

**Minutes of the 18th Plenary Session
of the
US-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAs**

*Held at the Marriott Grand Hotel, Moscow, Russia
18 November 2002, 10:00 am to 3:30 pm*

Representing the U.S. Side:

Major General (ret) Roland Lajoie, USA

– U.S. Co-Chairman, U.S.-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAs (USRJC)

Dr. Timothy K. Nenninger

- Co-Chairman, World War II Working Group, USRJC

- Chief, Modern Military Records, U.S. National Archives and Records Administration

Mr. Norman Kass

– Senior Director, Joint Commission Support Directorate (JCSD)

– Executive Secretary, U.S. Side, USRJC

Mr. Roger Schumacher

- Deputy Director, JCSD

Mr. James Shonborn

– Deputy Director, Moscow Office, JCSD

Mr. Michael Gunshinan

– Senior Analyst, Vietnam War Working Group, JCSD

Major Timothy Falkowski, USAF

– Senior Analyst, Gulag Study Group, JCSD

Major Jeff Jack, USA

– Analyst, Marshall Center for Security Studies

Chief Petty Officer Michael Allen, USN

– Analyst, Gulag Study Group, JCSD

Master Sergeant Ralph McCall, USAF

– Analyst, World War II Working Group, JCSD

Master Sergeant David Hasenauer, USAF

– Analyst, Korean War Working Group, JCSD

Technical Sergeant Thomas W. Shipp Jr., USAF

– Analyst, Vietnam War Working Group, JCSD

Ms. Svetlana Amvrosova

- Interpreter

Representing the Russian Side:

General-Major (ret) Vladimir Antonovich Zolotarev

– Russian Co-Chairman, USRJC

General-Major Konstantin Viktorovich Golumbovskii

– Deputy Co-Chairman, Russian Side, USRJC

Ms Natalya Mikhailovna Levina

– Executive Secretary, Russian Side, USRJC

General-Colonel (ret) Ivan Ivanovich Korochkin

- Chairman, Russian Air Force Veterans' Organization

Colonel Valerii Alekseevich Filippov

– Vietnam War Working Group, Russian Side, USRJC

- Deputy Director, Memorial Center Archives, General Staff of the Russian Federation
Colonel Nikolay Ivanovich Nikiforov
– Co-Chairman, World War II Working Group, Russian Side, USRJC
– Institute of Military History
Colonel (ret) Aleksandr Semenovich Orlov
– Co-Chairman, Korean War Working Group, Russian Side, USRJC
Colonel (ret) Vladimir Konstantinovich Vinogradov
– Co-Chairman, Cold War Working Group, Russian Side, USRJC
Mr. Vasilii Stepanovich Khristoforov
– Cold War Working Group, Russian Side, USRJC
– Director, Federal Security Services (FSB) Archival Services
Mr. Vladimir Ivanovich Korotayev
-- Acting Director, Russian State Military Archives
Colonel Viktor Valentinovich Fadeyev
– Main Intelligence Directorate (GRU), General Staff of the Russian Federation
Lt. Colonel Igor Plotnikov
--Russian Side, USRJC
-- Ministry of Internal Affairs, Government of the Russian Federation
Lt. Colonel Igor Petelin
-- Russian Side, USRJC
-- Federal Security Service (FSB), Government of the Russian Federation
Ms. Maria Ivanovna Lotareyeva
-- Russian Side, USRJC

Opening Statements

General Zolotarev opened the meeting by welcoming General Lajoie and his delegation, noting that he had a number of items to pass along.

General Zolotarev stated that a parliamentary hearing in the State Duma recently heard a report on Russian personnel considered to be missing-in-action. During the hearing there were some very emotional moments, including a discussion about a woman who lost her brother in the Second World War, a son in Afghanistan, and a nephew in Chechnya. All are reported as missing-in-action. Zolotarev noted that the report delivered to the State Duma completely supported the work of the Commission's four working groups, and the State Duma has requested a copy of the Commission's report that was provided to Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Zolotarev thanked General Lajoie and Mr. Shonborn for the opportunity to travel to Helsinki in October this year to interview Dr. Philips Brooks about a Soviet officer supposedly taken prisoner during the Korean War.

