Order of St. Anne

Although it was certainly not a wound medal *per se*, there appears to be consistent agreement on the part of those cited that the Order of St. Anne was sometimes awarded to officers wounded in the performance of acts of bravery or gallantry. According to Werlich (1981) the Order of St. Anne was originally created in one class by Duke Charles Frederick of Schleswig-Holstein in memory of his wife, Anna Petrovna, daughter of the Emperor, Peter the Great. Despite the coincidence of names, the order is said to have been named for St. Anne, mother of the Virgin Mary and the patron saint of pregnant women. Subsequently established as a purely Russian Order in April of 1797, it was reorganized into three classes, all of which gave entitlement to hereditary nobility. Of these, the 3rd Class was commonly worn as a medallion at the hilt of the sword. In 1818 the Emperor Alexander I added a 4th Class; recipients of which were entitled to personal, but not hereditary nobility. This was sometimes worn as a breast badge from a 28 mm ribbon in red with very narrow yellow margins. It was, however, more commonly attached to the saber with a swordknot of 15-20 mm wide material in the colors of the Order. S. G. Yasinitsky notes that sabers embellished in this way were referred to as “St. Anna’s swords”.

The insignia is described as circular, approximately 30 mm in diameter and surmounted by a gold imperial crown with the inscription “FOR BRAVERY” (Werlich 1981; Yasinitsky, 1989, pers. comm.). The medallion carried a red enamel Cross on a gold background, and was enclosed by a red enamel band.

Professor Orlov has drawn attention to the distinction between the Order of St. Anne and what was known as this insignia of the Order of St. Anne. The latter was similar in design to the 4th Class of the Order of St. Anna. However, the insignia took the form of a medal, and was worn on a ribbon of the Order rather than attached to the sword. Instituted on 12 November 1796, it was awarded to non-commissioned officers and private soldiers for 20 years of “.... irreproachable service ....”. Long service awards to the Russian military were subsequently terminated on 11 July 1864. The insignia was then used only for recognition of bravery and distinguished combat service until 12 December 1881, when long service awards to noncommissioned officers were reinstituted. A bow of ribbon material 22 mm in width was then added to the ribbon to distinguish “.... especially meritorious service in battle ....”. Again, this was taken as inclusive of wounds and injuries sustained in combat.

Cross of St. George

Professor Victorov notes that an uncle, V. I. Bogolyubsky, seriously wounded in action, received the 4th Class of the Order of St. George. While expressing uncertainty as to whether the decoration was awarded as a consequence of his injuries, or for bravery or distinguished service, he also refers to a statement by G. K. Zhukov in his autobiography, “Recollections and Meditations”. In this, the Marshal commented that he had twice been awarded the St. George Cross; on the first occasion for distinguished service in capturing a German officer, and subsequently because he had been seriously wounded. However, two viewpoints have apparently been expressed in the Russian literature dealing with this award. One school of thought holds that only recipients of the St. George Cross would receive an additional Cross in consequence of wounds sustained; others contend that all who were wounded were eligible for the decoration.
Whatever the case, the Military Order of the Great Martyr and Victor, St. George, was one of the most honored of Czarist Russia. Created in four classes by Catherine the Great on 26 November 1769, it was exclusively to officers for gallantry in action or for exceptionally distinguished service. The statutes governing the Order evidently were revised a number of times. To the extent that they pertained to awards in the 4th Class, those of 1913 are of particular interest. These state that all initial awards of the Order were to be at the lowest lever. Recommendations could be made only by a senior officer, and had to be submitted within two months of the incident in question. Werlich (1981) notes that officers who condoned any misrepresentations of the facts on which their recommendations were based were themselves subject to Court Martial. Decisions on awards were to be made by local Councils of seven Order members or, if such a council could not be convened for some reason, by the permanent Council of the Order in St. Petersburg. Admission to the Order included significant benefits. Members of the Order could not be forced into retirement, and were eligible for special pensions. Recipients were also accorded promotion to the next rank provided that they met minimum seniority requirements.

The badge of the Order, a gold rimmed, white enamelled Cross, was distinguished by class only in respect to size. That for the 4th Class of the Order was 35 mm from arm to arm and was suspended from an orange moire ribbon with three equally spaced black stripes. A central circular gold medallion portrayed a mounted figure of St. George on a red enamel background slaying the dragon.

