

Victor L. Konyago, Orest V. Ladyzhynsky

# The Legion of Ukrainian Sich Riflemen

*Badges, Medals, and Other Items*



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## *Badges, Medals, and Other Items*



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The Legion of Ukrainian Sich Riflemen (Ukrainian: Ukrainski Sichovi Stril'tsi, or USS) of the Austro-Hungarian Army was formed from volunteers in the Western Ukrainian region of Galicia in August 1914, just after the outbreak of the First World War. Ten thousand Galician Ukrainians volunteered to join the legion, but the Austro-Hungarian High Command set a limit of 2,500 soldiers. During the First World War the USS fought the Russian Imperial Army on the Eastern Front.

This book provides information about rare and even unique USS badges, medals, and other items. Most of what is reproduced here is in the authors' private collections.

The authors are constantly seeking other USS items and materials. They will be grateful for any new or supplementary information and welcome questions about the USS. Please write to them at the following addresses:

P.O. Box 109  
Howleyville, CT 06440  
USA

[drzvir@dr.com](mailto:drzvir@dr.com)

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## Contents

<b>Introduction: The Ukrainian Sich Riflemen</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>A Brief Chronology of the USS</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>The USS Cockade</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>USS Celluloid Badges</b>	<b>8, 16</b>
<b>USS Metal Badges</b>	<b>9, 21</b>
<b>Kyiv Sich Riflemen Badges</b>	<b>13, 42</b>
<b>USS Medals</b>	<b>14, 45</b>
<b>USS Badges of Unknown Issue</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>The Ukrainian Combat Administration</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>Austro-Hungarian Army Badges</b>	<b>53</b>
<b>USS Postcards</b>	<b>61</b>
<b>USS Postage Seals and Stamps</b>	<b>66</b>
<b>Other USS Items</b>	<b>67</b>
<b>Price Lists in 1917</b>	<b>13, 73</b>
<b>References</b>	<b>75</b>

## Introduction: The Ukrainian Sich Riflemen

The idea of providing military training of Western Ukrainian young men in the crownland of Galicia began a few years before the First World War. At that time Galicia and the adjacent Ukrainian regions of Bukovyna and Transcarpathia were part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. The main goal of the military training was to prepare the Galician Ukrainians for participation in an immanent war of Ukrainian independence from Russia.

A paramilitary association of Sich Riflemen (Ukrainian: *Sichovi striltsi*, from "Sich," the name of the sixteenth- to eighteenth-century Cossack stronghold on an island of Dnipro River) was established on 18 March 1913 in the city of Lviv (German: Lemberg). Their first commander was a well-known lawyer, Dr. Volodymyr Starosolsky.

Austria-Hungary went to war against Serbia on 28 July 1914, after Archduke Franz Ferdinand was assassinated by a Serbian nationalist, Gavrilo Princip. When Imperial Russia mobilized in support of Serbia, Austria-Hungary's ally Germany declared war on Russia and France. On 2 August 1914 all Western Ukrainian political parties loyal to Austria-Hungary voluntarily united in a Supreme Ukrainian Council (Ukrainian: *Holovna Ukrainska Rada*, or HUR), which appointed a Ukrainian Combat Administration (Ukrainian: *Ukrainska boiova uprava*, or UBU). On 6 August 1914 the HUR and UBU issued a proclamation to the Ukrainian population of Austria-Hungary calling on them to join a newly created Legion of Ukrainian Sich Riflemen (Ukrainian: *Legion Ukrainskykh Sichovykh Striltsiv*, or USS; German: *die Ukrainische Legion, die Ukrainischen Schützen*) and to take advantage of the opportunity to fight Russia. The UBU appointed Teodor Rozhankovsky the legion's first commander. Later he was replaced by Mykhailo Halushchynsky. Some 10,000 volunteers from various districts of Galicia, eager to join the USS, gathered in the village of Lany near the town of Stryi at the end of August 1914. At that time the Russian offensive had reached the Zolota Lypa River and the Austrian forces were retreating from Lviv. Because the Austro-Hungarian High Command did not fully trust all the Ukrainian volunteers, most of whom were eager to fight for Ukraine's independence but not necessarily for the Austro-Hungarian Empire, the size of the USS Legion was limited to 2,500 soldiers. Thousands of disappointed volunteers returned home without enlisting. The men who were allowed to join the USS (mostly young students) took the Austro-Hungarian soldier's oath of loyalty to the empire in the Galician town of Stryi on 3 September 1914.

The USS constituted one regiment. It had only two battalions (Ukrainian: *kurenii*), in contrast to regular Austro-Hungarian regiments, which had four battalions. Each USS battalion (*kurin*) consisted of four companies (*sotni*); each company (*sotnia*) had four platoons (*choty*); and each platoon (*chota*) had four squads (*roi*, sing. *rii*). A third battalion was never formed because the Austro-Hungarian military administration was openly opposed to the idea of enlarging the USS.

Initially the USS battalions were not allowed to fight together on the Eastern Front. The First Battalion was attached to the 129th Infantry Brigade of the Austro-Hungarian Army, while the Second Battalion was attached to the 130th Infantry Brigade. Both brigades were part of the 55th Infantry Division. The senior USS commanders (on the corps/division level) were always Austro-Hungarian or German officers. In September 1914 the 129th and 130th Infantry Brigades were incorporated into the corps commanded by General Peter von Hofmann (designated the 25th Corps in 1916). In January 1915 Hofmann Corps was detached to three and a half German infantry divisions and one German cavalry division to form the German South Army. Only in the second part of 1915 were all USS units allowed to operate together as one force.

At various times during the years of 1914–18, a USS company had between 150 and 220 men, a platoon had 40 to 60, and a squad had 10 to 15. Their size changed depending on the number of men killed, wounded, missing in action, or taken prisoner. Approximately 9,500 volunteers joined the USS during those years.

Initially the USS were very poorly equipped. Many of them had to wear civilian clothes and boots; they were issued obsolete, one-shot Werndl rifles. Belts, rifle slings, bread bags, and cartridge pouches were also in short supply. The situation improved when the German South Army was formed. As part of this army, the USS received standard military equipment.

To stand out and to underline their nationality, many Ukrainian Sich Rifleman wore cockades made of ribbons or knotted threads in yellow and blue—the colors of the Ukrainian national flag—on the left side of their caps. The Ukrainian Combat Administration also issued various unofficial badges, which were worn on the left side of a field cap or the right side of a tunic. Hundreds of postcards, a few postal seals, and ten labels in five different colors were produced and sold to raise money for the USS.

## A Brief Chronology of the USS

From 3 September 1914: brief military training at Horonda and Strabychiv in Transcarpathia.

10 September 1914: sent to the front.

25 September 1914: first battle. Near the village of Sianky (Turka county), two platoons from Semeniuk's company defeated a Russian cavalry unit.

September and October 1914: divided into 20-man units, whose mission was to reconnoiter and harass the enemy in the Carpathian Mountains.