Zolotarev reminded the U.S. Side of a Russian request for information from the U.S. Immigration Service, stating that the information would be helpful in the work of the Commission. Zolotarev then thanked Lajoie for the help and cooperation of the U.S. Side and presented Lajoie with a book on military history.

General Lajoie expressed his appreciation for General Zolotarev's warm welcome and for the opportunity to meet with the Russian Side. Lajoie mentioned that every time he comes to Moscow he notices the beautiful transformation of the city. He stated that there would be several topics addressed at this plenum. During the ensuing discussions, he invited the Russian Side to interject their questions and comments.

General Lajoie recalled Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Jerry D. Jennings' visit to Moscow in September of this year. Lajoie noted that Jennings reported that the trip had been successful. He

recalled that the Russian Side had asked to be provided with press releases on the work of the Commission. Lajoie handed over to Zolotarev magazines and articles from the U.S., Russian, and Ukrainian press that featured articles on the work of the Joint Commission.

Lajoie noted with satisfaction the successful joint trip to Helsinki. This exchange of information is very important, he said, and he expressed the readiness of the U.S. Side to facilitate a meeting with any U.S. citizen if it will advance the work of the Joint Commission; he hoped that the Russian Side would reciprocate in a similar manner when interviews with Russian citizens are requested by the U.S. Side.

Referring to the planned research work in the Military Medical Archives in St. Petersburg, Lajoie noted the expectation that it might reveal records of Americans—perhaps some whose fate remains unknown—who received medical care from the Soviets during the Second World War. Lajoie handed over a draft copy of the contract for this research effort, and he asked the Russian Side to help facilitate the contract's successful conclusion.

Vietnam War Working Group

General Lajoie reminded the Russian Side that, during his meeting in Moscow last month, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Jennings requested Russian help in locating and interviewing thirteen former Main Intelligence Directorate (GRU) officers. Lajoie asked if the Russian Side had a response to this request.

General Zolotarev referred this issue to Colonel Fadeyev, the Russian Side's GRU representative. Fadeyev said that there would be an official response on this question in a few days from the GRU Chief. Fadeyev said that some of the people of the list were, indeed, GRU officers, perhaps fifty percent of them. Fadeyev personally knew two of the individuals on the list, but one of them is now deceased. All of the officers had long ago finished their service with the GRU, he noted, and the GRU no longer keeps in touch with them. Several now live in the Moscow area, and they can be easily found in the information bureau. Fadeyev said that Russia is a free and democratic society, and the GRU officers are free to talk with the U.S. Side if they so desire. He added that the officers are senior citizens, and the information they might provide must be viewed critically.

Lajoie expressed disappointment in Fadeyev's response, since the U.S. Side had hoped for assistance from the Russian Side in locating these officers and overcoming their resistance to meeting with the U.S. Side. Lajoie noted that Dr. Brooks had initially refused to meet with the Russian Side, but the U.S. Side persuaded him that the information he had might be important. Lajoie expressed his understanding that the former GRU officers may have forgotten some things since their participation in the Vietnam War was a long time ago, but the U.S. Side is still interested in talking with them. These former GRU officers should know that our mission is humanitarian, and there is no desire to accuse or find blame for any actions taken in the past. This is a chapter of history that we would like to close.

The Russian Side stated again that it has no objections to U.S. contact with former GRU officers. Although official Russian contact with the veterans has been lost, veteran's organizations or friends may still have their addresses. Lajoie suggested that the Russian Side should be able to locate veterans by tracking the payment of pensions.

Colonel Vinogradov added that he felt that both viewpoints are valid. Locating veterans is difficult, especially after the disintegration of the Soviet Union. Colonel Filippov and Admiral Novy have been successful in this effort, however, despite the fact that Russia has no central information bank. Vinogradov noted that some veterans have refused to talk with the Commission.

General Golumbovskii said that the first step is to send a letter of request to the GRU. If the GRU cannot locate its former officers, then the Russian Side of the Commission can take up the work of finding them. He felt it should be possible to interview them in the presence of representatives of both sides.