Wound Stripes

Wound insignia were also authorized for both officers and enlisted men. These are described in an article which appeared in the Russian Military-Historical Journal (1990, No. 6), and were brought to our attention by Professor Victorov. According to this article, Order No. 710 of 1916 authorized the provision of Wound Stripes for individuals returning to active duty following hospitalization for wounds, shell-shock or exposure to poison gas. They were sewn horizontally on the sleeve of the blouse or tunic above the wrist. To judge from the illustration provided, these stripes were roughly 3-5 by 40-50 mm. Gold stripes were worn by officers. Those of noncommissioned officers and enlisted personnel were red.

Order of St. Olga

Finally, there has been considerable diversity of opinion expressed with respect to the Order of St. Olga and the terms under which it was awarded. Mr. Acovic (pers. comm., 1990) suggested that it had been founded after the October Revolution, and was generally awarded by the White Army Command. Mr. Yasinitsky, on the other hand, believed that it had been established in 1917, immediately prior to the Revolution, and was intended as a next-of-kin decoration for the mothers and widows of officers lost in battle (pers. comm., 1990). Documentation provided by the Central State Military-Historical Archives of the USSR clarifies the situation.

The Order was created by Tsar Nicholas II in the autumn of 1914 as a decoration reserved exclusively for women. It was intended as a distinction recognizing excellence in State and public service, as well as humanitarian activities such as nursing and participation in charitable work. However, the regulations governing the Order also provided that it could be awarded in recognition of the sacrifices of "... the mothers of officers who had rendered heroic services sufficient to warrant immortalization in the annals of the Fatherland....".
Several designs were apparently considered, with the final selection being that of the Chief Administrator of the Tsaroskoe Selo Palace, Major General M. C. Putiatin. There is evidence that the Empress Aleksandra Fedorovna participated in the design process as well.

The Order consisted of three Classes. The 1st Class badge was in the form of a gilt-edged, light blue enamel cross. On the obverse, a central gilt-edged medallion bore a picture of St. Olga on a field of gold. The reverse carried the inscription "21 FEBRUARY 1613-1913", commemorating the 300th anniversary of the House of Romanoff. The 2nd Class of the Order was in all respects similar to the 1st except that silver rather than gold was used for detailing. The 3rd Class badge was an oval medallion upon which was superimposed a Cross of the type described. All were worn on a white ribbon or left shoulder sash.

The documentation provided by the Military-Historical Archives states that only one person, Vera Nicholaeva Panaeva, widow of Lieutenant Colonel Arkadji Panaev, actually received the Order of St. Olga. An imperial rescript dated 2 April 1916, authorizing the award of the 2nd Class of the Order of St. Olga is presently held by the Central Archives in Moscow. Three of Madame Panaeva’s four sons, Captain Boris Arkad’ev, Staff Captain Gurii Arkad’ev and Captain Lev Arkad’evich Paneav of the 12th (Akhtyrskji) Hussar Regiment were killed in action on 13 and 29 August 1914, and 19 January 1915, respectively. All were posthumously awarded the Order of St. George in the 4th Class. A younger son, Sub-Lieutenant Platon Arkad’evich Paneav, of the Imperial Russian Navy, apparently survived the war.

**Soviet Awards**

**Wound Stripes**

As had been the case in World War I, wound stripes were instituted during the Great Patriotic War for award to individuals incurring wounds and/or injuries attributable to enemy action. Professor Orlov notes that two types were awarded. Yellow (i.e., "gold") stripes mounted on a dark brown cloth base, measuring about 6 by 43 mm, designated serious wounds. For less serious injuries and wounds, a red stripe, similarly mounted, and measuring roughly 6 by 38 mm was provided. Indicative of the significance to be attached to these awards, they were worn on the uniform tunic above all other orders, decorations and medals.

We have found no reference, nor was any made by those cited, to the diamond-shaped patches referred to by Zabrylo (1988).

**Orders**

Although the Soviet government did not authorize a specific wound medal prior to, or during the Great Patriotic War, a number of orders and decorations were granted to individuals sustaining wounds or injuries as a consequence of enemy action. Among these were (infrequently) the Order of the Red Banner and Order of Glory, and more commonly, the Orders of the Patriotic War and Red Star. In addition, awards of Medals for Valor and Combat Service, the Partisan Medal and possibly others were apparently also made in this context. All are illustrated in the recent series of articles by Lifka which should be consulted for additional details.