October 1914: saw combat on the Drohobych–Bolekhiv front line.

November 1914: assigned to reconnoiter the line between Lavochno (Skole county) and Svaliava (Transcarpathia) in the east and Vysotske (Brody county) and Volosianka (Turka county) in the west.

January and February 1915: fought at Yavirnyk Velykyi hill and the village of Lavochno.

From 3 March 1915: positioned near Mounts Klyva and Makivka.

14 March 1915: commended for "successful combat and reconnaissance service."

28 April–1 May 1915: combat at Mount Makivka. General Fleischmann, the commander of the 55th Division, issued an official commendation to the USS for their role in the fighting.

Early June 1914: combat near the town of Halych and the nearby villages of Viktoriv and Krylos.

28 June 1915: forced the Dnister River.

27 August 1915: combat at Zavaliv (Pidhaitsi county) by the Zolota Lypa River.

Late August–mid-September 1915: combat at the Strypa River.

21 September 1915: transferred 14 km behind the front line to Vivsia (Berezhany county) for recuperation. There, based on an order issued on 22 August 1915, the USS became the First USS Regiment of the German Southern Army.

Early October–November 1915: combat at Semykivtsi (Pidhaitsi county). The German command commended the USS as the best troops in the Austro-Hungarian Army.

Late November 1915–early August 1916: positioned along the Strypa River, but saw no combat.

2–3 September 1916: combat at Lysonia Hill.

30 September 1916: combat at Potutory (Berezhany county).

By early 1917, of the 7,000 soldiers in the USS, 350 had been killed, 1,200 had been wounded, and 1,500 had been taken prisoner.

March 1917: stationed near Berezhany. Only one battalion formed.

15 May 1917: stationed at Koniukhy (Berezhany county).

30 May 1917: combat at Koniukhy during the Russian army's Brusilov offensive. The USS suffered many casualties; many others were taken prisoner. Only 9 officers and 444 riflemen who did not take part in the battle (technical staff, engineers, the Hutsul Company, machine-gun and close-combat units) survived.

Late July 1917: armistice on the Eastern Front.

Late August 1917: stationed near Zalissia (Chortkiv county).

Late December 1917: stationed at Skoviatyn and Shyshkivtsi (Borshchiv county).

27–28 February 1918: reached Kamianets-Podilskyi in one day as part of the Second (Eastern) Austro-Hungarian Army (the XII, XVII, and XXV [former Hofmann] Corps) that was sent to help the recently declared independent Ukrainian People's Republic drive out the Red Army from central, southern, and eastern Ukraine.

2 March 1918: marched to the town of Zhmerynka and then to the vicinity of Vapniarka (now in Tomashpil raion, Vinnytsia oblast). There the USS were attached to an army group commanded by Archduke Wilhelm Habsburg-Lothringen (also known as Vasyl Vyshyvany).

17 March 1918: transferred to Odesa.

Early April 1918: transferred to the Kherson region.

12 April 1918: stationed near the village of Bilenke, 25 km. south of the city of Oleksandrivsk (now Zaporizhzhia).

June 1918: transferred to Yelysavethrad (now Kirovohrad).

Early October 1918: transferred to Chernivtsi in Bukovyna. The Training Command was stationed in the town of Vyzhnytsia.

1 November 1918: the Western Ukrainian People's Republic (ZUNR) declared in Lviv, and the Ukrainian-Polish War began.

2 November 1918: 800 USS troops sent by train from Chernivtsi to Lviv.

November 1918: fighting with Polish troops in and around Lviv.

22 November 1918: retreat from Lviv.

January 1919–February 1920: the majority of USS troops constitute the First Brigade of the ZUNR's Galician Army.

1964: fifty years after the founding of the USS, the Brotherhood of USS veterans still had 237 registered members in the Western world.

1974: only 86 USS veterans were alive—50 in the United States, 31 in Canada, and 5 in Argentina.

1980s: the last USS veterans passed into eternity.

### The USS Cockade

The first and most common distinction of the USS volunteer was the blue-and-yellow cockade worn on the left side of his field cap. The cockade was sewn from yellow and blue ribbons or knitted using yellow and blue yarn. Yellow (representing wheat fields) and blue (the sky) are the colors of the Ukrainian flag.



USS officers wearing the blue-and-yellow cockades on their field caps



## USS Celluloid Badges

1. Round celluloid badge with gilt copper frame. Cyrillic letters .У.С.С. (the acronym of Українські Січові Стрільці—Ukrainian Sich Riflemen) and year 1914 in yellow on a dark blue background. Horizontal iron pin with a catch on the back. Diameter 32 mm.
  - 1a. Like 1, but with a lighter blue background.
  - 1b. Like 1, but with “.У.С.С.” and “1914” in blue on a yellow background. No photo is available.
2. Round celluloid badge with iron stickpin. “.У.С.С.” and “1914” in yellow on a blue background. Diameter 23 mm.
  - 2a. Like 2, but “.У.С.С.” and “1914” are in bolder letters.
3. Round celluloid badge with iron stickpin. Rampant lion shield in yellow on a blue background. Above the shield is the date of departure to the front, “10.IX.1914,” in yellow. At the bottom of the shield are the Cyrillic letters З.У.Р, the acronym of Загальна Українська Рада (General Ukrainian Council). Diameter 23 mm.
  - 3a. Like 3, but without a date above the shield.
  - 3b. Like 3a, but with a lighter blue background.
  - 3c. Like 3a, but the background is light yellow with blue speckles.
4. Round celluloid badge with iron stickpin. “.У.С.С.” and “1914” in red on a background with a left half in blue and a right half in yellow (the colors of the Ukrainian flag). Diameter 23 mm.
  - 4a. Like 4, but with a lighter blue half.
  - 4b. Like 4, but with reversed colors. See photo on the cover page.
5. Round celluloid badge with iron stickpin. St. Michael the Archangel with a raised sword in his right hand and a shield depicting a yellow rampant lion on a blue background in his left hand. At the top is the inscription “1914,” and at the bottom is “УСС,” both in gold letters. Between them is the circular inscription “ЗА ВОЛЮ УКРАЇНИ” (For Ukraine’s Freedom), also in gold. Diameter 23 mm.
6. Round celluloid badge with iron pin. “УКРАЇНА” (Ukraine) without a diaeresis and “1914” in yellow on a blue circle surrounded by quadrants in the colors of the flags of the Central Powers: black and yellow (Austria); red, white, and green (Hungary); black, white, and red (Germany); red and white (Turkey); and white, green, and red (Bulgaria). Diameter 23 mm.
  - 6a. Like 6, but the letters and numbers are bolder. No photo available.
  - 6b. Similar to 6, but only with “1914” in white letters with black borders on yellow-and-blue half-circles in the center. This badge has a different type of reverse than badges 2 to 6a (which have the same reverse and 35 mm iron pins) and a longer, 40 mm bronze pin.
7. Round celluloid badge. The inscription “1914” is in yellow on a blue circle with a yellow border surrounded by concentric circles in the colors of the flags of the Central Powers. Diameter 23 mm. This badge has a back like 6b, and a 40-mm iron pin.
8. Round celluloid badge. The right section is blue, and the left section is yellow. Diameter 8 mm.

