French Legion of Honor, Officer grade. The breast star is the 1st Class Order of the Rising Star of Bokhara (also known as the "Order of Noble Bokhara") of the Emirate of Bokhara, supposedly founded around 1860 and recognized by the Tsar in 1893. Another picture (Figure V), probably taken around 1899-1901, evidences more additions to the growing number of decorations: Breast Star of the Persian Sun and Lion Order, 3rd Class (in the lower button-hole) and the Grand Cross Star of the Order of Nichan-el-Anouar of the Sultanate of Tadjourah (French Somaliland), founded in 1887 and accepted into the French system of colonial orders in 1898.

In 1900 Artamonov was made Chief of Staff of the troops in Southern Manchuria. He was later promoted to Major General and for his activities against the Boxer rebels in China he was awarded a golden sabre with the inscription "Au Brave." Following his return from the Orient, he was given command of the 2nd Brigade, 31st Infantry Division, which saw action in Manchuria. In addition, in February 1904 he commanded the 8th Eastern Siberian Brigade (later upgraded to division) and after October 1904 he was made commander of the 54th Infantry Division. He commanded this division at the Battle of Mukden during the 1905 Russo-Japanese War. This brought him the St. Stanislaus Order, 1st Class with Swords, and the St. Anne Order, 1st Class with Swords.

FIGURE V.
ARTAMONOV, ST. PETERSBURG
In January 1906 he was made pro-tempore commander of the Eastern Siberian Sharpshooters Division and held garrison duties in the far east outpost of Vladivostok. In July of that year he assumed command of the 22nd Infantry Division and the following year he was promoted to Lieutenant General. His new assignment, following this latest promotion, saw him as superior commander of troops in Kronstadt, in charge of fortification works (1907). In 1911 he commanded first the 16th, then the 1st Army Corps at St. Petersburg.

A photograph taken of Artamonov around 1911-1912 (Figure VI), depicts the general wearing the sash of the St. Anne Order, 1st Class with Swords; Star on the right breast: St. Anne Order, 1st Class with Swords. At the neck he is wearing the St. Stanislaus Order, 1st Class with Swords. The St. Vladimir Order, 3rd Class is moved to a lower position and partially covered. The group of medals is as in Figure III with the following additions: before the Legion of Honor are the Silver Commemorative Medal (Officer's type) for the Boxer Rebellion and the Commemorative Medal for the Russo-Japanese War (light bronze combattant type); after the Legion of Honor is the French "Palmes Academiques" decoration. The additional star on the left breast is the Grand Officer's Star of the Order of the Star of Ethiopia. The school badge is the normal General Staff Academy badge (not combined).
In 1913 Artamonov was promoted to full General. At the outbreak of hostilities against the Central Powers in 1914 he commanded the Russian First Army under Samsonov and took part in the offensive in East Prussia. After Tannenberg, where the Russians suffered a crushing defeat, Artamonov, along with other high-ranking Russian generals, was officially discredited. He was later rehabilitated however, and given the command of the garrisons of Lvov and Peremychl. During the latter part of the war he was posted to the Riga front and given command of the Siberian Sharpshooters.

The last picture of Artamonov shows him as he probably appeared during the initial phases of World War I (Front Cover). At the neck he wears the St. Vladimir Order, 1st Class badge (the St. Vladimir, 3rd Class, is still present but has been moved to a lower position along with the St. Stanislaus Order, 1st Class with Swords). In the group of medals, the 1896 Census Medal has been removed and after the Russo-Japanese War Commemorative Medal the 1913 Romanov Tercentenary Commemorative Medal and the 1914 Mobilization Service Medal have been added.

Although General Artamonov survived the war and the vicissitudes of the 1917-1920 revolution, he was arrested in 1922 and imprisoned until the end of that year. He was then forced into internal exile to the city of Novgorod and was only allowed to return to Leningrad just prior to his death in 1932.

As evidence of General Artamonov's rehabilitation and return to favorable light in the present-day USSR, one of his travel accounts written in the late 1800's was recently published: Across Ethiopia to the Shores of the White Nile (Cherez Efipii Berezam Byelovo Nil), published by the USSR Academy of Sciences - Institute of Eastern Studies, Moscow, 1979.

Of Artamonov's two sons, only one survived the war and the times of the troubles after 1917. Yuri Leonidovich Artamonov, who was to find a new life in America, was born in Kursk on 7 April 1902, and attended the prestigious Court of Pages from 1913 to 1917 (Figure VII). In 1919 he joined the volunteer army and fought with the Drozdovsky Division against the red forces. It was in an engagement against the reds that Artamonov's older brother was killed and he severely wounded. He was evacuated to Sebastopol in the Crimea. There, with the aid of a representative of the US Military Mission, he was evacuated aboard the USS John D. Edwards to Turkey, where he recovered from his wounds. He eventually was to make his way to America where, in 1923, he received a degree in Electrical Engineering from Yale University. He was employed by General Electric and served as that company's representative in the Philippines until 1931. From 1931 to 1942 he was employed by Sears, Roebuck & Co. and eventually became President of Sears International, Inc. Artamonov also held a US Army Reserve commission in the New York National Guard and in 1942 he was called to active duty. He took part in the US landing at Oran, Algeria, in November 1942. In February 1943 he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and saw action with the 5th Army in Italy. In May 1944 he was promoted to full Colonel and was assigned responsibility for supplying ammunition for the whole 7th Army. He took part in the Allied thrusts into France, Germany, and Austria and in April-May 1945 was one of the senior Russian-speaking US officers who met with members of the Soviet Army and oversaw the cessation of hostilities (Figure VIII). Among his many decorations Colonel Artamonov holds the French Legion of Honor (Knight) and the Croix de Guerre.