

Update on the League's Archival
Research Committee for the 51st
Annual Meeting

by

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September 15, 2021

Agenda and review of various initiatives by the ARC Team

- Improved use of satellite imagery
 - Finding crash sites
- Discovery and implementation of tactical imagery
 - The final piece, but impacted by NARA closure and reopening
- The book program
 - Leads supplied
- Other activities: Searching for Tanos Kalil, JPRC reports, Russian scholar, POW camp locations, returning a uniform, and dog tags
- Other activities: SecDef agreement, Dr. Villard initiative, TTU

Satellite imagery

- We had begun the use of integrating the declassified satellite imagery housed at NARA into our case reviews
- The process was difficult and labor-intensive, and Lou's transfer to Florida halted this
- Then the USGS put this material online. Glenn began to use it. The older satellite imagery was free but the resolution was poor. The newer imagery had improved quality but it cost \$30 per section. Glenn spent significant time and money examining certain sections
- It paid dividends, however, in helping to locate an F-5 crash site in South Vietnam (more on this later)

Finding Major John Carlson, 0543



Discovery of Tactical Imagery Finding Aid at the National Archives

- Massive Excel file (over 250,000 lines) of worldwide reconnaissance data from 1959 to Jan 1973. Data was difficult to sort, but Lou figured out the country code, and then type of reconnaissance used. Eleven different reconnaissance platforms!
- Lou spent two months narrowing it down to 119,000 lines, which translates to 30,000 cans of film. Includes Laos and Cambodia
- Coordinating with DPAA to convert flight data points into ground coordinates
- NARA, however, is still restricted due to Covid protocols

The book program

- Dozens of Communist military history books purchased in Vietnam
- Found the best book supplier in Hanoi, which has resulted in a major improvement in quality and type of books – unit histories, memoirs, and general histories
- Continuing to find significant documentary evidence that the Vietnamese can supply more information on U.S. losses
- Two major finds: the 11-volume set “Chronology of Events: General Staff During the Resistance War Against the Americans to Save the Nation,” and “History of the Civilian Proselyting and Special Propaganda Department (1945-2007)”

An example from the Proselytizing volume

- *On 23 November 1967 the Department submitted Report No. 159/NC on “The Status of the Administration of the Graves of American Airmen Who Have Been Buried in Local Areas” [Tình Hình Quản Lý Mộ Mã Những Tên Giặc Mỹ Lái Máy Bay Đã Chôn Ở Các Địa Phương]. The report provided the overall number of American graves and the concrete totals in 16 provinces, cities, and the Northwest Military Region; the rank, condition, and reason of death; and the method of burial. It also provided an assessment of the implementation of the General Political Department’s directive by the local authorities.”*

Example from the 1968 volume of the General Staff Chronology

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24 March 1968

Signed Memo Listing A Number of Items Taken From American Aircraft Shot Down Over Vietnam That Were Turned Over to the Soviet Union

On 20 August 1965 our Ministry of Defense gave the Soviet Ministry of Defense a number of items taken from American aircraft that had been shot down by our soldiers and civilians. On 24 March 1968 Major Tran Hieu Truong [Trần Hiệu Truong], representing the People's Army of Vietnam's Air Defense-Air Force Command Headquarters, and Colonel No-vo-xo-cop [Novosokov?] the Chief of the Soviet Science and Technology delegation signed a memo that listed these items. The items consisted of twenty F-4 items [parts]; 83 F-105D items [parts]; ten F-8 items [parts]; one AD-6 item [parts]; 30 BQM-34A items [parts]; and 37 aircraft ordnance [weapons] and pilot's equipment items.

