

2022

**WAR IN UKRAINE
POSTAGE STAMPS**



Timeline of 2022 Ukraine War Stamps

February 24, 2022: Russia invades Ukraine. Warship *Moskva* (flagship of Russia's Black Sea fleet) reaches Snake Island and demands the surrender of the Ukrainian soldiers guarding it. The soldiers reply "Russian warship, go f*** yourself." The interaction captures international media attention.

February 24-25, 2022: Ukraine's famous "Dream" aircraft (Antonov An-225 Mriya) is destroyed in the Battle of Antonov Airport. The aircraft was the heaviest ever built and had the largest wingspan of any in operational service.

March 5, 2022: The Russian convoy to Kyiv (capital and most populous city of Ukraine) fails. Ukrainian civilians begin towing away abandoned Russian tanks with tractors. The convoy initially involved 40 miles' worth of Russian military vehicles who were halted in their march by Ukrainian resistance. By April 2nd, the entire Kyiv Oblast was declared free of Russian troops by the Ukrainian Ministry of Defense.

March 19, 2022: Video of Patron (a Jack Russell Terrier tasked with explosives detection) goes viral. The video was posted to social media by the State Emergency Service. In the video, Patron walks through debris while wearing a bulletproof vest inscribed with his name in Ukrainian. The video received over one million views across all platforms.

April 12, 2022: Ukraine issues the first Snake Island postage stamps. They quickly become hot commodities, with people around the world rushing to get their hands on them.

April 14, 2022: Ukraine sinks Russian warship *Moskva* 60-65 nautical miles south of Odessa. Russia moves the rest of its fleet back from the Ukraine coastline immediately following the sinking.

May 9, 2022: Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelensky awards Patron the Order of Courage for his work finding and defusing unexploded bombs and land mines left behind by the Russians. As of then, Patron had located 236 such explosives.

May 20, 2022: President Zelensky announces his intentions to complete a second An-225 aircraft to replace the Mriya "Dream" as a way to honor all Ukrainian pilots killed during the war with Russia.

May 23, 2022: Ukraine issues "Russian warship... DONE!" stamps honoring the sinking of *Moskva*.

June 2022: Ukraine retakes Snake Island from the Russians after a fierce 10-day battle. Also in June, Ukraine receives the first four High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems (HIMARS) from the US. They prove extremely effective, and the US promises to send more.

June 28, 2022: Ukraine issues a postage stamp honoring the An-225 Mriya "Dream" aircraft.

July 28, 2022: Ukraine issues "Good evening, we are from Ukraine" stamps picturing a Ukrainian tractor towing away a Russian tank.

August 24, 2022: Ukrainian Independence Day – Ukraine issues "Free, Unbreakable, Invincible" stamp to commemorate their continued quest for freedom against Russian tyranny.

August 30, 2022: Ukraine issues stamps commemorating famous explosive-detecting canine, Patron. Stamps raised money for Armtrac 400 de-mining vehicle as well as animal shelters.

October 8, 2022: An explosion destroys two sections of the Crimean Bridge connecting Russia and Crimea the day after Vladimir Putin's 70th birthday. No one officially takes credit for the attack, but Ukraine celebrates it as a tactical and political victory.

November 4, 2022: Ukraine issues a stamp celebrating the destruction of part of the Crimean Bridge on Russia's Unity Day. It pictures Kate Winslet and Leonardo DiCaprio from *Titanic*, a nod to Russia's inflated claims that the bridge was "unsinkable." Like the infamous passenger liner, the bridge couldn't live up to those claims.

November 9-11, 2022: The Armed Forces of Ukraine liberate the city of Kherson and force Russian troops to

withdraw to the left bank of the Dnieper river.

December 6, 2022: Ukraine issues “Weapons of Victory” stamp sheet picturing Ukrainian, American, and Turkish weapons used in defense of Ukraine.

