

Basic Detail Report



Verdun Medal

Medium

Bronze

Description

A small circular medal struck in bronze. On the obverse, a helmeted female figure identified as Marianne, the national emblem of the French Republic, clutching a sword in her right hand, her left hand clenched in a fist, facing right, with the inscription "ON NE PASSE PAS" arching above her head. The artist's signature "S. E. Vernier / 1917" appears above her shoulder at the far left.

On the reverse, the double turrets of the Porte Chausee in Verdun are encircled by laurel leaves and the inscription "VERDUN / 21 FEVRIER / 1916." The cornucopia of the Paris Mint and the word "BRONZE" are stamped along the rim edge of the medal. The medal retains its original storage box of white paper-covered cardboard, the lid of which is stamped with a gilt crown. Also accompanying the medal is its original descriptive printed paper handbill, reading "TO THE HIGH CHIEFS, OFFICERS / SOLDIERS, TO ALL, / The heroes, known and unknown, / both dead and living, who have triumphed over the barbarians' onslaught / and immortalized her name throughout / the world and for ages to come, the / Town of Verdun, inviolate and standing on her ruins, dedicates this medal, / in token of her gratitude. / Paris, 20th November, 1916."

Dimensions

0.13 × 1.44 in. (0.3 × 3.7 cm)