workers of srez, city, or ward people's councils are submitted to the organ for personnel service of the ministry, or to the Main Council of the Vojvodina.

Proposals for decoration of blue- and white-collar workers of ministries, committees, commissions, and establishments of the federal government are submitted to the Secretariat for Personnel Service in the federal government. Proposals for decoration of blue- and white-collar workers of the Oblast People's Council of Kosovo-Metohija of the Main Executive Council of the People's Assembly of the Vojvodina, and of ministries, committees, commissions, and establishments of the republic governments are submitted to the Section for Decorations in the republic Secretariat for Personnel Service. Proposals made by the Council on Decorations in the Presidency of a republic government are submitted to the Section for Decorations in the Secretariat for Personnel Service of the federal government.

The Section for Ranks and Decorations in the Personnel Administration of the Federal National Defense Ministry collects, evaluates and prepares proposals for the decoration of military personnel, demobilized soldiers and officers, and civilians, for services rendered in the National Liberation War.

DECORATIONS GRANTED AND DESCRIPTION OF ORDERS AND MEDALS

By the end of 1950, 628,485 decorations had been awarded in Yugoslavia to enlisted men, noncommissioned officers, generals, and military units for meritorious service performed in the National Liberation struggle; and to individuals, groups, and organizations for extraordinary service in the restoration and socialist development of Yugoslavia after the war. Decorations were awarded as follows:

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<u>Year</u>	<u>Awarded by AVNOJ</u>		<u>Awarded by Constituent Assembly</u>		<u>Awarded by Presidium of the Federal People's Assembly</u>		
	<u>Decorated By Decree</u>	<u>Decorated By Order</u>	<u>Decorated By Decree</u>	<u>Decorated By Order</u>	<u>Decorated By Decree</u>	<u>Decorated By Order</u>	<u>Total Decorated</u>
1944	4,749	--	--	--	--	--	4,749
1945	17,497	2,582	3,737	485	--	--	24,301
1946	--	--	1,959	--	70,955	62,894	135,808
1947	--	--	--	--	90,419	110,343	200,762
1948	--	--	--	--	73,209	--	73,209
1949	--	--	--	--	143,600	--	143,600
1950	--	--	--	--	45,856	--	45,856
Total	22,246	2,582	5,696	485	444,239 /424,237	173,237	628,485

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Decorations Granted

<u>Name of Decoration</u>	<u>1942</u>	<u>1943</u>	<u>1944</u>	<u>1945</u>	<u>1946</u>	<u>1947</u>	<u>1948</u>	<u>1949</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>Total</u>
Order of People's Hero	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	1
Order of Liberty	17	18	29	85	6	2	6	49	--	212
Order of the Partisan Star										
I Class	--	--	147	69	109	11	35	--	1	372
II Class	--	--	336	433	226	48	65	8	13	1,129
III Class	--	--	710	2,109	1,380	3,512	937	252	77	8,977
Order of National Liberation	--	--	50	51	20	16	3	2	--	142

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Order of Service to the People I Class	--	--	--	503	244	219	157	42	38	1,203
II Class	--	--	--	1,292	6,800	7,874	2,490	11,156	1,060	30,672
III Class	--	--	--	3,909	46,473	25,313	9,703	32,940	13,471	131,839
Order of Brotherhood and Unity I Class	--	--	43	432	315	493	251	58	52	1,644
II Class	--	--	--	204	852	8,202	7,747	3,400	1,364	21,769
Order of Valor	--	--	2,732	5,302	14,084	26,029	17,946	11,918	3,862	81,873
Medal of Valor	--	--	902	8,132	14,599	29,354	20,847	30,579	6,672	111,085
Medal of Service to the People	--	--	--	1,524	50,302	98,162	11,510	39,796	9,713	211,007
Order of Hero of Socialist Labor	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Order of Labor I Class	--	--	--	6	35	83	72	185	61	442
II Class	--	--	--	44	32	210	137	627	478	1,528
III Class	--	--	--	12	328	10,018	374	5,158	3,221	10,111
Medal of Labor	--	--	--	--	--	88	920	7,672	5,680	14,360
Order of the Yugoslav Flag I Class	--	--	--	--	--	8	--	--	--	8
II Class	--	--	--	--	--	47	5	1	1	54

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III Class	--	--	--	--	--	29	4	4	3	40
IV Class	--	--	--	--	--	33	--	1	1	35
V Class	--	--	--	--	--	11	--	1	--	12
Total	17	18	4,949	24,107	135,805	200,763	73,209	143,849	45,768	628,485

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Order of People's Hero

The Order of People's Hero is oval-shaped and made of patinated gold. Two laurel branches tied at the bottom with a loop make the border. In the middle of the order is a relief figure of a soldier dressed in a coat and sandals holding a flag in his left hand and a rifle in his right hand. The order is worn around the neck on a red ribbon.