Source: Ministry of Defense Archives Center, Combat Operations Department Collection, HS [File] 2931

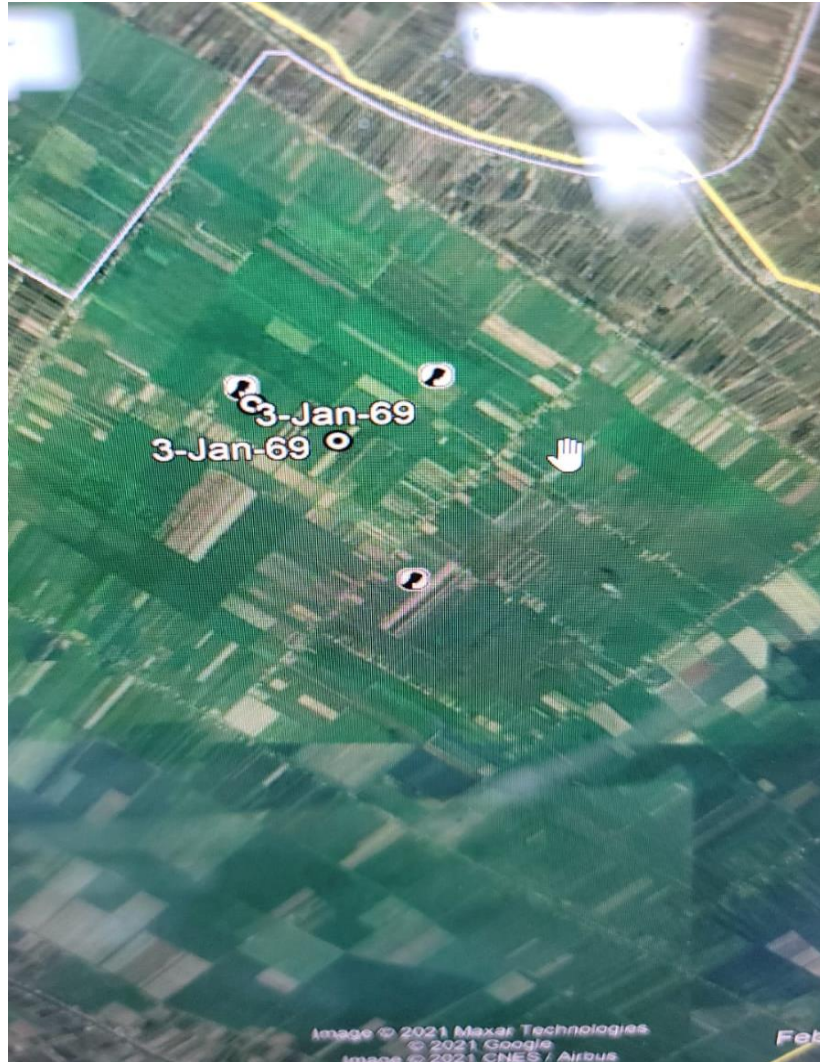
Other activities

- Glenn traveled to Vietnam to search for the grave site of POW Tanos Kalil
- Glenn scanned my JPRC reports and placed them online for DPAA personnel to use
- Russian-born scholar had access to Soviet party archives and copied thousands of documents. Coordinating a meeting with JCSD and him, but pushed to late October due to his moving to Italy.
- POW camp listings, return of MSG Anspach fatigue shirt (MIA), and recovered dogs tags at a Vietnamese excavation site

Finding Tanos Kalil, DIC/BNR Jun 12, 69



POW camps and sightings layered on Google Earth



Glenn delivering original Anspach fatigue shirt to family



Recovered dog tags



Other activities

- SecDef signed an agreement with the Vietnamese to help them account for their war dead.
- New private organization led by Dr. Erik Villard at the US Army Center for Military History will receive \$2 million dollars to help the Vietnamese account for their dead. Back door into the Vietnamese archives. I am on the Board
- DPAA has signed an agreement with Texas Tech's Vietnam Center to assist in the search for MIA's

Cases being worked

- **0543 – Major John Carlson USAF KIA/BNR 07DEC66.**
- **0832 – MSG Robert Anspach KIA/BNR 11SEPT67**
- **1080 – Major Robert Bond USAF KIA/BNR 11MAR68**
- **1120 – PFC Anthony Pepper and CPL James Trimble USMC 06APR68**
- **1259 – 1Lt Francis Setterquist and 1Lt Charlie Bergevin, USAF, 23-Aug-68**
- **1375 – Civilian - Tanos Kalil DIC/BNR 12JUN69**
- **1449 – SFC Anastacio Montez KIA/BNR 25MAY69**
- **1781 – Capt James Steadman and 1Lt Bob Beutel, USAF, 26-Nov-71**