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INDEPENDENT NEWS FROM RUSSIA

Russian Officer Dies in Aleppo

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Hassan Ammar / AP

Russia's Defense Ministry has confirmed the death of one of its army officers in Aleppo on Wednesday.

"[Colonel] Ruslan Galitsky was carrying out his mission in the Syrian Arab Republic as part of a group of Russian military advisers," the ministry said in an official statement to the Interfax news agency.

Galitsky was wounded during shelling by "militants of the so-called [Syrian] opposition" from western neighborhoods of Aleppo. Russian military physicians fought to save his life for several days, the ministry said.

According to the official statement, Galitsky will posthumously be awarded a medal for his service.

On Monday, the Defense Ministry confirmed that two Russian female army medics had been killed in Aleppo after a mortar round struck their hospital.

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