Multinational Division Central-South Commemorative Medal (Medal Pamiątkowy Wielonarodowej Dywizji Centrum-Południe), an unofficial commemorative; 3) UNITED NATIONS - UNMIL (United Nations Mission in Liberia) Medal; 4) The Mongolian medal for overseas/peacekeeping operations; 5) Unknown Mongolian medal (possibly a Ministry of Defense award). His badges (below the medals and above his right pocket) also have yet to be positively identified, as they are also new (post-1992). Finally, in Figure 20, is a Soviet officer awarded the order (and a number of other interesting Mongolian – as well as Soviet – awards), Colonel-General A. D. Lizichev.4

Finally, in Figure 20, is a Soviet officer awarded the order (and a number of other interesting Mongolian – as well as Soviet – awards), Colonel-General A. D. Lizichev.5

**Figure 20: Colonel-General A. D. Lizichev.**

**Representative Group**

To show the order in the full and proper context in which it appears, I present here just one group, that to Colonel (at least) Byamba Gezget of the Mongolian construction army forces. At present, research is still ongoing through sources in Mongolia. Colonel Byamba Gezget was awarded a respectable number of orders, though many are suspected to have been for long service. His orders (Figure 21), in order: Sukhbaatar Order, Order of the Red Banner of Combat Valor, Order of the Red Banner of Labor and, on the second row, Order of Combat Valor, Order of the Polar Star, and a second Order of the Polar Star. His Order of Combat Valor (#1663, Type 1.2) (Figure 22) is unfortunately undocumented, though it is almost surely a long service award (as, I suspect, are all except his Red Banner of Labor and first Polar Star).

**Figure 21: Orders awarded to Colonel Byamba Gezget.**

**Figure 22: Colonel Gezget’s Type 1.2 Order of Combat Valor #1663.**

His other medals are (Figure 23): Honorary Medal of Combat, a second Honorary Medal of Combat, Honorary Medal of Labor, Medal “We Won,” Medal “50th Anniversary of the Victory at Khalkin Gol,” Medal “50 Years of the Mongolian People’s Army,” Medal “30th Anniversary of the Victory over Militaristic Japan,” Medal “40 Years of the Victory at Khalkin Gol,” Medal “60 Years of the Mongolian People’s Revolution,” Medal “60 Years of the Armed Forces of the MPR,” Medal “70 Years of the Mongolian People’s Revolution,” Medal of Brotherhood in Arms, Soviet Victory over Japan Medal, and Russian Marshal Zhukov Centenary Medal.

**Figure 23: Orders awarded to Colonel Byamba Gezget.**

His other medals are (Figure 23): Honorary Medal of Combat, a second Honorary Medal of Combat, Honorary Medal of Labor, Medal “We Won,” Medal “50th Anniversary of the Victory at Khalkin Gol,” Medal “50 Years of the Mongolian People’s Army,” Medal “30th Anniversary of the Victory over Militaristic Japan,” Medal “40 Years of the Victory at Khalkin Gol,” Medal “60 Years of the Mongolian People’s Revolution,” Medal “60 Years of the Armed Forces of the MPR,” Medal “70 Years of the Mongolian People’s Revolution,” Medal of Brotherhood in Arms, Soviet Victory over Japan Medal, and Russian Marshal Zhukov Centenary Medal.

And his badges are (Figure 24): Honorary Badge of the Ministry of Defense, The Outstanding Construction Worker of the MPR, The Record of the People’s Army, The Outstanding Construction Worker of the Army, 50 Years of the Great Construction, 60 Years of the Great Construction, and Shockworker of the 6th Five Year Plan.

**Figure 24: Colonel Gezget’s Type 1.2 Order of Combat Valor #1663.**
Figure 23: Medals awarded to Colonel Gezget.

Figure 24: Colonel Gezget's badges.
Conclusion

The Mongolian Order of Combat Valor is one of the more common Mongolian awards (though probably only awarded fewer than 8,000 times) and, although one of the latest to be instituted, it is one that says a great deal about the Mongolian awards system.

Acknowledgments:

Anyone who undertakes to discuss Mongolian awards must begin with a debt of gratitude to Dr. Achitsaikhan Battushig, president of the Mongolian Phaleristic Association and author of the classic and groundbreaking *Mongolian Orders, Badges & Medals*. In my case, it is both a personal and phaleristic debt that I need to acknowledge here and Battushig’s ongoing advice, assistance, and friendship has helped to make this article possible in more ways than I can express. I also thank him, Jan Van de Vel, and other wise friends for reading through and commenting upon this article in draft form. Further, the willingness of e-friends at the Gentleman’s Military Interest Club online forum to share their wisdom, information, insights, and specimens has inexpressibly enriched this essay and special thanks are due to those forum members who have permitted me to use illustrations (specifically acknowledged above when they have permitted) of items in their collections. In addition, thanks are due to Chinzorig Chuluunbaatar, Alexei Merezhko, and Igor Moiseyev for helping me “feed my habit.”

Endnotes:

5. See http://gmic.co.uk/index.php?showtopic=5489&st=52; reproduced with permission.

Sources:


Gentleman’s Military Interest Club, “Order of Military Merit,” http://gmic.co.uk/index.php?showtopic=4237 (thread consulted October 3, 2007). (See also other related threads at the same site.)


IN MEMORY

Eugene Gabriel Ursual (1940-2008)

Longtime OMSA member (OMSA #1985) and Canadian medals and militaria dealer Eugene Gabriel Ursual died peacefully at home on June 10, 2008. He succumbed after a short battle with pancreatic cancer. Born in Kirkland Lake, Ontario, Canada on April 26, 1940, Eugene was educated at Carleton University in Ottawa. He joined the Royal Canadian Engineers as a young man and then proudly served 15 years with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. He left the Mounties in 1977, when he followed his dream and opened his own business as a military antiquarian. Eugene then dedicated the next 30 years of his life to medals, badges and other militaria—and honoring the memories of Canada’s veterans and soldiers.

Eugene’s own collecting interests were varied. At the top of the list were medals to the Canadian Siberian Expeditionary Force—which were not easy to find given the short-lived existence of this unit and small number of Canadians who served in it. Eugene also collected World War I Canadian trios, plaques and memorial crosses to every Canadian unit, Polar/Arctic medals, and Fenian Raid medals to local units.

Eugene is survived by his wife and business partner Tanya, son Michael, daughter Kathleen and ex-wife Joan. He will be dearly missed by them and his thousands of friends and colleagues around the world. Eugene was one of the last true “gentleman” who lived his life with integrity and generosity, making the world a better place because of it and all of us better people for having known him.

Tanya will continue to operate Eugene Ursual Military Antiquarian in Kemptville, Ontario (website: www.medalsofwar.com) for the foreseeable future and customers should expect to get the same level of professionalism and quality of materials.

Fred L. Borch