

UNCLASSIFIED

SUMMARIZED MINUTES
U.S.-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAs (USRJC)
Korean War Working Group (KWWG) Technical Talks
August 8, 2017
Renaissance Arlington Capital View Hotel
2800 South Potomac Avenue
Arlington, VA 22202

U.S. Side Participants:

- General Robert H. “Doc” Foglesong, Chairman, U.S. Side of the USRJC
- Mrs. Fern Sumpter Winbush, Interim Director, Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) and DOD Commissioner of the USRJC
- Colonel Christopher S. Forbes, USA, Director, Eur/Med Regional Directorate, DPAA
- Dr. James G. Connell, Eur/Med Regional Directorate, DPAA, Lead Analyst, Cold War Working Group, and Acting Executive Secretary, U.S. Side of the USRJC
- Mr. Danz F. Blasser, Eur/Med Regional Directorate, DPAA, Lead Analyst, Korean War Working Group

Russian Side Participants:

- Colonel (Ret) Andrey Taranov, Executive Secretary of the Russian Side, USRJC
- Colonel (Ret) Igor Albertovich Permyakov, Commissioner of the Russian Side of the USRJC, Russian Chairman of Korean War Working Group

Morning Session

Following the normal pleasantries and introductions, the Commissioners of the USRJC discussed a number of issues. Among these were:

- Both Sides emphasized their commitment and agreed that the work of the USRJC must continue regardless of the political situation between the United States and the Russian Federation;¹
- Colonel Taranov agreed that he would support any steps necessary to permit the U.S. Side to continue its work in the Russian Federation, to include contracted research work at the various Russian Federation archives;
- The Commission members agreed to schedule the 21st Plenum for November 7-9, 2017, in Moscow; and
- The U.S. Side will provide information on its preferences for the 25th Anniversary Commemorative Coin² with the goal of having it produced in Russia.

¹ On Friday, July 28, 2017, the Russian Federation seized two American diplomatic properties in Russia and ordered the U.S. Embassy to reduce its staff to 455 individuals by September 1, 2017. This number represents the number of Russians citizens assigned to the Russian diplomatic mission to the United States. It will result in the reduction of 755 members (both Americans and Russian employees) of the U.S. Diplomatic Mission.

² The USRJC was formed in March 1992.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Afternoon Session

The afternoon session was dedicated to the discussion of a number of Korean War issues. Mr. Blasser and Colonel Permyakov were the main participants. The following issues were discussed.

- 1. The Files of the Air Force Operational Group (AFOG)** – The AFOG was a higher level headquarters that controlled the Soviet 64th Fighter Aviation Corps (FAC) and its predecessors for approximately the first year and a half of the Korean War. It is sometimes referred to by the Russian members of the USRJC as the Krasovskij Group, after its commander, Colonel General Stepan Akimovich Krasovskij.

The AFOG was initially formed in the late 1940s to assist the newly-formed Peoples Republic of China (PRC) in fending off air attacks from the Republic of China and it controlled all PRC-based Soviet air and anti-aircraft artillery units. The initial cadre of Soviet fighter units deployed to participate in the Korean War were based in Shanghai performing this defensive function before they began flying missions in North Korea. All correspondence to and from the 64th FAC was passed through the AFOG until late 1951.

A request to have access to these files was made during the 20th Plenum of the USRJC held in Washington, D.C., on May 23-24, 2016.³ The Russians have responded and are preparing materials for U.S. researchers from 26 files of the AFOG. These materials should be available for research by the end of the year. We expect to find air combat reports, shoot down reports, search group reports and other materials of interest to our mission in these files.

- 2. Russian-language gazetteer of North Korea and northeastern China** – During the 20th Plenum of the USRJC a request was made for 1:50,000, 1:100,000, or 1:200,000 scale maps published in the mid-to-late 1940s. These maps are crucial to pinpointing crash locations of U.S. aircraft referenced in Soviet Korean War documents since geographic names on 1970s-era and contemporary Russian language maps do not correspond phonetically with place names used during the Korean War-era.

The Russian Side responded and provided the U.S. Side in May 2017 with a series of 1:100,000 and 1:200,000 maps used during the Korean War. Unfortunately, it is very difficult to locate small villages without having any reference to a specific map sheet. A gazetteer would enable the U.S. Side to effectively and efficiently locate these small villages.

