SUMMARIZED MINUTES

Korean War Working Group (KWWG) Technical Talks

U.S.-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAs (USRJC)

December 12, 2019 Ministry of Defense Frunzenskaya Naberezhnaya, 22/2

Moscow, Russian Federation

U.S. Side Participants

• Mr. Timothy Shea

U.S. Commissioner to the USRJC representing the Defense Intelligence Agency U.S. Chairman, USRJC World War II (WWII) Working Group

Defense Intelligence Officer for Europe/Eurasia

Colonel Frank Tank, USA

Acting U.S. Chairman, USRJC KWWG Director, Europe Mediterranean (EM) Regional Directorate Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA)

• Mr. Richard Lyda

Acting Executive Secretary, U.S. Side of the USRJC EM Regional Directorate, DPAA

- Acting Senior Research Analyst, USRJC KWWG EM Regional Directorate, DPAA
- Research Analyst, KWWG
 Joint Commission Support Division (JCSD)
 EM Regional Directorate, DPAA

Russian Side Participants

 General Major (Ret.) Aleksandr Kirilin Russian Deputy Chairman, USRJC Assistant Deputy Minister of Defense

General-Lieutenant (Ret.) Vasiliy Khristoforov
 Russian Chairman, USRJC Cold War Working Group (CWWG)
 Member of the Interagency Commission on POWs, Internees, and MIAs, Ministry of
 Defense (MOD) of the Russian Federation

• Colonel (Ret.) Igor Permyakov

Russian Commissioner, USRJC Acting Russian Chairman, USRJC KWWG Chief, Central Archives of the MOD of the Russian Federation • Mr. Aleksandr Mukomolov

Chairman, Inter-regional Nongovernment Organization

"General Lebed Peacekeeping Mission"

Member of the Interagency Commission on POWs, Internees, and Missing-in-Action Commissioner, USRJC CWWG

Colonel (Ret.) Andrey Taranov

Russian Commissioner, USRJC

Executive Secretary, Russian Side of the USRJC

Deputy Director, Directorate for Perpetuating the Memory of Those Fallen in Defense of the Motherland, MOD of the Russian Federation

Mr. Mikhail Zheltakov

Deputy Chief, Warriors-Internationalists Affairs Committee Commonwealth of Independent States Government Heads Council, USRJC CWWG

- Representative from Central Archives of the MOD of the Russian Federation (TsAMO), KWWG
- Representative from Research Institute (of Military History) of the Military Academy of the General Staff, Armed Forces of the Russian Federation, USRJC KWWG
- Representative of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, USRJC KWWG
- Section Chief of TsAMO, USRJC KWWG
- Acting Chief, Washington Office, Russian Side of the USRJC, USRJC KWWG

Joint Opening Comments

General Kirilin welcomed the group to Moscow. He passed on greetings from the Russian Side Co-Chairman, General Vostrotin, who was attending another high-level meeting. He noted as the city of Moscow prepares for the upcoming holidays, the memory of the fears of war 75 years ago lives on. He recalled the events that led up to the Lend-Lease Act during World War II and the cooperation between the United States and the Soviet Union. He mentioned that every year, members of the USRJC lay flowers at a monument dedicated to the U.S. Merchant Marines who took part in transporting aircraft under the Lend-Lease Program. General Kirilin informed the group of the Russian Federation's intention of erecting an armed forces cathedral in honor of the 75th anniversary of that victory. He also expressed the hope that a future meeting of the USRJC would take place in that building. He added the building would commemorate all participants of the Great Patriotic War. In that vein, the Russian Side expressed gratitude to the U.S. Side for acquiring soil from U.S. cemeteries that hold the remains of Soviet servicemen. General Kirilin stated he had no doubt the day's events would be productive and in keeping with the spirit of cooperation and mutual understanding. He acknowledged the meetings were occurring under less than favorable political conditions, but reiterated the Commission was created for a noble purpose. General Kirilin stressed the importance of moving forward and finding answers to the questions posed regarding the missing or killed-in-action for their families.

Colonel Shea thanked the Russian Side for showing up "in force." He stated it was great to see so many important and friendly faces across the table. He acknowledged General Vostrotin had other requirements to attend to and passed along greetings from U.S. Side Co-Chairman General Foglesong, who planned to visit General Vostrotin in January 2020. He expressed gratitude to the Russian Side for inviting the U.S. Side to Moscow despite the difficult political situation.

