Leonid Konstantinovich Artamonov was born on 25 February 1859 in Kiev, and died in St. Petersburg (Leningrad) on 1 January 1932. After graduating from the Liceé Militaire in Kiev, he attended the Konstantinovsky Military School and the Mikhailovsky Artillery School. He was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant (sous-lieutenant) in the 20th Artillery Brigade (Figure I), and as a member of this unit took part in the Alkhal-Tekin expedition.

Returning to the capital, he attended and graduated from the Nikolayevsky Engineering School and went on to study at the General Staff Academy (Figure II). With the submission of his findings on the Alkhal-Tekin oasis, he was invited to join the Imperial Geographic Society. In addition, he published several reports dealing with his travels and explorations in Turkey, Asia, Persia, and Afghanistan.
By 1889, at the age of 30 (Figure III), Artamonov had already been awarded several orders. He is shown wearing a group consisting of the St. Vladimir Order, 4th Class; St. Anne Order, 3rd Class with Swords; St. Stanislaus Order, 3rd Class with Swords; and (tentative identification) small gold or small silver "For Zeal" (Za Zuerdiye) medal, Alexander II coinage on the ribbon of the White Eagle Order. The school badge is probably that of the General Staff Academy or the combined badge for the graduates of both that institution and the Mikhailovsky Artillery Academy.

Artamonov was promoted to Colonel in 1896 and in 1897 took part in an expedition to Abyssinia organized under the auspices of Menelik II. There he distinguished himself by reaching the sources of the White Nile where he raised the flag of France, as stated in the accord between Menelik and the government of France.

A photograph taken of Artamonov in 1899 in St. Petersburg (Figure IV) reveals the following orders insignia and decorations: at the neck - St. Vladimir Order, 3rd Class; below, on the fold of the tunic - St. Stanislaus Order, 2nd Class; Group - first four pieces as in Figure III; Medal Commemorating the Reign of Alexander III; Nicholas II Coronation Medal (awarded to all soldiers on active duty in Moscow or St. Petersburg at that time); Medal Commemorating the Campaigns in Central Asia (founded in 1896 for actions not qualifying for previous campaign commemorative medals); Medal Commemorating the First General Census of the Population, 1896;
FIGURE III.
ARTAMONOV, AGE 30.

FIGURE IV.
ST. PETERSBURG, 1899