Colonel Permyakov understood our difficulty and stated the maps the Russian Side provided were not quite what was requested. He suggested we provide him with information on our air losses that would include the information we found in our research of the Soviet Korean War documents. After some discussion, it was decided the U.S. Side would develop a spreadsheet detailing the information so the Russian Side could

³ The minutes of the 20th Plenum can be found at:
http://www.dpaa.mil/portals/85/Documents/USRJC/20th_Plenum_Minutes.pdf

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

identify precise geographical coordinates to match specific loss incidents. Mr. Blasser will work on a test batch of cases to send to Colonel Permyakov.

- 3. Staff Sergeant Joseph Stephen Dougherty, USAF** – A document discovered in the Russian archives in 2001 deals with a reprimand of a Soviet officer who came in contact with, and interrogated, a U.S. POW. The reprimand states that the officer violated standing orders against contact with POWs and spells out the egregious particulars of his disobedience. Further, the reprimand provides clues as to the identity of this POW.

The unnamed POW was identified in the reprimand as a radio operator of a B-29 Superfortress with whom the Soviet officer had contact during October 23-25, 1951. There were three B-29 aircraft shot down on October 23, 1951, and none for the entire month of October prior to the 23rd.

Of the three radio operators assigned to these aircraft, one perished during the shoot-down of his aircraft, and his remains were found at the crash site. The second radio operator was captured and repatriated after the armistice. DPMO analysts were able to contact this man, who upon hearing this story, denied that he was the individual described in the reprimand. The third radio operator was Sergeant Dougherty, who was listed as MIA until he was presumptively declared dead in 1953.

We discussed avenues of research that might yield additional information on this unnamed POW. One suggestion was to look in the personnel file of the reprimanded Soviet officer. Included in his reprimand was a stiff sentence behind bars, and there may be information related to this punishment. Additionally, Soviet intelligence personnel would have interest in the result of the interrogation. Colonel Permyakov will search for more information on this case.

Additionally, a letter with the particulars of this case will be sent to General-Colonel (Ret) Valeriy Vostrotin, Chairman of the Russian Side, USRJC, seeking his assistance in requesting other Russian agencies review their files for information on this incident and Sergeant Dougherty

- 4. Captain Harry Cecil Moore, USAF** - In 1997, DPMO analysts travelled to Taganrog, Russia, and interviewed a 74 year-old Soviet veteran of the Korean War. During the interview, the veteran stated that he heard Colonel Ivan Nikitovich Kozhedub, the commander of the Soviet 324th Fighter Aviation Division had interrogated a U.S. pilot. The veteran said the pilot's name was Captain Harry or Gary Moore, who had been shot down in the summer of 1951. The DPMO interviewers, seasoned by hundreds of such interviews, had never heard this level of detail.

A combat report found in the Central Archives of the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation (TsAMO) chronicled an aerial engagement on June 1, 1951, in which the time, location, and the type of aircraft shot down all matched Captain Moore's loss. This document reports that Guards Captain Kalyuzhnyj followed the enemy aircraft to where it crashed into the Korean Gulf.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

On May 17, 2002, DPMO interviewed Aleksej Alekseevich Kalyuzhnyj in Odessa, Ukraine. According to Kalyuzhnyj, he was credited with shooting down an F-51 Mustang on June 1, 1951, under circumstances that correlate with the loss of Captain Moore's aircraft. Kalyuzhnyj told us that he followed the F-51 as it headed towards the Korean Bay where it landed in the water 20-30 meters from the shore. He said the F-51 pilot appeared to be in complete control of the aircraft as it gently set down on the sea. He did not see the pilot leave the aircraft but believes that he should have survived the incident.

We discussed avenues of research that might yield additional information on Captain Moore. One suggestion was to look in the personnel file of Colonel Kozhedub who had interrogated him to see if there was any disciplinary action taken. Additionally, Soviet intelligence personnel would have interest in the result of the interrogation. Colonel Permyakov will search for more information on this case.

Additionally, a letter with the particulars of this case will be sent to General-Colonel (Ret) Valeriy Vostrotin, Chairman of the Russian Side, USRJC, seeking his assistance in requesting other Russian agencies review their files for information on this incident and Captain Moore.

- 5. Files of the Main Staff of the Air Forces of the Soviet Army** - In November 1951 the relationship between the Soviet 64th FAC and the AFOG changed, and the 64th FAC began to report directly to Moscow. Correspondence was routinely exchanged between the 64th FAC and the General Staff of the Soviet Army, the Main Headquarters of the Air Forces of the Soviet Army, and the Main Headquarters of the Air Defense Forces of the Soviet Army.⁴

The U.S. Side presented Soviet Korean War-era documents collected during its normal research activities at the Central Archives of the Ministry of Defense that proved an abundance of information pertaining to U.S. servicemen, some of whom were never recovered, was sent to the Main Staff of the Air Force.