Colonel Tank expressed gratitude and humility for the opportunity to be part of this important work. He stated he was fascinated by the Russian people's passion for their history and acknowledged General Kirilin's mention of the current anniversaries of notable historic events. Colonel Tank shared that 20 years earlier, while serving as a company commander in Kosovo, he supported the 13th Tactical Group of the Russian Army. He added that those soldiers also took care of his troops over the course of six months. He expressed appreciation to the Russian Federation for their support.

Mr. Lyda introduced himself as a new "old" member of the Commission. He explained that he left the Agency for a few years, but is happy to be back as the Acting Executive Secretary of the U.S. Side. He recalled 2010 when the Russian Side visited Arlington National Cemetery and expressed a desire to work on a similar project. He expressed gratitude for the opportunity to help with the acquiring of soil from U.S. cemeteries bearing Soviet remains for the Russian Side. Mr. Lyda echoed the sentiments of Colonel Shea and passed along greetings from General Foglesong to General Vostrotin and reiterated that despite tumultuous political conditions, the Commission continues to renew its commitment to this important work.

Colonel Taranov warmly welcomed the U.S. Side to the Hero City of Moscow and introduced the Russian Side representatives. He also expressed a wish on behalf of General Major Vladimir Vasil'evich Popov, Director, Directorate for Perpetuating the Memory of Fallen Defenders of the Motherland, that the day's meetings would be fruitful.

After the Working Groups split up, the following topics were discussed at the KWWG session:

1. Staff Sergeant (SSgt) Joseph Stephen Dougherty, USAF

Background: A document discovered in the Russian archives describes a reprimand of a Soviet officer who came in contact with, and interrogated, a U.S. Prisoner of War (POW). The reprimand states the Soviet 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. Although unnamed, the POW was identified in the reprimand as a radio operator of a B-29 Superfortress with whom the Soviet officer had contact from October 23-25, 1951. There were three B-29 aircraft shot down over North Korea on October 23, 1951. No B-29s were shot down in 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 recovered at the crash site. The second radio operator was captured and repatriated after the armistice. DPAA analysts were able to contact the second radio operator, who upon hearing this story, confirmed he was not the individual described in the reprimand. The third radio operator was SSgt Dougherty, who was listed as Missing in Action (MIA) until he was presumptively declared dead in 1953.

<u>Discussion</u>: Colonel Permyakov reported the archival research performed on this loss yielded no additional information. The U.S. Side requested the Russian Side conduct a search for information regarding the reprimanded Soviet officer. Colonel Permyakov accepted the logic presented by the U.S. Side to conduct the search for the Ministry for State Security (MGB) and Main Intelligence Directorate (GRU) documents. He added the Russian Side does not plan to stop looking for relevant information and emphasized the large number of documents that need to be reviewed.

Colonel Tank stated General Foglesong had sent a formal request to General Vostrotin in 2017 requesting the Russian Side review records in the GRU. Colonel Permyakov stated he would inquire about the request with the Russian Side Executive Secretary, Colonel Taranov, and recommended the U.S. Side submit an official follow-up request asking specifically for information regarding the fate of Sergeant Dougherty.

2. Captain (Capt.) Harry Cecil Moore, USAF

Background: In 1997, DPMO (now DPAA) analysts traveled to Taganrog, Russia, and interviewed a 74-year old Soviet veteran of the Korean War. During the interview, the veteran stated 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 Capt. Harry, or Gary, Moore, who had been shot down in the summer of 1951. The DPAA interviewers, seasoned by hundreds of such interviews, had never heard this level of detail.

A combat report found in the Central Archives of the MoD 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 Capt. Moore's loss. This document reports that Capt. Kalyuzhnyy followed the F-51 aircraft to where it crashed into Korea Bay.

On May 17, 2002, DPAA interviewed Aleksey Alekseevich Kalyuzhnyy in Odessa, Ukraine. According to Kalyuzhnyy, he was credited with shooting down an F-51 Mustang on June 1, 1951, under circumstances that correlate with the loss of Capt. Moore's aircraft. Kalyuzhnyy recounted he followed the F-51 as it headed toward Korea 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 believed he could have survived the incident.