December 9, 2022: Ukraine issues “Kherson is Ukraine!” stamp in honor of the city’s liberation from Russian control. The design pictures one of Kherson’s most famous products – watermelons – along with images of crimes that occurred while Russian troops occupied the city.

December 19, 2022: Ukraine issues “Victorious New Year!” stamp picturing the contest-winning design of 11th-grader Valeria Mykhaylova. It pictures a couple separated by the war with Russia, leaving each to spend the holiday season alone but still thinking of each other.

2022 Russian Warship – Ukraine



F Rate



W Rate

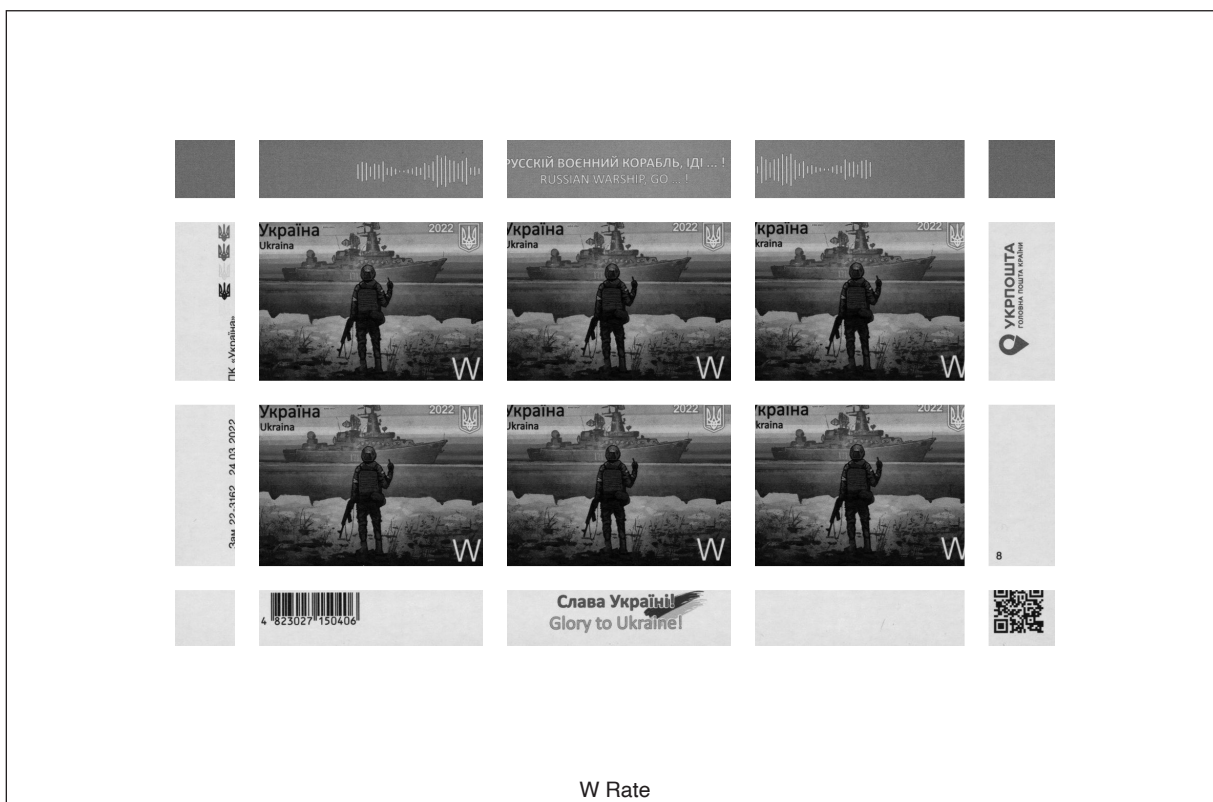
After Snake Island marines famously defied Russian warship *Moskva*, Ukraine hosted a postage stamp contest centered around their words “Russian warship, go f*** yourself.” The winner was 27-year-old Ukrainian artist, Boris Groh. When asked about the design, Groh said, “I wanted it to be artistic, but also faithful to life. I wanted the image of a small person set against this big unknown enemy, facing down a giant.”