The award includes financial benefits and privileges for the recipient, but financial benefits only for his family.

The orders, photographs and biographies of all dead People's Heroes are engraved on a memorial plaque in the War Museum of the Yugoslav Army in Belgrade.

Peter Lekovic, stone cutter from Recica, Uzicka Pozega Srez was the first to be awarded the order of People's Hero.

Order of Liberty

The Order of Liberty is composed of three five-pointed stars with five crossed swords. In the middle is a large diamond set in white gold surrounded with rubies. The points of the upper and lower star are covered with rubies, and the points of the middle and largest star with diamonds.

The Order of Liberty is among the highest of Yugoslav decorations. To date it has been awarded only to Marshal Tito. He was awarded this order 28 November 1947 by decree of the Presidium of the federal People's Assembly for outstanding service in organizing and conducting the National Liberation struggle, liberating the Yugoslav people, and creating and developing an independent and strong Yugoslavia.

Order of the Partisan Star, First Class

The Order of the Partisan Star, First Class, is a five-pointed star of red enamel set in two gold-plated laurel branches which form a circle around the star.

Order of National Liberation

The Order of National Liberation is of gold-plated silver in the shape of two five-pointed stars. The top star is smaller, its points being placed between the points of the larger star at the bottom. On the stars is a relief of patinated silver portraying the people hailing the liberation. At the bottom of the relief is inscribed "National Liberation."

The first Order of National Liberation was awarded on 24 June 1944 to 20 proletarian and shock brigades of the National Liberation Army.

Order of Service to the People, First Class

The Order of Service to the People (all classes) is awarded to persons who rendered service in the national liberation struggle, or who helped stabilize and organize the people's government or the Yugoslav Army.

The Order of Service to the People, First Class, is round, with a base of gold-plated silver in the form of radiating rays. On the base is a five-pointed star of gold-plated silver, from whose points emerge five rays. The star has a relief of a soldier in patinated silver bearing a rifle on his right shoulder and holding a flag in his right hand.

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Order of Brotherhood and Unity, First Class

The Order of Brotherhood and Unity, First Class, is made of silver with gold-plated parts. It is round, consisting of five radial rays encircled by a gold-plated laurel wreath. The border is of red enamel with gold-plated edges and 26 gold-plated, five-pointed stars. In the middle of the order on a gold-plated background are five torches of red enamel with gold-plated handles and above the torches is a red five-pointed star.

Order of the Partisan Star, Second Class

The Order of the Partisan Star, Second Class, is a five-pointed silver star covered with red enamel, encircled by two patinated-silver laurel branches.

Order of Service to the People, Second Class

The Order of Service to the People, Second Class, is the same as the Order of Service to the People, First Class, except that the five-pointed star is of silver and the relief figure of the soldier on the star is of gold-plated silver.

Order of Service to the People, Third Class

The Order of Service to the People, Third Class, is the same as the Order of Service to the People, First Class, except that the laurel wreath is silver and the border is white enamel with gold-plated edges.

Order of the Partisan Star, Third Class

The Order of the Partisan Star, Third Class, is the same as the Order of the Partisan Star, Second Class, except that it has two crossed rifles of patinated silver behind the red-enamelled five-pointed star so that the butts are visible below the lower points and the barrels above the upper points of the star.

Order of Valor

The Order of Valor is made of brass and gold-plate. It is irregularly oval in shape showing an unfurled flag. Over the flag is a laurel branch, and the first partisan weapons: rifle, ax, scythe, and homemade bayonet, which are crossed. On the flag is the inscription: "Death to Fascism, Freedom to the People". There is a five-pointed star on the upper part of the order.

Order of Service to the People, Third Class

The Order of Service to the People, Third Class, is the same shape as the Order of Service to the People, First and Second Class. However, the background is of silver, the star is of gold-plated silver, and the figure of the soldier on the star is of patinated silver.

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Medal of Valor

The Medal of Valor is of brass and gold-plate. It is round with a smooth border. On the front side is a torso in relief of a soldier holding a rifle in his right hand. On the reverse are two laurel branches forming a circle, in the center of which is the inscription "For Valor." Above the inscription is a five-pointed star.

Medal of Service to the People

The Medal of Service to the People is awarded for services in the National Liberation War.

The Medal of Service to the People is round with a five-pointed star in relief, between the points of the star which are decorative rays. On the star is a figure in relief of a soldier bearing a rifle on his right shoulder and holding an unfurled flag in his left hand. On the reverse side of the medal is the inscription "Medal of Service to the People" encircled by a laurel wreath.

