versions are minimal with the Soviet medal being slightly darker with an aluminium back plate to the ribbon and the Hungarian back plate being of brass or brass-colored metal.

Ribbon: 23mm, red, the Hungarian ribbon is somewhat lighter in shade.

Suspension: By a loop affixed to the top of the medal.

**Medal for Military Service (Figure 6)**

Obverse: A circular medal with a circular cog design, the upper part has wheat sheaves with a five-pointed star at the top. Inside a vertical rifle (AK-47) with magazine to the left. To the right the abbreviation “P.D.R.Y.” in Arabic. At the bottom an Arabic inscription meaning “Military Service.”

Reverse: Plain.

Size: 36mm diameter in bronze-gilt. There are two different versions of this medal of Soviet and Hungarian manufacture. As with the Combat Proficiency Medal the differences between the two are minimal and the back plates differ accordingly.

Ribbon: 23mm; three equal stripes of black, white and red with 0.5mm white edge stripes. The Hungarian ribbon has very fine white edges.

Suspension: A loop affixed to the top of the medal.

**15- and 20-Year Military Service Medals**

Obverse: A circular medal with a circular cog design, the upper part being wheat sheaves with a five-pointed, red five-pointed star at the top. Set diagonally across the center a rifle (AK-47), butt to the right and magazine lowermost. To the left of the rifle is the abbreviation “P.D.R.Y.” in Arabic. To the right above the rifle is an inscription in Arabic meaning “15-Years Military Service” or “20-Years Military Service” (Figure 7)

Reverse: Plain (Figure 8).
Size: 36mm diameter in silvered base metal of Hungarian manufacture.

Ribbon: 15 years: 23mm, equal stripes of black, white, and red, with a 3mm blue stripe in the center of the white stripe; 20 years: as above but with two 1mm blue stripes.

Suspension: A loop affixed to the top of the medal.

It appears that there is also, a medal commemorating 25 years military service. However evidence of this comes from a ribbon bar, and I have no proof as to whether the medal was ever manufactured. It is not known whether this service award was strictly limited to the army or if eligibility also encompassed the air force, navy and militias. Another source refers to these medals as Militia Long Service Medals.

10th (Figure 9), 15th (Figure 10) and 20th (Figure 11) Anniversaries of the Army Medals

Obverse: Slightly right of center, a helmeted bust of a soldier, with to the left the Arabic numerals for 10, 15 or 20 and above which is a red-enamelled star. To the right of the bust a green enamel branch. Between the base of the bust and the end of the branch the abbreviation “P.D.R.Y.” in Arabic. The proportions of the design differ slightly between the 10th anniversary medal and the others.

Reverse: 10th Anniversary: at the top the inscription “The Commemoration of the Tenth Anniversary of the Defence Forces” in Arabic; at the base the dates 1971-

1981. The 15th Anniversary Medal (Figure 10) and the 20th Anniversary Medal are blank on the reverse (Figure 11).

Size: 36mm diameter in bronze-gilt. The 10th Anniversary Medal is of Soviet manufacture, while the others are of Hungarian manufacture.

Ribbon:10th Anniversary: 24mm, light blue with a 5mm red central stripe.15th Anniversary: 23mm, light
blue with a 9mm white center stripe with two 2mm red stripes. 20th Anniversary: 23mm - light blue, a 9mm white center stripe with three 2mm red stripes. (Please note that all examples of the 20th Anniversary Medal seen have the 15th Anniversary ribbon – it may be that the correct ribbon was never issued.)

Suspension: A loop affixed to the top of the medal.

An enamelled version of the 1981 10th Anniversary Medal has also been seen. It is the same 36mm diameter but it appears from the damage to the rim that the white enamelling was added later and thus it may be that it is a medal which was subsequently enamelled (Figure 12).

Please note that while the designation of the 10th Anniversary Medal seems fairly self-evident, the attribution of the latter two medals is less clear as the 20th anniversary based on a commencement date of 1971 implies an anniversary date of 1991. While strictly feasible (unification with the north happened during the following year) it appears that such medals were available in the 1980s. It may be that the medals were also in some manner acknowledgement of long service pre-dating 1971 and even pre-dating independence in 1967 as another source has them identified as military long service medals.

15th Anniversary of Independence Medal (Figure 13)

Obverse: A circular medal bearing to the left a rim of a cog and to the right a vertical wheat sheaf. Uppermost, a five-pointed star and at the base on a red-enamel scroll, the Arabic letters “P.D.R.Y.” In the center the Radfan mountains and the figure 15.


Size: 36mm diameter, in bronze; possibly of Soviet manufacture.

Ribbon: 24mm of three equal stripes of red, light blue and red.

Suspension: A ring through a loop affixed to the medal.

Militia Medal (Figure 14)

Obverse: In the center the head of Ali Antar superimposed on a red five-pointed star, behind the uppermost point of which three flame points. At the bottom, on a red-enamel background, an Arabic inscription meaning “Always be ready.”

Reverse: Blank.