General Lajoie said that the GRU's response to this request should include a statement that such officers are not forbidden to talk with the Commission. Golumbovskii agreed, noting that in the absence of such a statement, the Russian Side would seek such a statement for each officer to be interviewed.

General Lajoie pointed out that General Korabel'nikov had invited Admiral Jacoby, Director, Defense Intelligence Agency, to Moscow next year, and the U.S. Side would seek a discussion of this issue at that meeting.

General Lajoie requested an update on Vietnam War research in the Central Archives of the Russian Ministry of Defense at Podolsk. Colonel Filippov responded that there was no one from the archives at the plenum, but the work there continues. The Russian Side found documents on 124 incidents and passed this data to the U.S. Side. Filippov called for questions from the U.S. Side on this data. He said that the Russian Side is now studying documents from the years 1970 to 1974. He added that these documents may yield reports on U.S. aircraft, and if such information is found, it will be passed over to the U.S. Side.

General Lajoie noted that Colonel Filippov had asked if the U.S. Side had any questions about the "List of 124". He stated that concerning the list, the Commission's research includes two main approaches, the first is the use of documents, and the second is conducting interviews with witnesses. He stated that while obtaining supporting documents for the "List of 124" may not prove fruitful, the U.S. Side would be grateful to obtain them. In addition, the U.S. Side would like to discuss the events with the Soviet officers who might have had information on these incidents. In order to help clarify the questions concerning the information provided by the Russian Side, Lajoie proposed that Mr. Gunshinan would discuss the U.S. Side's findings with Colonel Filippov and General Bezborodov. This meeting could possibly take place later at General Bezborodov's office at the State Duma.

Colonel Filippov interjected that he had heard that General Bezborodov might return to Moscow on the eighteenth of November. General Lajoie thanked him and said he looked forward to seeing him also. He then said he would like to discuss the Korean War.

Korean War Working Group

General Lajoie said Congressman Johnson asked him to relay to General Zolotarev his thanks for the answer to his letter. Johnson had hoped that the letter would discuss work at Podolsk and unfortunately it did not.

Colonel Filippov said he believed Lajoie was referring to the list of documents that were requested for declassification.

General Golumbovskii then interjected that the Head of Archival Services was now changing and that the people at TsAMO are very busy now.

General Lajoie then remarked that this question of the documents is now 2 years old. General Zolotarev then agreed that Lajoie was correct in saying so.

Colonel Orlov then added that the Russian Side had received from the U.S. Side a list of twenty-three Soviet pilots who perished in Korea. From this list, the Russian Side was able to establish the clarification of the fate or burial sites for seven of them. He continued that the Russian Side had the opportunity to review Russian archival holdings discuss the incidents with U.S. Korean vets such as Hal Fischer and Bud Mahurin.

Colonel Orlov continued by stating in 1951 there was an incident with an engine from a MiG-15 that the Russian Side was interested in. There was also an event in 1952 concerning the recovery of a MiG-15 that was discussed in Helsinki with Dr. Brooks. Orlov also stated that in 1953 a Soviet pilot disappeared over North Korea. The Russian Side is working to see if that pilot is the individual noted in Brooks' story. However, it seemed that the information provided coincided with information about a Soviet pilot who

bailed out of his aircraft somewhere near the 38th parallel where there were U.S. troops at the time. Dr. Brooks had indicated on a map the approximate location of a supposed burial spot.