*Badges types 6 to 8 were rather patriotic, but they were widely used by the USS.*

### USS Metal Badges

9. Round, convex bronze badge. Raised gilt letters "Y.C.C" and year "1914" on a light blue enamel background with a gilt border. On the reverse are the embossed inscriptions "УКРАЇНСЬКІ СІЧОВІ СТРИЛЬЦІ" (Ukrainian Sich Rifleman) and "У.Б.У." (the acronym of Українська боєва управа [Ukrainian Combat Administration]), a vertical iron pin with a catch. USS officers wore this badge on their breast. Diameter 32 mm.
- 9a. Like 9, but with a double border, like 9c. No photo is available.
- 9b. Like 9, but with darker blue enamel and dark blue speckles.
- 9c. Like 9, but without enamel and in silver finish. USS enlisted wore this badge on their breast.
- 10 Round, convex, gilt bronze badge.<sup>36</sup> Raised rampant lion on a round, blue enamel background surrounded by a wide, wavy, scored yellow-orange border. Under the lion is the inscription "Y.C.C. 1914" in blue enamel. On the reverse, in raised letters, are the engravers' name and city, REINEMER & SPIEGEL, WIEN VII, and a horizontal bronze pin with a catch. Officers wore this badge on their breast or cap cap. Diameter 27 mm.
- 10a. Like<sup>28</sup> 10, but with a reverse as in 11b.
11. Like 10, in gilt bronze, but without blue enamel. On the reverse, in raised letters, are first the city and then the engravers' name, WIEN VII, REINEMER & SPIEGEL. USS legionnaires often wore this badge on the fronts of their caps.
- 11a. Like 11, but in a silver finish.
- 11b. Like 11, but the reverse has the raised inscriptions УКРАЇНСЬКІ СІЧОВІ СТРИЛЬЦІ above the horizontal pin and clasp, and 1914-1917 and REINEMER & SPIEGEL WIEN VII below the pin.
- 11c. Like 11b, but in a silver finish.
- 11d. Like 11c, but the reverse is embossed REINEMER & SPIEGEL WIEN VII/2 and has an iron prongs (broken in the photo) instead of a pin.
- 11e. Like 11d, but in gilt bronze. No photo is available.
- 11f. Stepan Pakholko has reported a badge like 11 but in zinc, approximately 0.5 mm thick (all the rest type 11 badges are 1.8 mm thick), and without markings on the reverse. No photo is available.
12. Round, convex, zinc badge<sup>7</sup> with a raised rampant lion facing in the opposite direction than on badges 9-11f and with "Y.C.C. 1914" in raised letters in the center. On the reverse is the mark REINEMER & SPIEGEL WIEN VII." in raised letters and a horizontal iron spring pin. Diameter 27 mm.
- 12a. Like 12, but with an iron prongs instead of a pin.

13. Similar to 12, but in white metal (German silver?) and with a diameter of 29 mm. Horizontal pin with a catch on the reverse. No markings.
14. Small badge in white metal with a stickpin on the reverse. Diameter 16 mm. No markings.
- 14a. Stepan Pakholko has reported the existence of a small gilt badge similar to 14, but with a blue enamel background. No photo available.
15. Gilt bronze, shield-shaped, flat badge on a chain, depicting St. Michael the Archangel holding a raised sword in his right hand and a shield with a rampant lion in his left. Hallmarked "УКРАЇНА" (Ukraine) at the top and "1917" at the bottom. On the back is the inscription "УКРАЇНЦІ МУСЯТЬ ЛУЧИТИ СЯ ЯК УКРАЇНЦІ ДЛЯ ОБОРОНИ ПРАВ УКРАЇНСЬКОГО НАРОДУ МИХАЙЛО ГРУШЕВСЬКИЙ В РОЦІ СВОБОДИ УКРАЇНИ 1917." ("Ukrainians must unite as Ukrainians to defend the rights of the Ukrainian people." Mykhaylo Hrushevsky [first president of the Ukrainian People's Republic (UNR)] in the year of Ukraine's freedom,] 1917). Dimensions 39 by 26 mm. This badge was primarily designed as a pocket watch fob or a pendant.
- 15a. Like 15, but in solid silver.
- 15b. Like 15a, but without a chain, and a reverse with two illegible hallmarks and a vertical pin with a catch.
- 15c. Like 15b, but in copper and without the year at the bottom or an inscription on the reverse. Vertical pin with a catch on the reverse.
- 15d, 15e. Like type 15, but the word "УКРАЇНА" correctly has a diaeresis. See the images on the price list, page 74.
- Type 15 badges are approximately 1.5 mm thick.*
16. Like 15b, but made of zinc and with "1917 20. XI."—the date when the UNR's sovereignty was proclaimed in the Central Rada's Third Universal— at the bottom. Vertical iron spring pin on the reverse. Dimensions 37 by 26 mm.
- 16a. Like 16, but with a silver finish. On the badge in the photo the finish has been worn off but is still partly visible.
- 16b. Like 16, but "УКРАЇНА" has a diaeresis and there is only "1917" at the bottom.
- 16c. Like 16, but in gilt bronze and without a diaeresis in "УКРАЇНА."
- 16d. Like 16b, but in bronze with a silver finish.
- 16e. Like 16b, but in gilt bronze.
- 16f. Like 16d, but the "7" in "1917" has a crossbar. It is unclear whether the single-letter embossed mark on the reverse is the Ukrainian letter "З" or the number "3". Most likely it is the number and refers to the Third Universal (see 16 above) or to the Third Pan-Ukrainian Military Conference<sup>42</sup> held in 1917.
- 16g. Like 16f, but in gilt bronze.
- 16h, 16i. Like 16f and 16g, but without the embossed mark. No photo available.
- 16j. Like 16h, but in zinc.

17. Like 16j, but with "1918" at the bottom. Horizontal iron pin with a catch on the back. Dimensions 37 by 26 mm.

17a. Like 17, but with blue and yellow paint in the center.

17b. Zenon Yavorsky<sup>45</sup> has reported having a badge in his collection<sup>15</sup> like 17, but made of bronze.<sup>10</sup> No photo is available.

18. Like 16, but with "1918" in raised letters, a five-pointed star at the bottom, and the embossed inscription "БОГ БЛАГОСЛОВИ" (God bless) on the right side of the pin and "ЮНУЮ СТРАНУ" (the nascent country) on the left side. The badge was painted blue on the right side (the color is worn off) and yellow on the left side. Horizontal iron pin with a catch on the reverse. Dimensions 35 by 29 mm.

18a. Like 18, but without paint on the sides.

18b. Like 18a, but blue and yellow paint (worn off the badge in the photo) in the center.