2022 Russian Warship – Ukraine



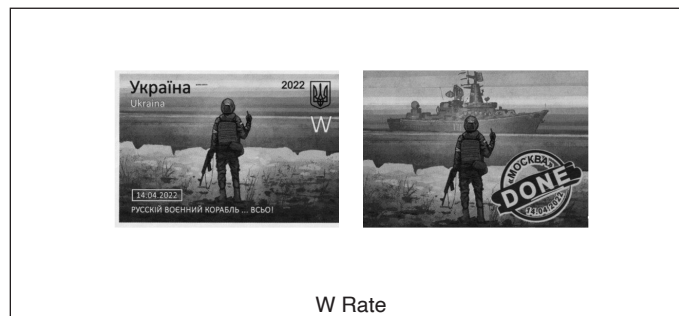
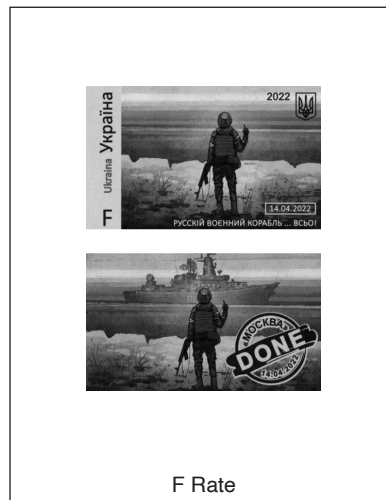
Ukraine issued both “F” and “W” rate stamps with the Snake Island design. The “F” rate stamps covered the cost of mail within Ukraine, while the “W” covered the international mail rate. The “W” stamps are slightly larger than the “F.” The selvage of both stamp sheets include the radio transmission sent from Ukrainian soldiers on Snake Island to the enemy aboard the *Moskva*.

2022 Snake Island – Ukraine



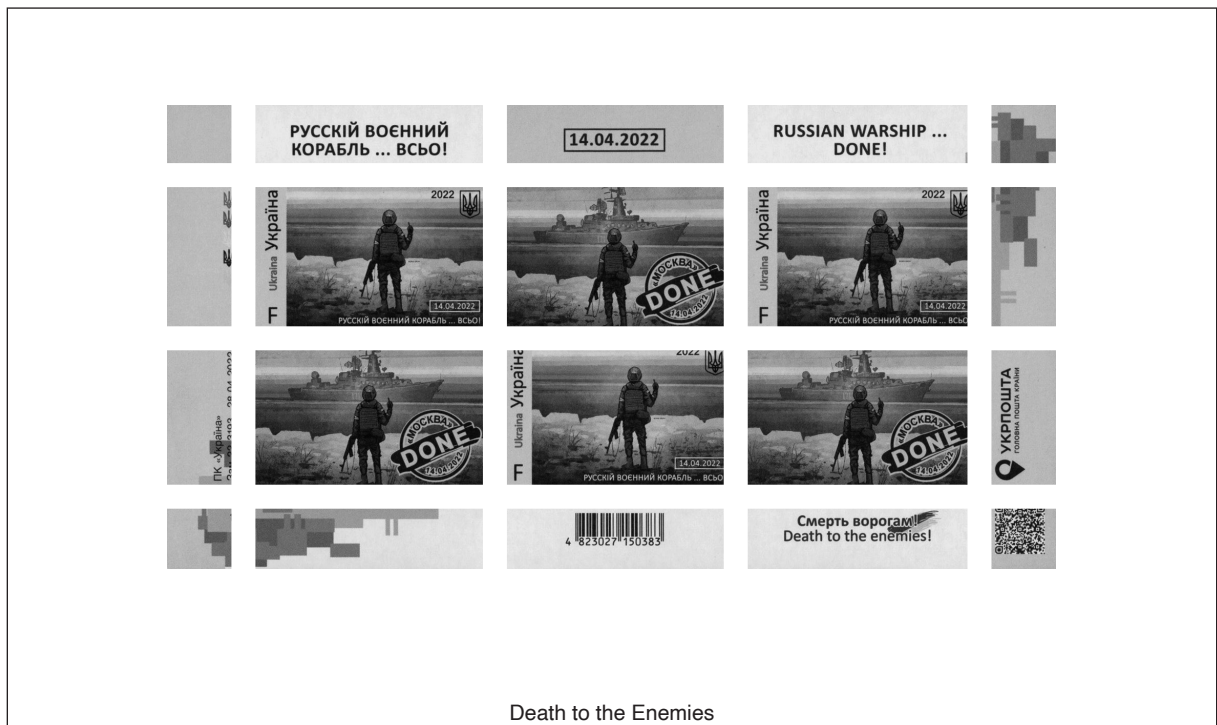
The Snake Island “F” and “W” rate stamps went on sale April 12, 2022. Ukrainians lined up for hours to buy the stamps, and quantities sold out quickly. The story captured international media attention, raising awareness for the plight of Ukraine and its citizens. The stamps also raised \$135,000 for Ukraine’s army.