Colonel Orlov then addressed the magazine articles General Lajoie had presented him. He stated he knew the names on a list of missing F-86 pilots like they were family and that their fates have been discussed now for years. He believes they died in combat and were not taken captive. He said the issue of them being transported to the USSR has been discussed quite often in the past. He felt that this issue should be considered finished. He continued that the Russian Side had provided information on this issue, and there is no data to support the proposition that American POE's were sent to KGB/GRU camps. He said the Commission should continue its work to resolve the fate of these Americans, but the U.S. Side feels there is some sort of evidence to support this and it must be true. He attempted to draw a parallel between the methodology of the U.S. Side in its attempt to prove a transfer occurred with the Soviet claim of the U.S. biological warfare campaign in Korea. Orlov stated that the example Colonel Frank Sherber provided from his interrogation was evidence that the U.S. waged biological warfare during the Korean War, and this was later found not to be the case – just as the U.S. side has found “evidence” of transfer, but has been unable to prove it occurred. He felt that the U.S. should not waste any more time with this topic. Articles have stated that Stalin wanted an F-86 and pilot for exploitation. During the war the Soviets did recover an American aircraft and the U.S. did save some pilots from such crash sites. The U.S. Side has visited aviation institutes with Mr. Norman Kass, and officials there have said they had no need to capture a pilot. Colonel Orlov added that Stalin expressed a desire to capture a pilot or technical personnel.

General Lajoie told Colonel Orlov that the article he was looking at was from a private magazine and was the opinion of a private individual. Lajoie merely wished to show the Russian Side that this issue was still a highly visible one and he was making no indictments. Lajoie assured the Russian Side that the U.S. and Russian positions on the issue were the same, and that although the issue is still open, there is currently no solid evidence.

Colonel Filippov then commented on the declassification of documents at Podolsk. He said that Colonel Ovchinnikov had started this work and that the documents examined fell into two groups. The first being those documents that contained information on U.S. losses in Korea, which the U.S. Side has received, and the second group of documents containing no information on U.S. losses in Korea and therefore do not require declassification. He added that the examination of Korean War documents has been accomplished and that Russian representatives are now examining documents from the Vietnam War. Currently there is no plan to further examine Korean War documents. He emphasized that TsAMO is not a research organization but merely the place of storage for such documents. He said the “Pushkarova Group” is now engaged in the review of said documents.

General Zolotarev commented that the new Head of Archival Services is Colonel Ilyenkov and that he is familiar with the work of the Commission. Furthermore, a report of the ongoing work will be drawn up and handed over.

General Lajoie thanked General Zolotarev for his diplomatic candor in his reply to Congressman Johnson's letter and asked him if the U.S. Side will receive a response on the declassification of the Korean War documents.

Colonel Filippov stated that yes, an answer would be received shortly.

General Golumbovskii assured that leadership at TsAMO was undergoing a change and that a reply will be forthcoming. He personally knows Colonel Ilyenkov since they worked together in the past.

General Lajoie urged General Golumbovskii to get a response from Ilyenkov as soon as possible. Lajoie then refocused the discussion on the list of 25 Korean War MIAs.

Colonel Fadeyev reported that the GRU interpreters during the Korean War were not allowed to interrogate prisoners. The Russian Side had looked into this again in the archival documents, and on Friday had talked with the Chief of the archives there. They found no single case of this occurring.

General Lajoie said he was surprised that information on U.S. POWs was not gathered by Soviet forces from either North Korean or Chinese sources. General Lajoie said he had one more name of an American MIA to add to the list and handed the information to the Russian Side. He continued and said the information was on Colonel Martin a regimental commander who reported for duty and took control of the 34th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division and was reported “Killed in Action” or “Missing in Action” the same day, July 7, 1950.

General Lajoie continued that the U.S. Side was reviewing all American POW debriefs from the Korean War. The U.S. Side has reviewed 235 debriefs and more than ten percent of the pilots reported having contact with either Soviets or “Caucasian” individuals during their captivity. From the preliminary work by U.S. analysts, these “Caucasians” they met with were probably Soviets serving in the GRU. The U.S. Side will complete its analysis and report to the Russian Side on its findings.

General Lajoie then said he would like to address the last issue on Korea for the session. The U.S. Side had found information on two MiG-15s captured during the Korean War. One was recovered in April 1951 and the other in July 1951. We found no information on a MiG-15 recovered in August 1952.

Colonel Orlov then said that perhaps the incident he referred to was actually the July 1951 incident Lajoie mentioned.

General Lajoie then asked if anyone had anything to add to the discussion on Korea.

General Zolotarev said he did not.