*Badges 15 to 18b were rather patriotic, but they were widely used by the USS.*

19. Iron, shield-shaped, flat badge with a painted yellow rampant lion facing to the right on a painted light blue background. Horizontal iron spring pin on the back. USS volunteers from the Ternopil area wore this badge.<sup>28</sup> Dimensions 40 by 31 mm.

19a. Like 19, but in unpainted bronze.

20. Flat, shield-shaped badge in zinc depicting St. Michael the Archangel holding a sword in his right hand and a shield with a rampant lion in his left. Across the top is "1914 c<sup>y</sup>c 1916" in raised letters. On the right side of the pin is the abbreviation "УКР. СІЧ. СТР." (Ukrainian Sich Rifleman) in raised letters. On the left side is the raised inscription "UKR. LEGION" (in German). Designed by Yuliiian Butsmaniuk, a USS officer, artist, and field photographer.<sup>28</sup> Horizontal iron spring pin on the reverse. Dimensions 44 by 41 mm.

20a. Like 20, but with a vertical brass spring pin on the reverse.

21. Round, convex, silver metal badge with a raised rampant lion in the center facing to the left and with "1914" at the top left and "У.С.С" at the bottom left in raised letters. Diameter 28 mm. Horizontal pin with a catch on the reverse. This badge was often worn on the front of a field cap as an insignia. Reportedly it was issued before the First World War.<sup>28</sup>

21a. Like 21, but in gilt metal.

21b, 21c. Like 21 and 21a, but with four metal prongs on the back (on the photo one prong is missing).

22. Round, convex, silver metal badge on a 37-mm stickpin. A raised rampant lion facing left is in the center, and embossed ".У.С.С." and "1914" are at the bottom left. The reverse marked "REINEMER & SPIEGEL WIEN VII" in raised letters. Diameter 16 mm. This badge was often worn on the front of a field cap in place of the usual button.

22a. Like 22, but in gilt metal. Gymnasium (high-school) graduates wore this badge.<sup>28</sup>

23. Round, flat, gilt bronze badge. The round center has two shields on a white enamel background. The right shield has a gilt rampant lion on a light blue enamel background. The left shield depicts a gilt St. Michael the Archangel on a red enamel background. A black enamel border around the center bears the gilt inscription "НЕ РИДАТЬ А ДОБУВАТЬ" (Not to lament,

but to attain), with "1914 1915" at the bottom. Designed by Ivan Bobersky, treasurer of the Ukrainian Combat Administration.<sup>28</sup> Horizontal bronze pin with a catch on the back. Diameter 26 mm.

23a. Like 23, but with darker blue enamel background on the right shield.

23b. Like 23, but with dots in "9."

23c. Like 23, but the blue and red enamel backgrounds on the shields are reversed (manufacturing error).

23d. Like 23, but with the inscription "НЕ РИДАЙ А ДОБУВАЙ" (Do not lament, but attain), "1914 1918" at the bottom, and, on the reverse, the embossed mark "Ц.У.У.С.С."—the acronym of Центральна управа Українських Січових Стрільців (Central Administration of the Ukrainian Sich Riflemen).

23e. Like 23d, but on the reverse the embossed mark "У. Б. У."—the acronym of Українська Боева Управа (the Ukrainian Combat Administration).

23f. Like 23d, but with a light-blue instead of white enamel background.

23g. Like 23f, but the reverse resembles 23e.

23h. Like 23d, but without color enameling.

23i. Like 23h, but the reverse resembles 23e.

24. Sterling-silver flat badge with St. Michael the Archangel holding a raised sword in his right hand and a shield in his left. A raised rampant lion facing right is on the shield. The reverse has a vertical silver pin with a catch and two Austro-Hungarian hallmarks of the 1900s: the letters "F & S" and what seems to be a lion's head. Dimensions 32 by 22 mm.

25. Similar to 24, but convex, half the size, and in gilt bronze with blue enamel on the shield. Dimensions 15 by 10 mm. A 60-mm square-shaped, bronze stickpin is on the reverse.

25a. Like 25, but with red enamel instead of blue.

25b. Like 25, but with a 42-mm round-shaped, bronze stickpin

25c. Like 25b, but the rampant lion faces the opposite side.

26. Convex, shield-shaped badge in gilt bronze with the trident (national emblem of Ukraine) at the top and with a dark-red enamel background. It depicts St. Michael the Archangel holding a raised sword in his right hand and a shield with a rampant lion on a blue enamel background in his left. The badge was worn on the left side of the breast. Two-piece construction. Vertical iron pin with a catch on the reverse. Dimensions 40 by 31 mm.

26a. A 21-by-15-mm miniature version of 26 with a blue paint instead of enamel. Vertical bronze pin with a catch on the reverse.

26b. Like 26, but with a horizontal bronze pin with catch on the reverse.

26c. In our collection we have miniatures like 26a, but with darker and lighter red enamel and differently shaped tridents.

26d. Like 25a, but with blue enamel instead of blue paint, and St. Michael the Archangel with legs.

26e, 26f. The Ukrainian collector Oleksander Melnyk has reported badges like 26 and 26a, but without tridents. The larger badge has the raised mark "S. Schafier, Wien VII, Nowograd 60" on the reverse. No photo available.

26g. Like 26, but with the inscription "СІЧ (Sich) 1917" at the top instead of the trident. The inscription is embossed and filled in with blue enamel.

26h. Like 26h, but the embossed inscription is filled with red enamel.

*In our opinion, the USS wore badges 26 and 26a (with the Ukrainian trident) after the dissolution of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and badges 26e, 26f, 26g, and 26h before that. All of the badges described above were issued in Vienna during the years 1914–18.*

### Prices for USS Badges and Other Items in 1917

#### From the price list on page 73:

Cockade-rossette: 50 Heller  
Badge 1: 50 Heller  
Badge 3: 20 Heller  
Badge 4: 50 Heller  
Badges 9, 10, and 23: 2 Kronen and 50 Heller  
Badge 9b: 2 Kronen and 50 Heller  
Badge 11, 11a: 1 Krone and 50 Heller  
Badge 21: 60 Heller  
Badge 21b: 80 Heller  
Badge 22, 22a: 80 Heller  
Silver ring inscribed with "War 1914–1916": 4 Kronen  
Officer's bayonet knot: 18 Kronen

#### From the price list on page 74:

Badge 15: 2 Kronen  
Badge 15a: 10 Kronen  
Badge 16d, 16e: 1 Krone and 20 Heller

### Kyiv Sich Riflemen Badges

The Kyiv Sich Riflemen, also known as the Sich Riflemen, were a leading formation in the Army of the UNR (1917–19). They originated as the Galician-Bukovynian Battalion formed in November 1917 in Kyiv and later grew to the size of a corps and even a division. The original volunteers were Ukrainians in the Austro-Hungarian Army who had been held in Russian POW camps and were eager to build a free Ukrainian state. Some of them were former USS legionnaires.

