

Basic Detail Report



Verdun Medal

Primary Maker

Emile Seraphin Vernier

Medium

Silver

Description

A small circular medal struck in silver. 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 "1ARGENT" are stamped along the rim edge of the medal. The medal includes its original presentation case of red leather-covered wood, with the interior lined in maroon plush and red silk, the word "VERDUN" stamped in gold across the top. 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."

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Dimensions

0.13 × 1.38 in. (0.3 × 3.5 cm)