Cold War Working Group

General Lajoie stated that at the last meeting of the Cold War Working Group Commissioners held on 25 September 2002 the Russian Side of the Commission agreed to grant Admiral Novyy access to several archives provided we first give specifics in writing. General Lajoie then passed to the Russian Side of the Commission a request to give Admiral Novyy access to several regional and federal archives pertaining to the 6 November 1951 incident. General Lajoie then requested the status of the remainder of the Cold War shutdown witness list that was previously passed by Mr. Clift to the Russian Side of the Commission.

Colonel Vinogradov stated he was ready to address all Cold War Working Group issues and would begin with the issue of Admiral Novyy’s access to regional archives. Colonel Vinogradov stated that Russian Federal law required regional archives, such as the North Fleet Archives, to send their holdings to the central archives after a certain amount of time. Colonel Vinogradov suggested that a formal request be sent to the Central Naval Archives at Gatchina to find out if they had accessed the North Fleet archival holdings in question. Colonel Vinogradov then stated that they were very interested in identifying the witnesses involved in the burial of Major Eugene Posa. He also stated that even if the cemetery was found, it would be extremely difficult to determine the actual burial location because he was buried in a fashion similar to victims of repression. Colonel Vinogradov then passed the results of interviews with witnesses to the Posa case to the U.S. Side of the Commission. Colonel Vinogradov stated that all information about the fate of Americans the Russian Side has or uncovers would be passed to the U.S. Side of the Commission. Declassified or unclassified documents from the State Security Services’ archives would be handed over entirely. He stated that the Russian Federation did not redact documents the way the United States Government redacts, by blacking out the redacted portions with a pen. In cases where documents still contained classified portions only the declassified sections would be turned over to the U.S. Side. Colonel Vinogradov then asked Admiral Novyy to say a few words.

Admiral Novyy stated he had attended an Air Defense Forces veterans' conference. While there he had asked the former commander of the 10th Army if he thought any of his Air Defense Forces units in the Severomorsk region could have participated in the burial of Major Posa. The former commander did not know but could not rule it out. Admiral Novyy stated that it is important for them to identify, which Air Defense Corps was based in Severomorsk at that time. He then addressed the question of the Central Naval Archives accession of the North Fleet archives in Severomorsk. Admiral Novyy stated that he had asked the Central Archives of the Leningrad Military District in Saint Petersburg if they had the Severomorsk Air Defense records. The central archives reported they had received these records but had returned them to the Corps' local archives in Severomorsk because they had not been properly formatted. Admiral Novyy stated the records he was interested in were still in Severomorsk. Admiral Novyy added the Fleet Commander had told North Fleet headquarters not to bury Posa but to turn his remains over to the "Pilots". The location of Major Posa's remains may be noted in the Naval Aviation records in Severomorsk.

Colonel Khristoforov then stated that the Russian Side of the Commission had interviewed all the members of the State Security Services involved in the Posa case and nothing new surfaced. They had even interviewed the former Communist Party Head of Severomorsk who knew nothing about Major Posa. He then stated they had turned over information on 138,000 German POWs to the German government and their work with the Japanese was continuing. He stated any information about Americans would be turned over to the U.S. Side of the Commission.

General Lajoie then asked if the Russian Side of the Commission had made any progress in locating information on Aircraft Factory 315. This Aircraft Factory is important because the 8 April 1950 incident aircraft debris was reportedly sent to Aircraft Factory 315.

After consultation with Ms. Levina, General Zolotarev stated the FSB was still investigating the matter.

General Lajoie then passed a letter requesting the full text of Politburo Protocol 84. The U.S. Side of the Commission has part of Protocol 84, which includes the demarche of the 6 November 1951 incident.

Colonel Vinogradov stated this was the first he had heard of this but it should be no problem and the Russian Side would look into it and provide the U.S. Side with an answer.

General Lajoie then announced that the new Director of the Moscow Office would be Mr. Yuri Boguslavsky.

As the two Sides broke for lunch, General Lajoie presented General Golumbovskii with a congratulatory present on his promotion to General-Major.