27. Solid-silver badge of the Sich Riflemen's Council, with the Cyrillic letters "CC"—the acronym of Січові Стрільці (Sich Riflemen)—and guelder-rose (*Viburnum opulus*) berries and leaves in relief. Designed by the sculptor Mykhailo Brynsky<sup>27</sup> and made in Vienna in 1919. The reverse has the embossed mark (in Ukrainian) "To Lieutenant Colonel of the S[ich] R[iflemen] Ivan Dankiv in

memory of [our] work together [in] 1918–1919, [from the] Sich Riflemen's Council." No pin; dimensions 44 by 40 mm.

27a. Like 27, but with a solid-silver pin and catch and embossed mark on the back that reads (in Ukrainian): "Sich Riflemen's Council [of] 1918–1919. Ivan Chmola."

27b. White-metal copy of 27. Made in the United States in 1988.<sup>33,34</sup> Dimensions 42 x 38 mm.

28. Gilt "CC" badge of the Sich Riflemen's officer school. Photo of a museum quality copy, courtesy of Stepan Pakholko. Dimensions 34 by 27 mm.

29. Another example of an unknown metal "CC" monogram designed by Mykhailo Brynsky as a collar insignia<sup>27</sup> is located in the National Museum of Ukrainian History in Kyiv. Dimensions 30 by 24 mm. The museum did not respond to the authors' request for a photo.

There was another design<sup>27</sup> for a Sich Riflemen's Council badge in the shape of a cross with four inscriptions of the word "Lex" (law in Latin) and a round, blue-enamel center containing the gilt letters "CC". Dimensions 40 by 40 mm. This design was not manufactured.

30 Fiftieth-anniversary medal of the Sich Riflemen Corps in gilt bronze with blue enamel. At the top is a trident; in the middle, the inscriptions "1917–1967" and "CC"; and at the bottom, an image of the Golden Gate of Kyiv and two crossed swords. Designed by Leonid Perfetsky.<sup>18</sup> One hundred 40-by-28-mm medals with a 33-mm-wide ribbon were produced in the United States in 1967 (83 were numbered).<sup>18</sup> One hundred smaller (22 by 15 mm) versions without ribbons and one hundred with 13-mm-wide ribbons (as in the photo) were also made.

## USS Medals

31. Gilt bronze and blue-enamel large Hutsul Cross of the USS, to be worn with formal attire. The designer of this medal has not been conclusively determined. One source<sup>28</sup> indicates it was Lev Gets. Another<sup>31</sup> credits the engineer and architect Oleksander Lushpynsky<sup>44</sup> and states that the USS officer and artist Osyp Kurylas designed the certificate that accompanied the cross. The medals were made in Vienna in 1918, before the dissolution of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Very few were issued, and even fewer were sent to the recipients. Dimensions 47 by 44 mm, including the loop. Plain reverse.

31a. Smaller (40 by 37 mm) version of 31, for everyday wear. A recent publication erroneously referred to this medal as the "Liberty Cross, second class."<sup>26</sup> There was a plan to issue a "liberation order" in the shape of a cross in 1920, but owing to the turmoil in Ukraine the plan was not implemented.<sup>40</sup>

31b. A variation of 31, with a rampant lion in the center.

31c. The proper, threefold, 40-mm-wide ribbon is similar to the Austro-Hungarian war ribbon, but the colors are blue and yellow instead of red and white.<sup>28</sup>

31d. Alternate, 40-mm-wide ribbon for 31 and 13-mm-wide ribbon for 31a; both were made after the Second World War.

32. The Mazepa Cross, awarded to USS veterans who had served in the Ukrainian Galician Army and named in honor of the famous Ukrainian Cossack statesman Ivan Mazepa. Designed by the former USS officer and writer Lev Lepky and made in 1940 in Krakow, Poland.<sup>33,34</sup> Two-piece construction: a light-blue enamel shield with a gilt trident is in the center atop crossed swords on a solid-silver cross manufactured from melted Polish coins. The reverse has a screwback. Dimensions 38 by 29 mm.

32a. Like 32, but with a ribbon and a plain reverse. No photo is available.

32b. Like 32a but a single-piece construction, made in the United States in 1964.<sup>33, 34</sup> The cross is in silver metal and with a 37-mm-wide black and dark-red ribbon. Dimensions 38 by 29 mm.

32c. Miniature (20 by 15 mm) version of 32, in bronze with a silver finish and an open loop at the top but no ribbon. The reverse has a screwback and embossed mark that reads J. WALENTA, KRAKÓW.

32d. Like 32c, but with a ribbon.<sup>10</sup>

32e. Like 32c, but a loop is not perforated at the top and a different screwback. References<sup>33,34</sup> state it was made in 1940 in Krakow, but in our opinion it was a later re-strike.

33. USS fiftieth-anniversary cross, made in the United States in 1964.<sup>33, 34</sup> Three-piece construction. Round center in blue enamel with the gilt letters "YCC" and a gilt bronze border atop a chromed metal cross with the years "1914" and "1964" in blue enamel atop a gilt bronze wreath. Embossed number on the reverse. The cross is on a 35-mm-wide dark red ribbon. Dimensions 35 by 35 mm.