2022 Russian Warship – DONE



Two days after the original Snake Island stamps were issued, Ukraine successfully sank the *Moskva*. About a month later, new stamps were released to commemorate this victory. Attached to each stamp is a label with the original stamp design and the words “Russian Warship, DONE!”

2022 Russian Warship – DONE



Death to the Enemies

Like the Snake Island stamps, the “Russian Warship, DONE!” stamps were also issued for the “F” and “W” rates. The difference this time was in the selvage of the sheets. The “F” rate sheet included the words “Death to enemies!” in English and Ukrainian, while the “W” rate sheet read “Glory to the nation!”

2022 Snake Island – Ukraine



The “Russian Warship, DONE!” stamps include the same soldier as the original Snake Island stamps, but with the warship conspicuously missing from the background, a nod to Ukraine’s destruction of the enemy ship. It also sent a clear message to the Russians – Ukraine was not just going to lie down and accept defeat.

2022 Ukraine Tractor



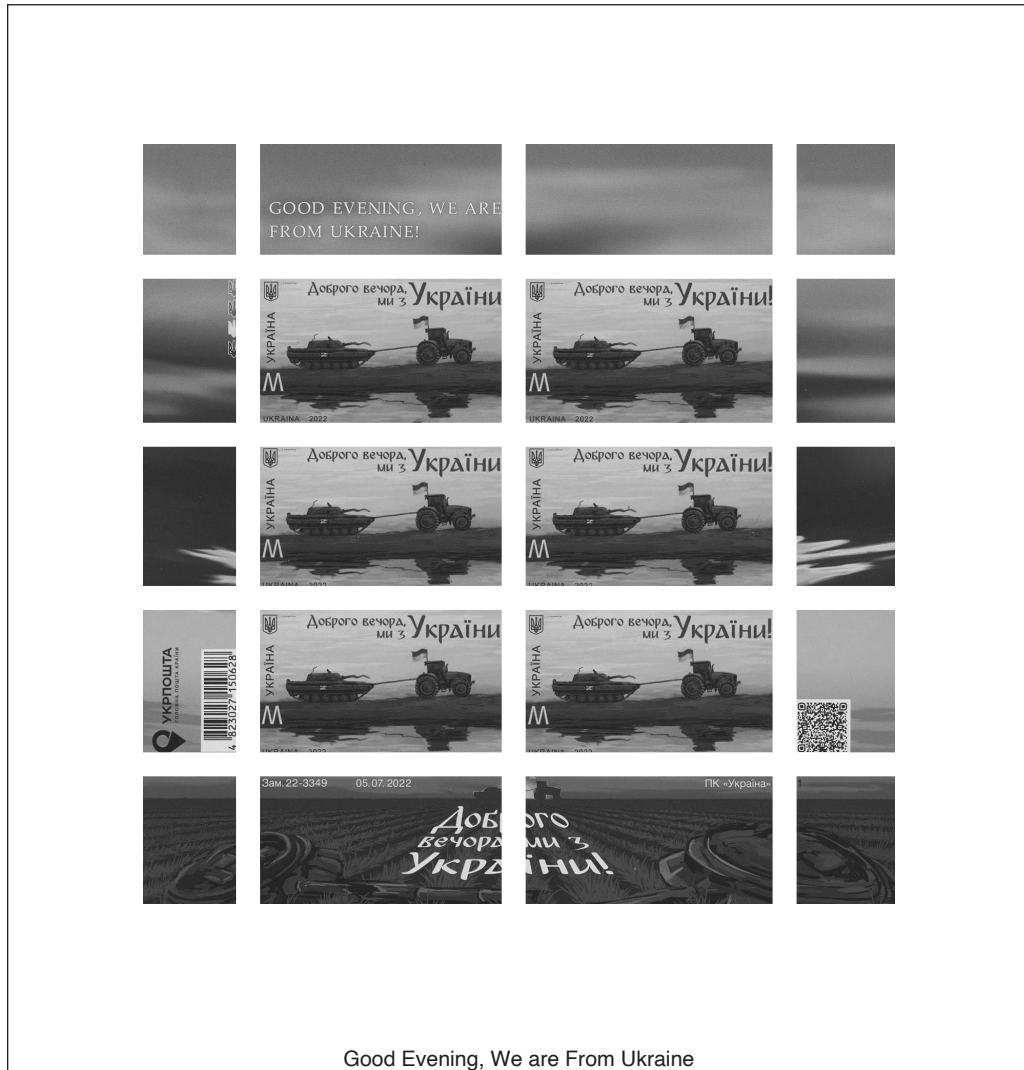
M Rate



W Rate

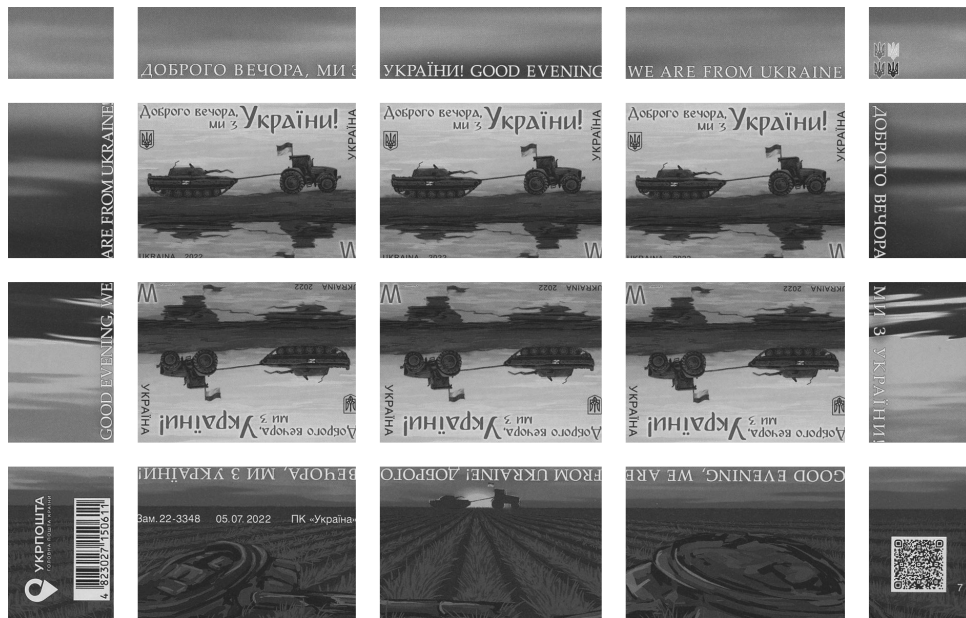
This stamp design was also chosen in a contest. It was one of 1,500 submissions and was chosen by the people of Ukraine. The text on the stamp reads “Good evening, we are from Ukraine!” It pictures a Ukrainian farmer towing away a disabled Russian tank.