U.S. Hosted Lunch at the Samobranka Restaurant, Marriott Grand Hotel, Moscow, Russia

As the two Sides of the Joint Commission arrived, they broke into individual working groups to continue discussions on the topics covered by the morning's meeting. Toasts were offered to continuing work and future successes of the Commission. Colonel Orlov noted the awarding of a medal by the leader of the Russian Orthodox Church, Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia Aleksey II to General-Major Zolotarev for his research on the history of Russia. After lunch, the Commission returned to the conference table to continue its work with the World War II Working Group.

World War II Working Group

Russian Commission member, General Zolotarev opened the WW II discussions with an informative commentary about a comprehensive book [Russian Book of Memory] on Soviet and Allied

losses during WW II. It will include information from 79(39) of the 89 regions, which compose the Russian Federation. Why 79 regions and not 89? Some of the regions have combined their input and Chechnya and Ingushetia have not supplied any data at all. After Zolotarev's remarks, Dr. Tim Nenninger spoke for the American Side.

Dr. Nenninger stated that he had 2 issues, then commented that being an archivist and historian, he could not resist giving a short history of U.S. missions in the Far East. He briefly described how the U.S. Army Air Corps and Navy flew missions against the Japanese Kuril Islands and the main island. Nenninger stated that given the distance covered, poor weather conditions, and possible aircraft damage, many U.S. aircraft sought refuge in the Soviet Union, especially the Petropavlovsk - Kamchatka Region. From the brief historical recount, Nenninger transitioned in to the successful recovery mission of the Naval PV-1, which occurred in August of 2001.

As for the first issue, the case of 2nd Lt Richard Brevik, Dr. Nenninger gave short description of Brevik's plight. He told how Brevik's aircraft was damaged during a raid on Shumshu Island and crashed in the waters nearby. Brevik and another crewmember, William Cavanaugh, made it to a life raft and Brevik eventually died of wounds suffered during the crash. Cavanaugh was subsequently captured by the Japanese and Brevik was rumored to have been buried on Shumshu. Nenninger passed data to the Russian Side, which the U.S. had received from Japanese sources concerning Brevik. The data included a statement from Cavanaugh, the only survivor from Brevik's crew, a statement from the Japanese interpreter who was present during Cavanaugh's interrogation, and aerial photography of a possible burial site. In passing the data, Nenninger stated that the U.S. considered the information sufficient enough to request assistance with organizing a site survey of the possible burial site.

Dr. Nenninger asked the Russian Side for a recommendation for a good timeframe to conduct the survey in the spring or summer 2003.

General Golubovskii stated that Aug-Sep is the best time for weather considerations. Dr.

Nenninger remarked that he had heard that April or May might be a good time to start.

General Golubovskii countered that a trip can be arranged, similar to the trip that was done for recovery of the PV-1 Ventura. August to September should be good weather. Golubovskii promised to research this weather information and present it to the U.S. Side before they departed.

Dr. Nenninger suggested that a survey be done similar to what was done in early 2001. Along with the Brevik case, Nenninger expressed the U.S. interest in at least 6 other crash sites in the Shumshu and Kamchatka areas. He mentioned that some of the aircraft may be lend-lease aircraft. He explained that there are roughly fifteen U.S. aircrews still missing from bombing raids during WW II. Nenninger stated that the information on the crash sites was gathered from Russian sources, interviewed during the PV-1 recovery in 2001. He stated that Central Identification Laboratory, Hawaii (CILHI) will be included on future crash site discussions.

Golubovskii broke in to ask for consideration by CILHI to not bring all the equipment they brought last time. He proceeded to describe how much time, labor, and money was unnecessarily expended during the last mission. He claimed that much of what CILHI brought with them could be procured locally. He made special note of the large amount of water brought to an area known for the purity of the local water.

Dr. Nenninger asked the Russian Side to check their archives for information on aircraft crashes on the Far East, including U.S. piloted aircraft and lend-lease aircraft transferred to the Soviet Union. He went on to say that if these sites are geographically close to the Brevik suspect site, it may make sense to investigate some or all of the other sites in conjunction with the Brevik site survey trip.