USS Celluloid Badges



1



1a



2



2a



Celluloid badges 2 - 6a have the identical reverse



3



3a

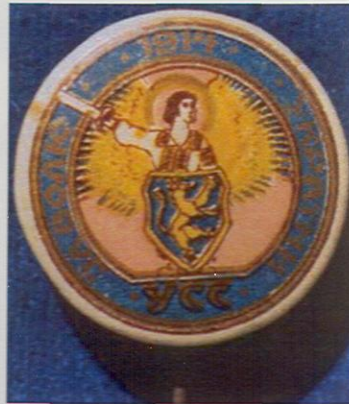
3b

3c



4

4a



5



The USS emblem on a vintage postcard



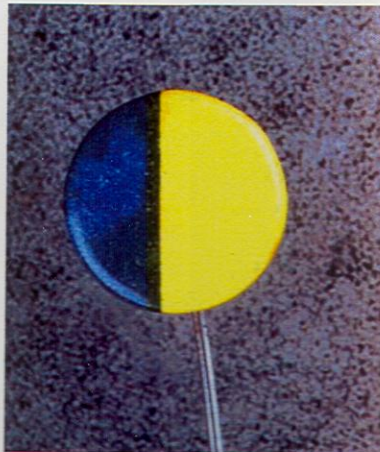
6

6b





7



8



Commemorative USS celluloid badges issued in 1964

USS Metal Badges



9

9b

9c





10





11

11a







11b



11c



11d



12



12a



13



14



15



15a



15b



15c



16



16a



16b



16c



16d

16e





16f

16g

16j



16f

16g





17



17a



18

18a





18b



19

19a



19 reverse



20



20a



21, 21b



21a, 21c



21, 21b



21b, 21c



22

22a



23

23a

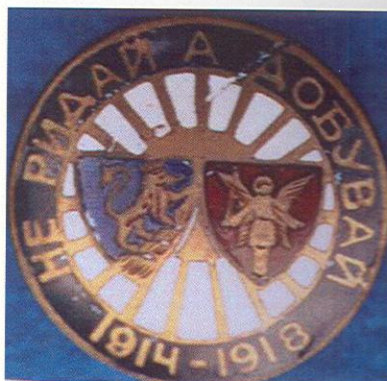




23b



23c



23d



23d



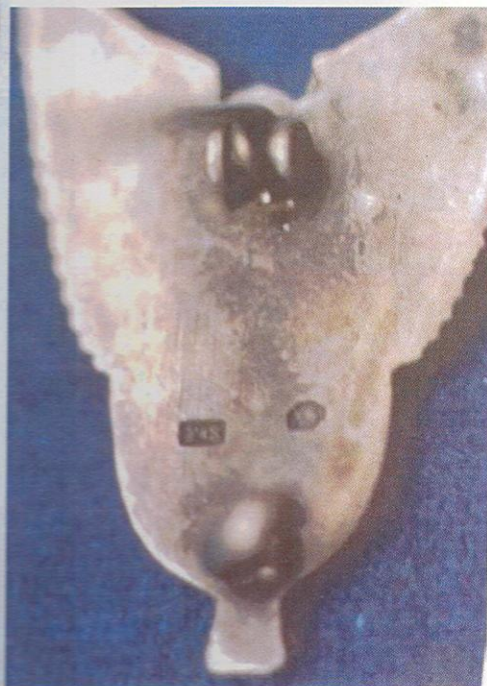
23e



23f



23h



24



25



25a

25b

25c



26

26a

26b



26c



26d





26g



26h



Metal letters "YCC" (USS) attached to the field caps. Probable 1918. Reference<sup>15</sup>, pages 99, 101 and 173.



The USS Veteran badge<sup>10</sup>. Made in Canada in 1957. Gilt brass and blue enamel. Screw back and hallmarked number on the reverse. Diameter 17 mm.



Badges 9 and 13 were re-issued in the USA in 1964 (50th USS Anniversary).



Commemorative gilt-brass and blue enamel "YCC 1914-1974" badge, made in the United States and commemorative painted aluminum "YCC 1914-1994" badge made in Ukraine.

## Kyiv Sich Rifleman Badges



Photo of Sich Rifleman lieutenant L. Savoyka.<sup>18</sup> Watercolor portrait of a Sich Rifleman by Mykola Bytynsky. Note "CC" insignia on the collar tabs.



27



27a



27b



28



30

USS Medals



31





31a



31b

31c



32

32b





## USS Badges of Unknown Issue

The American collector George L. Podluský courteously provided photocopies of these badges, which were purchased in Poland after the WWII as a group of some 30 badges. Made of white metal (German silver?) and with different screw-backs. One screw-back disk is marked "Majdański Kijów" (Kyiv). In our opinion, these are fantasy badges and all were made in 1940s. Such conclusion was made because one badge in this collection, which refers to Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA), has already 1943-1945 dates on the obverse.



USS infantry troops badge. USS cavalry troops badge.



(l-r): USS, or possible Galician Army artillery unit badge; USS communication unit badge; USS, or possible Galician Army transport unit badge.



USS navy badge.

USS chaplain badge.

### The Ukrainian Combat Administration (UCA)

Initially the UCA was the recruitment and organizational center of the USS. After 1915 it was responsible for USS propaganda, charity work, and publishing.



Standing (l-r): Ivan Bobersky (treasurer), Volodymyr Temnytsky, Dr. Lonhyn Tsehelsky.  
Sitting (l-r): Dr. Volodymyr Starosolsky, Dr. Teofil Kormosh, Dr. Kyrilo Trylovsky (chair), Dr. Stepan Tomashivsky, Dmytro Katamai (secretary). Reproduction of a vintage postcard.



UCA badge. Made of solid silver and numbered on the back. Dimensions 34 by 27 mm.



Genuine vintage photograph of a USS unit. Note the cockades on the soldiers' field caps. The seal of the UCA is on the back of this photo.



UCA seal in red color, diameter 30 mm. Another example of a seal in black color, diameter 40 mm.

Austro-Hungarian Army badges worn by USS legionnaires during the First World War



German South Army badges.



Hofmann (25th) Corps badges.



55th Infantry Division badge. 129th Infantry Brigade badge. 131st Infantry Brigade badge.



Galicia and Bukovyna badges.



Zlota Lipa badge.

Zoruch Front badge.



Uzsok (Uzhok) Pass badges.



Kirlibaba badge.

Dorna Watra badge.



Grenade-thrower badge.

Machine-gunner badge.

Medical-service badge.



Patriotic badges issued by the Central Powers.





Lemberg (Ukrainian: Lviv) badges.



Brest-Litovsk Peace badges, 1918.



Top: Easter 1915 badge. Bottom, l-r: Christmas in the field badge, 1915; three Christmases in the field badge, 1916; four Christmases in the field badge, 1917.



L-r: FJI (Franz Josef I) gold bullion cockade worn by officers and K (Karl) zinc cockade worn by enlisted men.



USS non-commissioned officer (NCO) collar-tab rank insignia: white stars made of animal horn  
(by the end of war these stars were made of celluloid)

## USS Postcards

More than 200 USS postcards were issued during the years 1915-18. The size of postcards approximately 9 by 14 cm.



USS senior officers. Top, l-r: Commander Mykhailo Halushchynsky, Commander Antin Varyvoda. Bottom, l-r: Otaman Myron Tarnavsky, Otaman Semen Goruk.



USS officers (top, l-r) Dmytro Vitovsky, Zenon Noskovsky, (bottom, l-r) Hryhorii Kossak, and Osyp Yarymovych.



Ukrainische Legion in den Karpathen.  
Schwärmelinie am Wege zwischen Slawsko und Rožanka. 18. III. 1915.



*Сотник Роман Дудинський*



Clockwise from top left: action in the Carpathian Mountains; *Sotnyk* Roman Dudynsky; and *Sotnyk* Andrii Melnyk with his staff.

Ukrainische Schützen

Українські Стрільці



Acht Schützen vollenden das Denkmal in den Karpaten  
Всім у с. стрільців котрі перші будували пам'ятник на горі „Ключи“



Українські Солдати Стрільці,  
Сотник Іван Косак, духовник Андрій Пшеницький,  
малар Клієн Бурманюк, папубовник Іринько Косак, хорунжий  
Володимир Свидерський, хорунжий Василь Косак.

USS legionnaires at the USS monument in the Carpathian Mountains.  
Six USS officers: (l-r) Ivan Kossak, Andrii Pshepiursky, Yuliiian Butsmaniuk, Hryhorii Kossak,  
Volodymyr Svydersky, and Vasyl Kossak.