Order of Labor, First, Second, and Third Class, and the Medal of Labor

The Order of Labor (all classes) and the Medal of Labor are awarded to individuals, groups of workers, enterprises, or establishments as recognition for work heroism, for scientific and technical discoveries, and individual or group creativeness in the rehabilitation and development of socialist Yugoslavia.

The Order of Labor, First Class, is round. A red-enameled flag with a little five-pointed star is on the upper part. In the center is a patinated-silver relief of a male and a female head in profile symbolizing workers. The relief is encircled by stylized tools on a white enamel background; the whole is encircled by a gold-plated wreath, on the left side of which are gold-plated laurel leaves and on the right side two ears of grain.

The Order of Labor, Second Class, is a five-pointed silver star, the points of which are decoratively rounded. In the center is an allegorical relief of a male and female head on an open book. The relief also contains a hammer and sickle. The lower border of the relief is a laurel wreath and the upper border a gear. Relief, laurel leaves, and gear are of gold-plated silver.

The Order of Labor, Third Class, is the same shape and composition as the Order, Second Class, except that the relief in the center of the star is of patinated silver, and the hammer and sickle are gold plated.

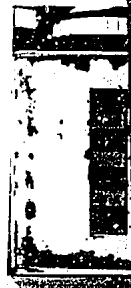
The Medal of Labor is made of gold-plated brass and is round. It shows a male and female head in relief on an open book, with hammer and sickle above the book. On the reverse side is the inscription "Medal of Labor" encircled by a laurel wreath.

Order of the Yugoslav Flag, First, Second, Third, Fourth, and Fifth Class

The Order of the Yugoslav Flag (all classes) is awarded for outstanding achievements in developing and strengthening peaceful cooperation and friendly relations between Yugoslavia and other countries.

The Order of the Yugoslav Flag, First Class, consists of two parts, a star and a ribbon. The star consists of two five-pointed silver stars crossed with grooves, upon which is placed a third five-pointed silver star with gold-plated rays of irregular length between its points. In the center of the order is a gold-plated laurel wreath in relief; a colored-enamel Yugoslav flag lies over it

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in a horizontal position. The ribbon is of 12-centimeter-wide silk in the national colors. It has a brooch on which there is a flag and a golden wreath. The star is worn on the left side above the waist while the ribbon is worn over the right shoulder down to the left side.

Doctor Ivan Ribar, president of the Presidium of the Federal People's Assembly is the only person yet decorated with the Order of the Yugoslav Flag, First Class. This decoration was awarded to him on 20 January 1951 for outstanding service to the Yugoslav people.

The Order of the Yugoslav Flag, Second Class, is a grooved five-pointed silver star with rays of irregular length between its points. In the center of the star is a gold-plated laurel wreath over which the Yugoslav national flag in colored enamel lies in a horizontal position. The reverse side of the order is the same except that the national coat of arms is in the center instead of the flag and laurel wreath. This order is worn around the neck. This order also has a star identical to the star of the Order of the Yugoslav Flag, First Class, except that the radial rays between the points of the star are silver instead of gold-plate. The star is worn on the right side above the waist.

The Order of the Yugoslav Flag, Third Class, is the same form and composition as the Order of the Yugoslav Flag, Second Class, and is worn around the neck. However, this order does not have the additional star.

The Order of the Yugoslav Flag, Fourth Class, is a grooved five-pointed silver star with gold-plated rays of irregular length between its points. In the center of the star is a laurel wreath in relief of patinated silver; over it the Yugoslav flag lies in a horizontal position.

The Order of the Yugoslav Flag, Fifth Class, is a grooved five-pointed silver star with radial rays of irregular length between its points. In the center of the star is a laurel wreath in relief of patinated silver; over it lies the Yugoslav flag in a horizontal position.

Order of Hero of Socialist Labor

The Order of Hero of Socialist Labor is awarded to individuals, collectives, enterprises, or establishments which show outstanding work results, thus rendering outstanding service in economic, social, state, scientific, or cultural activities of general importance to the development of socialism and to the strengthening of the power and reputation of Yugoslavia.

The Order of Hero of Socialist Labor is a five-pointed star with radial rays between the points. In the center of the star is a round relief of patinated silver allegorically portraying socialist Yugoslavia in the form of a woman with the flag in her right hand and her left arm stretched forward. In the background are factories and bridges. The relief is encircled by a gold frame set with 38 small rubies. Five figures of women each holding laurel wreaths in their outstretched hands, symbolizing the five Yugoslav nationalities fill the spaces between the points of the star. In the middle of each laurel wreath, there is an oval-shaped ruby 5 to 6.5 millimeters in size. The female figures and laurel wreaths are of gold.

The Order of Hero of Socialist Labor is one of the highest orders of Yugoslavia.

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