2022 Ukraine Tractor



These stamps honor the Ukrainian farmers who found abandoned Russian tanks and took it upon themselves to drag them away. The Ukrainian government officially authorized farmers to sell the tanks for scrap, tax-free. This has made tractors an unofficial symbol of Ukrainian resistance against Russia.

2022 Ukraine Tractor



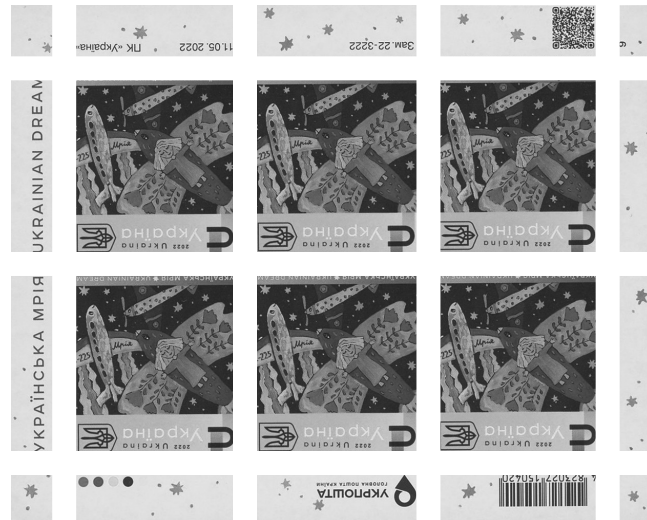
Good Evening, We are From Ukraine

“M” and “W” rate stamps were issued for the “Good evening, we are from Ukraine” design (“M” being another rate used for mail within Ukraine). Interestingly the two stamps were created as mirror images of each other, with the “W” rate stamps showing the true image and the “M” showing the reflection.

2022 Ukraine “Dream” Aircraft



Dream Aircraft



Ukrainian Dream

This stamp was released for Ukraine’s 30th anniversary of independence. It was chosen as part of a contest with the theme “What is Ukraine for me?” The winner (out of 10,000 entries) was 11-year-old Sofia Kravchuk. It pictures the world’s largest and most powerful transport aircraft, Ukraine’s AN-225 *Mriya* (“Dream”). The plane was destroyed by Russian shelling in February 2022, but Ukraine promised to rebuild it someday.