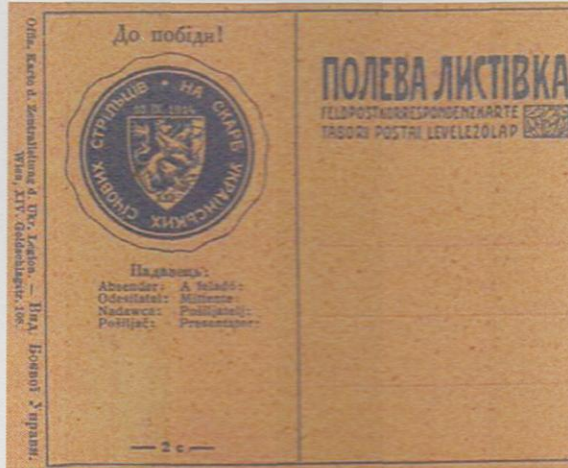
Lady-Legionnaires, Olena Stepaniv (top) and Sofia Halechko.



USS Postage Seals and Stamps



USS postage seals.



Fragment of the standard USS field postcard.



Series of ten USS stamps-labels (various colors shown).

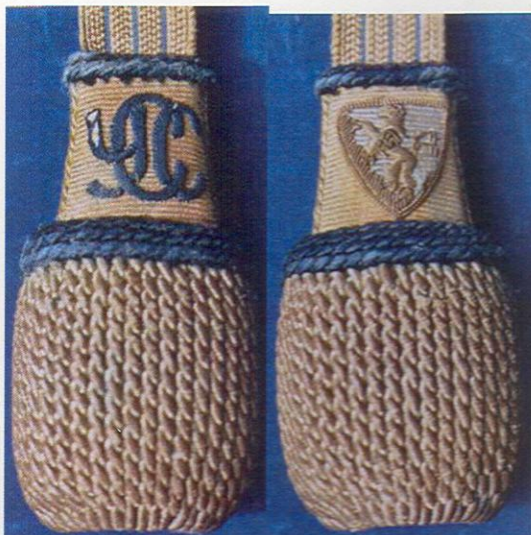
Other USS Items



Sterling silver USS ring. Shield with a rampant lion in blue and yellow enamel and inscription "ВІЙНА 1914-16" (WAR of 1914-16) in blue enamel.



Sterling silver USS ring depicting a legionnaire holding a shield with a rampant lion and the inscription "1914 YCC."



USS officer's bayonet knot.<sup>36</sup> Made of gold and blue bullion, with the blue letters "YCC" on one side and the blue shield with a gold rampant lion on another side. Total length 39 cm. The NCO's bayonet knot was made of yellow and blue wool. USS sword knots were also available.



Carved NCO's bayonet handle with inlaid blue glass beads and attached yellow celluloid letters "YCC". An example of trench art.



Extremely rare USS legionnaire's steel belt buckle painted gray. At the base of the rock beneath the rampant lion is the embossed mark "GES GESCH" (German abbreviation for "patented"). Dimensions 54 by 66 mm. Very few of these belt buckles were made in Vienna in late 1918.<sup>6</sup>

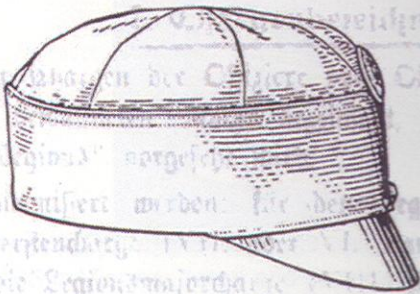


USS officer's belt buckle with engraved rampant lion in the center, instead of standard two-headed eagle. Dimensions 55 by 40 mm.

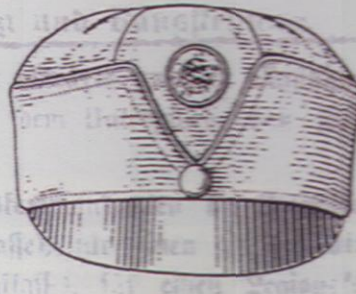


USS field cap called "Mazepynka" in honor of Hetman Ivan Mazepa, with badge 21 and faded cockade-rosette on left side. One reference<sup>13</sup> states that legionnaire Dmytro Katamai designed this type of cap before WWI.

6. Als Feldkappe wird eine Kappe nach besonderem Schnitt — siehe Abbildungen 1 bis 3 — getragen. Die Kappenrosette trägt das nationale Emblem (den ukrainischen Löwen) und als Umschrift die Buchstaben „U. C. C. 1914“ (Ukrainische Sfitzshower Schützen, 1914).



1. Seitenansicht.



2. Vorderansicht.



3. Kappenrosette.

Paragraph from the official Austro-Hungarian Army document<sup>7</sup> that allowed USS legionnaires to wear "Mazepynka" with the "Ukrainian Lion" badge (see badges 12 and 12a).



Brass Sich Rifleman belt buckle with the trident and letters "CC". Trench art. Dimensions 63 by 49 mm.



Sterling silver and niello cigarette case. A gift made for the Sich Rifleman. Note letters "CC". Dimensions 61 by 48 by 23 mm.

## Price Lists in 1917



Українська мистецька накладня.  
(Ukrainischer Kunstverlag.)

## Цінник.

Адреса до замовлення: Hauptkassens der Zentralleitung  
des ukrainischen Legion, Wien, VIII, Ledbergasse 20.

### I. Брошури:

1. „Українські Січові Стрільці в Карпатах“. а) Західний папір без оправи по 1 20 К; б) кредитний папір без оправи по 1 50 К; в) кредитний папір в оправі 2 К.
2. „Над Золотою Липою“. а) Західний папір без оправи по 1 20 К; б) кредитний папір без оправи 1 50 К; кредитний папір в оправі 2 К.
3. „Бой коло Потурго“. Західний папір без оправи 0 80 К.
4. „Стрільчий Альманах“ 1917; в оправі 10 К.
5. „Стрільчий Світанок“ з нотами і образами 2 50 К.
6. „Стрільчий шлях“, стрілецькі боєві пісні 1914—1916, на 4 голоси 1 50 К.
7. „Стрільчий пісень“ на фортеп'яно, I випуск з 20 пісень 2 80 К.
8. „Ukrainische Legion“ 80 сот.