Golubovskii remarked that near Cape Anglachanka there is a downed U.S. aircraft, but it is not known if it was lend-lease, and at another site the remains of an airplane could be seen on the Side of a

volcano. Golumbovski noted that there is a specialist in the Far East, Alla Paperno, who is somewhat difficult to deal with, but to her credit is knowledgeable.

Zolotarev spoke up to turn the discussion over to Nikiferov.

Nikiferov stated that now he was happy to know that the focus of the World War II Working Group has shifted to the Far East. He then stated that Mr. Korotaev, the Deputy Director of the Russian State Military Archives (RGVA) was going to turn over a file on an American citizen who had been drafted into the German Army in World War II while working in the Mercedes Benz factory. He was taken prisoner by the Red Army and repatriated to Germany in 1945.

Mr. Korotayev handed over the file.

Dr. Nennering gave his thanks. He then expressed hope that Mr. Korotayev will help researchers from the World War II Working Group and the Gulag Study in getting access to the prisoner lists of the Convoy Trips of the NKVD and MVD and camps of the Main Directorate for Prisoners of War and Internees (GUPVI), which are archived at RGVA. He stated that U.S. researchers would provide lists of camps and prisoners of interest.

Mr. Korotayev stated that going over the records of the Convoy Troops might be ineffective, however it was important work and must be undertaken. He added that it was very difficult work as his colleagues on the U.S. Side could attest to. He then stated that he had found a list of twelve Americans in labor battalions and camps dating to 1946 under GUPVI control. He thoroughly checked the list and eliminated all but two as not being American citizens. One of these two was the file he had just turned over to the U.S. Side of the Commission. He was still searching for the second file. He closed by stating that he had thought that all work in RGVA had been exhausted but his recent work had showed him that in fact not all of the possible information of interest to the Commission has been exhausted in RGVA.

CLOSING REMARKS

The meeting ended with renewed promises of cooperation and the continuation of the joint efforts by the members of the U.S.-Russian Joint Commission.

TOUR OF THE RUSSIAN STATE MILITARY ARCHIVES (November, 19 2002)

The following day Dr. Timothy K. Nennering, Chief of Modern Military Records at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) and Co-Chairman of the World War II Working Group was accompanied by World War Two Working Group Analyst Ralph McCall, and Gulag Study Analyst Mike Allen to the Russian State Military Archive (RGVA). There they met with Mr. Vladimir Ivanovich Korotayev, Deputy Director of RGVA. Mr. Korotayev explained the history and layout of RGVA, mentioning that it was originally two separate archives: the Central Special Archives that held the "Trophy Collection" of captured Nazi documents and RGVA. The two archives had merged into one single archive as RGVA. Mr. Korotayev then showed Mr. Nennering various documents from the "Trophy Collection".

The World War Two analyst asked if the collection had German documents pertaining to U.S. POWs.

Mr. Korotayev stated he was not sure of everything in the collection but he did know of letters written by U.S. POWs contained in the Censure Bureau's documents.

The U.S. Side expressed interest in looking at these and any other documents contained in the German document collection.

Mr. Korotayev stated that the U.S. Side would have full access to the collection.

Dr. Nennering thanked him.

Dr. Nennering and Mr. Korotayev then carried on a lengthy conversation about technical archival matters and techniques.

Mr. Korotayev gave the representatives of the U.S. Side a brief but informative tour of the building that holds the "Trophy Collection". Following the tour he took them to meet Mr. Kuzelenkov, Director of RGVA.

Mr. Kuzelenkov gave the U.S. Side a very warm welcome. He gave a short overview of the archives history and lay out.

Mr. Korotayev then gave a tour of the building that holds the primary military collection and the GUPVI holdings, including the two reading halls used by U.S. Side World War II Working Group and Gulag Study analysts.

Dr. Nenninger thanked Mr. Korotayev for the very helpful and informative meeting and tour.

Mr. Korotayev expressed a sincere desire to maintain a close and helpful relationship with the U.S. Side of the Commission.