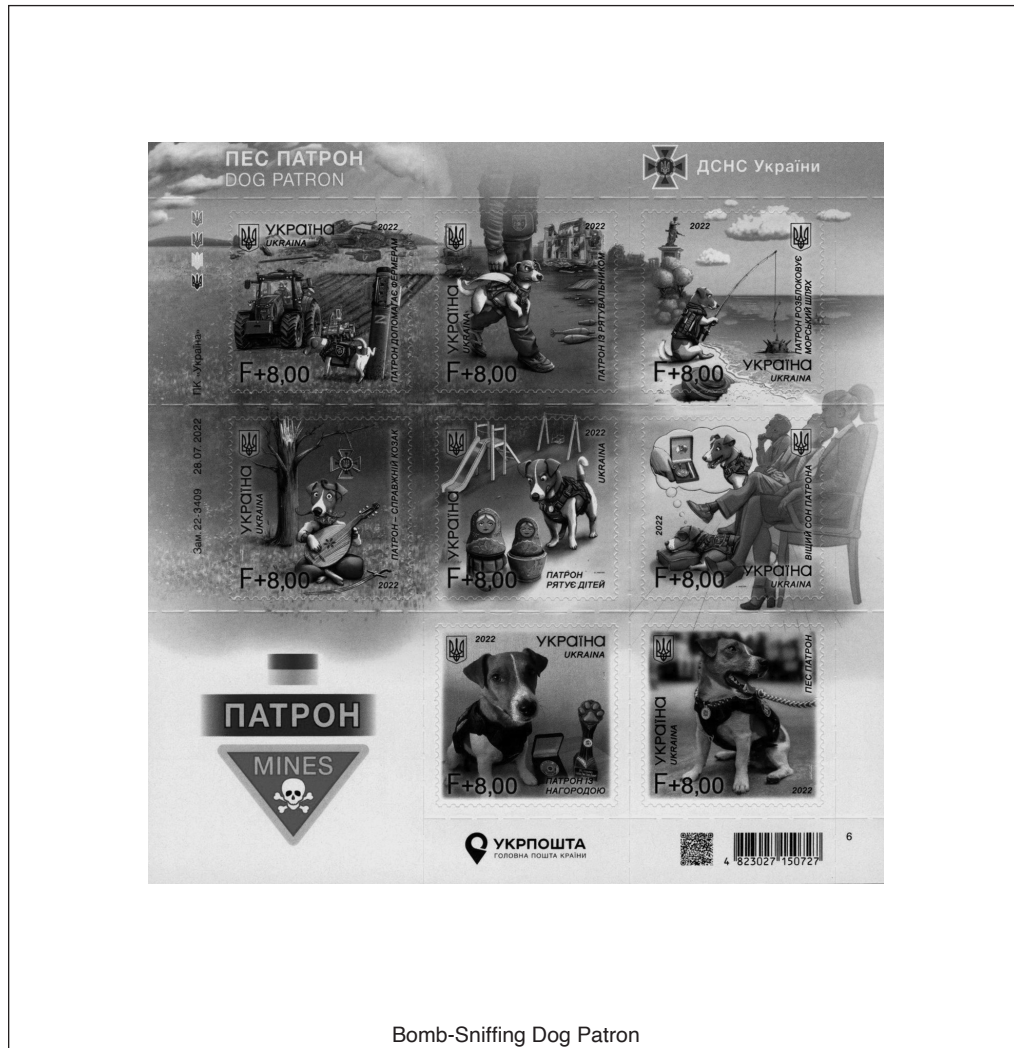
2022 Ukrainian Independence Day



Free, Unbreakable, Invincible

On August 24, Ukraine issued a new stamp and souvenir sheet for their Independence Day. The general director of Ukraine postal service said, “This year this day isn’t just an additional holiday, but a reminder for the whole world how expensive human freedom is. On August 24, we will have a kind of symbolic datee – exactly 6 months since Ukraine was forced again to defend its independence from enemies...”

2022 Ukraine – Patron



Bomb-Sniffing Dog Patron

These eight stamps picture Ukraine’s beloved detection dog, Patron. The Jack Russell Terrier became famous when he was awarded the Order of Courage for helping find and defuse unexploded ordnance left behind by Russian troops. As of early May 2022, Patron had helped find 236 such ordnance. This sheet pictures comic-style images of Patron on the job as well as in humorous situations (such as urinating on Russian explosives).

2022 Ukraine



After months of fighting and months of patriotic postage stamps telling the Russians exactly where to stick it, Ukraine sent a new message in early October 2022. This stamped envelope includes a cachet picturing the back of Putin’s head with the arm of a Ukrainian soldier pushing him forward. Under the image are the words “Welcome to Hell” in Ukrainian.