### II. Ластівки:

1. Срібнодруки віденські і берлінські по 25 сот. Виданя першорядної якості:

1. Похід У. С. С. в дощя, 2. У. С. С. на змавку в Варшаві, 3. Престолонасідники арх. Карло у У. С. С., вид з б. жу, 4. Арх. Карло у стрільців, вид з пеєду, 5. Гресь Косак з братями, о. Пешпорський, Бушаківський і Свідерський, 6. Сот. В. Дідушок, 7. В. Сандерський, 8. Др. Кост. Левинський і Мак. Василько, 9. Українська Боева Управа 31./3. 1915, 10. Стежа І. Бегеуляка, 11. Стежа попри верби, 12. От. Сень Горук, 13. Сот. Клям Гутковський, 14. Офіцерський Збір в Вісню 22./9. 1915, 15. Сот. Роман Дудякський, 16. М. Галуцінський, командант У. С. С. в р. 1914, 17. Гресь Косак, командант У. С. С. в р. 1915—16, 18. Антін Баранець, командант У. С. С. в р. 1916, 19. Франц Кіраль, командант У. С. С. в р. 1916—17, 20. Сот. Зенон Носковський, 21. От. М. Тарнавський, 22. Сот. Осип Букіюваній, 23. Сот. Осип Яримович, 24. Кошовий Др. Нікіфор Гриняк, 25. Сот. Телзор Рижаківський, 26. Сот. Іван Косак, 27. Мат. ошвет Екст. Андрій гр. Шептицький, 28. Президент Др. Кость Левинський, 29. Посол Др. Євген Олесницький, 30. Посол Др. Кирило Трельовський, 31. Хорунжа Олена Степанівна, 32. Хорунжа Софія Галеску, 33. Куріний Василь Дідушок на коня, 34. В стрілецькій законі над Стрелою, 35. Машинний крик над Золотою Липою, 36. Прапор У. С. С. з обог сторін, 37. Прапорник з прапором У. С. С., 38. А. Мельник зі старшиною своєї сотні, 39. Сот. Др. Окелян Левинський, 40. От. Гресь Косак на коня, 41. Офіцерський збір Коша У. С. С., 42. Д. Катмай зі стрільцями, 43. Др. В. Старосольський, 44. Голова Центральної Управи У. С. С. др. С. Скальницький, 45. По бою 2—4. IX. 1916 на Лисоні, 46. Село Кінохія пам'яті бою 1. VII. 1917, 47. Стрільчий «в'їд на воєнній Виставі у Відні 1916—1917.

### 2. Сніг пам'ятки по 10 сот.

1. Сот. Бурлаківський зі своєю старшиною, 2. Віденський дружина Яримовича, 3. Гресь др. Яримовича, 4. Василько, 5. Обка, 6. Добач до бейлі від Соколицяк 2. і 3./XI. 1915, 7. Похід обид, 8. Стежа свідать Іванів з ошво, 9. Віснюк свідать до укріплень, 10. Кошовий воєвода на Стрелі, 11. Варій дровняк поєду, 12. Вона Архистрої Герцга.

### 3. Темні пам'ятки по 10 сот.

1. Гресь Максим, 2. Стрільці на карті над Стрелами, 3. Кость Савосла (190—1912), 4. Король Давид († 1204), 5. Гетьман Богдан Хмельницький, 6. Гетьман Іван Мазепа.
4. Ластівка в красці: „За мило Україною“ по 20 сот.
5. Ластівка біла з сиво-жовтими лямом по 10 сот.
6. Північ ластівка по 2 сот.

### III. Марки стрілецькі, 10 шпірлі по 2 сот.

### IV. Ластівки залізні по 2 сот.

### V. Віденські емальові по 2 К 50 сот.

1. Лес в проміно з обидом, 2. „Не радий з добрий“, 3. „У. С. С. 1914“ на сніж поля.

### VI. Віденські металеві:

1. Лес в проміно з жовтого металю з обидом по 1 К 50 с., 2. з білого металю по 1 К 50 с., 3. шпальці по 80 с., 4. Лес окучки білий з жовтими по 60 с., 5. з дружиною по 80 с.; 5. Віденські „У. С. С.“ металю, по 2 К 50 с.

### VII. Віденські пелюшкової:

1. „З. У. Р. 20./X. 1914“ з жовтими лямом по 20 с.; 2. „У. С. С.“ з металю обидом по 50 с.; 3. Червоні брідки „У. С. С.“ на сиво-жовтій ошво по 50 с.

### VIII. Віденські зі стаміна: Сиво-жовті кокарди по 50 с.

### IX. Перстені срібні з емальовими лямом і шпальці „Вісню 1914—16“ по 4 К.

### X. Портрети:

Матрошкет А. Шептицький, виданя „З. У. Р.“ 24 см X 40 см, по 6 К.

### XI. Однострій У. С. С.:

1. Шпальці 10 К, 2. Офіцерські прапорики откерті по 24 К 50 с., 3. жовтими по 18 К, 4. Підоліцерські прапорики откерті по 14 К, 5. жовтими по 6 К 50 с., 6. Шпальці з лямом по 36 К, 7. Офіцерські багнеті з лямом по 19 К, 8. Офіцерський ремінь до шпальці з жовтими жовтими по 15 К, 9. Офіцерський ремінь до багнеті з жовтими жовтими по 19 К 50 с.

### XII. Збірка 15 укр. віданя в рамці 20 X 25 см, по 20 К.

Ластівка пам'ятки на лямом з ластівки, картки, брідки, віданя.

==== Дохід на стрілецькі ціли. ====

Price list printed on the fourth page of a folded letter-envelope<sup>3</sup> mailed by the Central Office of the USS in Vienna, dated and postmarked November 16, 1917. It states the prices of USS books, brochures, postcards, photos, postage stamps and seals, badges, cockades, rings, field caps, bayonet and sword knots, and so on. The profits were used for the benefit of the USS.





Для всіх!

## Відзнака Соборної України.

В році 1917 зійшла зоря свободи для України, зачали творити ся українські власти, українське правління, українське військо. На спомин тих великих подій, які ми пережили, купить з нас кожний, Українець чи Українка, цивільний чи воєк, відзнаку, подану тут вірно на образці, яка лучить оба українські герби: Св. Михайло з мечем і щитом, а на щиті лев. В горі напис „Україна“, в долинні рік 1917.

Чистий дохід з продажі тої прегарної відзнаки йде на закупню землі під „Український Город“ у Львові, щоби виховати в ній молодіж на характерних громадян і сильних стрільців. Здорова, сильна і характерна молодіж виборе для українського народу повагу в цілїм світі.

Відзнаки в виконанні двояко: 1. Відзнаки зі щильною (дружкою) по другій стороні мають ціну 1 К 20 сот. — 2. Відзнаки на ланцюжку, які можна присилити до годинника або засилити між коралі як джвач, мають з другого боку слїдуючу напись:

„Українці мусять лучити ся як Українці для оборони прав українського народу“ Михайло Грушевський. В році свободи 1917.

Відзнаки на ланцюжку, мають ціну 2 К. З правдивого срібла 10 К. на особну замову.

Треба жадати виразно: „Відзнака з дружкою“ чи „Відзнака на ланцюжку“.

Відзнаки можна купити там, де ся оновістка прибита.

Хто замовляє поштою, долучає на пошту 60 сот. Хто замовляє найменше 5 відзнак, дістає пошту і опакване даром. Хто замовляє найменше 5 відзнак, дістає даром пошту і опакване а надто купецький опуст. — Товариства, комітети можуть переняти відзнаки в розпродаж і отриманий опуст ужити на свої ціли.

Замовляти просимо на адресу: „Вісти з Запорожа“, Львів, ул. Руська ч. 20. („Saporozer-Nachrichten“, Lemberg, Ruskapasse 20.)

Another list with descriptions and prices for badges 15d, 15e, 16d and 16e. Photocopy is a courtesy of Stepan Pakholko.

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