

SUKHE BATOR

Sukhe Bator was not only one of the political leaders of modern Mongolia, he remains the symbol of the new state. When in 1911 the Mongol tribesmen took advantage of their ancient secession rights (granted by Imperial edict of 1695), and separated from the former Manchu Empire, following the revolutionary events of 1911, young Sukhe Bator, a postal rider, joined the newly created Mongol National Army, and distinguished himself in the war of liberation of 1911/12.

He came into prominence in 1919 during the occupation of Northern Mongolia by the troops of General Hsu Shu-cheng, a prominent member of the pro-Japanese Anfu clique, when a group of young Mongol patriots established the Mongol Popular Party, the object of which was to liberate Mongolia from foreign intervention, and to assist in the building up of a modern state. Among the founders of the new political party we find the names of Sukhe Bator and of Marshal Choibalsang, the present Premier. At a meeting of the Party held on March 13, 1921, a Provisional People's Government was elected under the leadership of Chagdorjab. In this newly formed Government, Sukhe Bator held the portfolio of the War Minister, and was also appointed Commander-in-Chief of the new People's Army. After two years of almost continuous fighting, the new Government succeeded in liberating the country from foreign intervention. In the years which followed the reestablishment of peace, Sukhe Bator and Choibalsang laid the foundation of the new Mongol People's Army which distinguished itself during the

hard fighting on the banks of the Khalkhin-gol in the summer of 1939.

In 1921 Sukhe Bator went to Moscow as member of the Mongol delegation to negotiate the Treaty of Friendship between the U.S.S.R. and the Mongol Republic (5th November,1921).

In February 1923, Sukhe Bator fell ill during a tour of inspection, and died at the age of 29 from poison administered by his enemies.