Among this information are combat reports, intelligence reports produced by the 64th Corps, the North Koreans, and the Chinese; interrogation protocols, personal possessions such as photographs, documents and equipment; and search group reports, photographs of aircraft wreckage, photographs of human remains, aircraft parts and wreckage.

Colonel Permyakov reported that he would have his team of experts review these files for such information, and if found, would take steps to have relevant materials declassified and provided to the U.S. Side.

⁴ All branches of the Soviet military fell under the overall command of the Soviet Army. Since the 64th FAC included forces normally subordinate to both the Air Force and the Air Defense forces (*PVO Strany* – included anti-aircraft artillery units and air defense aircraft units) correspondence was sent both to and from the headquarters of these branches.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

6. Declassification review of the remainder of two 64th FAC Files (TFR 544 and 545)⁵

These two files, entitled “Material from the Interrogations of Prisoners of War” remain partially classified to this day. Among the declassified portion of these files are copies of letters of transmittal forwarding captured items to Moscow. Among these items are identification cards, vaccination records, drivers’ licenses, and other personal items belonging to crew members of shot down U.S. aircraft, some of whom were never recovered. However, dozens of pages of both these files remain classified. By the very titles of the files, we are certain the classified materials contain information of interest to the U.S. Side and we requested Colonel Permyakov review the classified portions of these files.

Colonel Permyakov reported that he would have his team of experts review these files, and if information is found, would take steps to have the relevant materials declassified and provided to the U.S. Side.

7. Declassification review of TsAMO *Fond 5, Fond 40, and maybe Fond 3*⁶ - In 1994, the late Colonel Aleksandr Semenovich Orlov, former co-chairman of the Korean War Working Group until his death in 2008, conducted research in the files of the 64th Fighter Aviation Corps. Colonel Orlov listed a number of names of U.S. aviators that he found in these documents.

Colonel Orlov indicated in his handwritten notes (see TFR 217) that he was working in the files of the 64th FAC and provided archival citations for the material he found. None of the files he identified as being from the 64th FAC had been identified as files we associate with this unit. Among the records he used, it appears that most, if not all, were found in *Fond 5* and *40*, and possibly from *Fond 3*. He lists a number of names, several of which are still unaccounted for.

The U.S. Side requested access to these *Fondy* for documents relevant to the mission as part of routine research in TsAMO. At the very least, the U.S. Side would like to request access to the *opisi* collections⁷ for these *Fondy* so as to identify files of interest for declassification review.

Colonel Permyakov responded that he would have his team of experts review these files, and if information is found, would take steps to have the relevant materials declassified and provided to the U.S. Side.

⁵ These two files, internally numbered within the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency as Transferred Foreign Records (TFR) 142 and 143 were collected from TsAMO and have the TsAMO archival citation of *Fond 64FAC, opis’ 174045, delo 142 and 143*

⁶ A *fond*, plural *fondy* is a records group. Each Soviet unit down to the regiment level has its own unique *fond*.

⁷ *Opis’*, plural is *opisi*, translates as “inventory.” These are inventory sheets that accompanied documents when they were accessioned into the archives. These inventory sheets contain the titles of the files that were sent to the archives, among other information.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

- 8. Finding guides⁸ for Anti-aircraft Artillery and Anti-aircraft Searchlight Units** - One of the first things U.S. researchers looked at when they started working in TsAMO in 1997 were the collections of inventory sheets for the various units assigned to the 64th Fighter Aviation Corps. We wanted an understanding of the scope of work required to review these documents at TsAMO.

U.S. researchers were able to view almost all of the inventory collections until they came to the very end. They had only a few left when they were abruptly told that the inventory collections they would like to see were still classified.

The collections they were unable to view were from the subordinate regiments of the 28th and 92nd Anti-Aircraft Artillery Divisions, and one regiment, the 1777th Anti-Aircraft Artillery Regiment, of the 87th Anti-Aircraft Artillery Division. They were also denied permission to review the inventory sheets of the 10th and 20th Anti-Aircraft Searchlight Regiments.

The U.S. Side requested access to these inventory sheets; Colonel Permyakov said he would look into fulfilling this request.

Prepared by: Danz F. Blasser, Eur/Med Regional Directorate, JCSD, 703-699-1411

⁸ Finding guides are what DPAA refers to as collections of inventory sheets (*opisi*) for each unit.

UNCLASSIFIED