2022 Ukraine Crimean Bridge



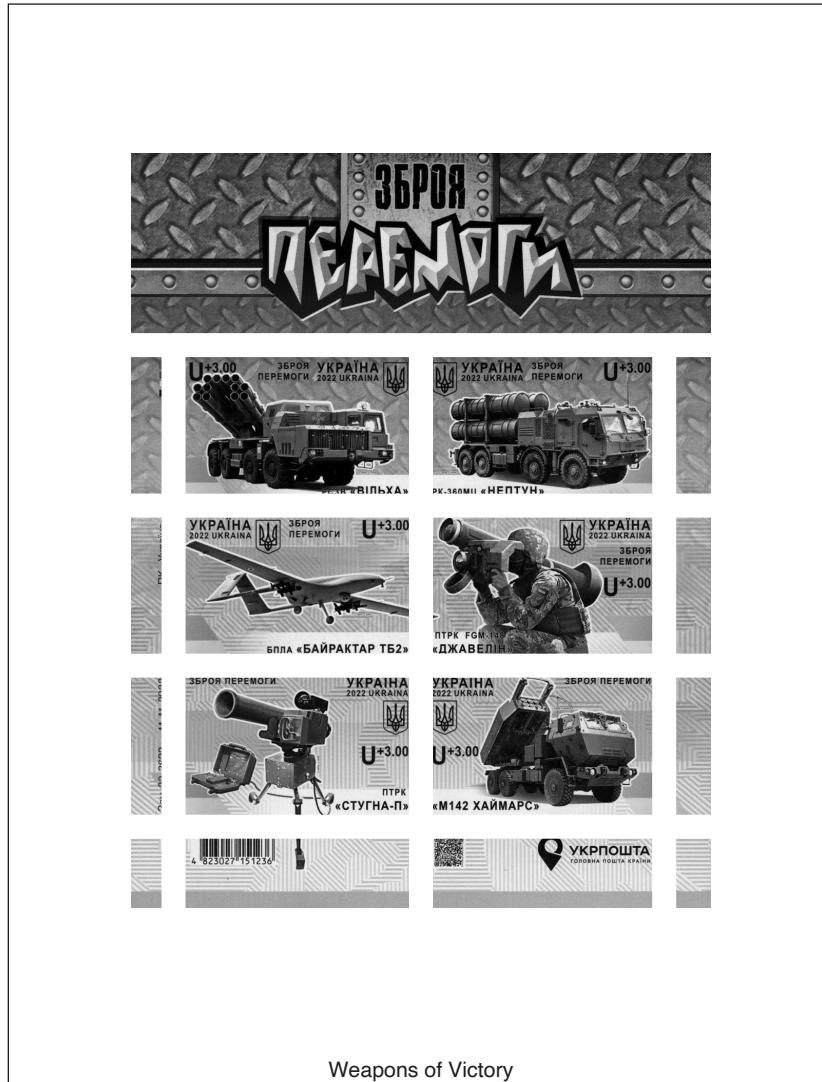
This stamp was issued on November 4th, also Russia's Unity Day, in celebration of the October 8th explosion that destroyed two sections of the Crimean Bridge. The stamp design for the event pictured the famous scene from *Titanic*, a nod to Russia's inflated claims that the Crimean Bridge was "unsinkable." Like the infamous passenger liner, the bridge couldn't live up to those claims.

2022 Ukraine Crimean Bridge



When you look closely at the Crimean Bridge sheet, you'll see a number of design details symbolizing Ukraine's resistance against Russia. The words at the top of the sheet changed the name of the Crimean Bridge from Russian to Ukrainian, a reference to Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea in 2014. There's also a cigarette in the stamp design, a taunt to Russian soldiers smoking in dangerous areas, causing fires and explosions.

2022 Ukraine Weapons of Victory



These stamps picture Ukrainian and foreign weapons being used to fight back against Russia. Includes Ukrainian, American, and Turkish weapons. Ukraine's postal service said of the stamps "it is more important than ever to show respect and support to the military, who tirelessly defend the borders and repel enemy attacks."

2022 Kherson is Ukraine



Kherson is Ukraine!



Kherson is Ukraine!

This stamp was released to celebrate Ukraine's liberation of Kherson from Russian occupation. The watermelon shows images that occurred during Russian occupation. A slice of watermelon was chosen because the region is famous for growing them.

2022 Victorious New Year



The design for this stamp was by 11th grader Valeria Mykhailova, one of many people forced to flee the country after the war with Russia began. It's a reminder of the many families who didn't get to spend the holidays because of the war. Igor Smelyansky (CEO of Ukrposhta) said he wanted the stamp to symbolize Ukraine's "invincibility...against all odds" and a hope for Ukraine's final victory in the coming year.