<u>Discussion</u>: Colonel Permyakov reported the archival research performed on this loss had yielded no additional information. He stated they would continue to search for information. Colonel Permyakov added that requests for searches in other archives should be submitted through Colonel Taranov. Colonel Permyakov was unable to provide any updates to the letter sent to General Vostrotin on November 8, 2017, for information on Capt. Moore held in Russian MGB archives, but agreed to inquire about it. He recommended the U.S. Side submit an official follow-up request asking specifically for information regarding the fate of Capt. Moore.

3. Request for Access to Primorskiy Military District Files for 1950-1953

Background: According to the Soviet Military Encyclopedic Dictionary, the Primorskiy

Kray Military District was formed on September 10, 1945, and includes the territory of the Primorskiy Kray, excluding the area to the north of the Samarga River. Its composition included those forces located in Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and on the Kwantoon Peninsula; headquarters for the Military District was located at Voroshilov (Ussuriysk). The Military District was disbanded on April 23, 1953, and its territory and forces were incorporated into the Far East Military District.

U.S. researchers have seen Soviet documents that were routed to and from the Primorskiy Military District and the Korean Theater of Operations, suggesting information on operations in the Korean Theater was shared with the Primorskiy Military District Headquarters. As such, the U.S. Side requested to have access to these files as part of the routine research access in TsAMO.

<u>Discussion</u>: Researchers at TsAMO searched documents of the Primorskiy Military District Files for the years of 1950-1953 for information regarding the fates of U.S. military personnel who were killed or are missing as a result of the Korean War. Colonel Permyakov stated no information on U.S. personnel was found and added his team would continue searching. Additionally, he stated his experts had submitted requests to declassify some of the records and had yet to receive a response.

4. Korean War-era Soviet Topographic Maps

Background: In May 2016, during the 20th Plenum of the USRJC, the U.S. Side made a request 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.

In May 2017, the Russian Side responded and provided the U.S. Side 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; however, the Russian Side responded such information is classified and unavailable to share with the U.S. side.

<u>Discussion</u>: The Russian Side stated no maps were located in their archives. Colonel Tank clarified the U.S. Side has 24 specific places it needs assistance correlating. The U.S. Side handed over the supporting documents. Colonel Permyakov stated the Russian Side would work on them and discuss the results.

5. Captain (Capt.) Albert Tenney, USAF

Background: According to U.S. documents, Capt. Tenney, flying an F-86 (Sabre), tail number 50-652, was flying the number two (Call Sign: Spare 2) aircraft in a flight of two F-86s that departed Suwon Air Base (K-13) on the afternoon of May 3, 1952. The briefed mission was a fighter sweep operation in an area commonly known as "MiG Alley" near the Yalu River.

Documents acquired from the TsAMO in 2000 and later by DPMO's JCSD indicate a U.S. F-86 was shot down on May 3, 1952, around 1630 Beijing Time (1730I–1800I) by Sovietpiloted MiG-15s. Several documents show it crashed in the Province of Antun (Antung, now Dandong) near Myaogou Airfield. However, Russian documents also indicate two MiG-15 pilots -a Soviet Lieutenant (Lt) Mazikin from the 821st Fighter Aviation Regiment and Lt Krasulin of the 256th Fighter Aviation Regiment - claim to have shot down the U.S. F-86 Sabre. Additional Russian documents show a search commission verified Krasulin's claim and provided supporting documents including photographs of the wreckage and Capt. Tenney's ID card. The Soviets claim the wreckage and all other material evidence were handed over to Chinese authorities. A hand-drawn diagram indicates the engagement between Capt. Tenney and Lt Krasulin occurred near Myaogou Airfield and Capt. Tenney crashed near the village of Kolushan'tszyu, China.

Discussion: The Russian Side stated that as a result of archival research, materials related to the fate of Capt. Tenney were found which confirm his aircraft was shot down on May 3, 1952, and he was killed in the incident. The Russian Side reported requests to have the materials further declassified were denied. However, Colonel Permyakov added the Russian Side is prepared to compile unclassified extracts for release. The Russian Side recommended the U.S. Side submit another request, asking specifically for information regarding the fate of Capt. Tenney.

6. First Lieutenant (1Lt) Robert Frank Niemann, USAF

<u>Background</u>: 1Lt Robert Niemann served as a pilot assigned to 334th Fighter-Interceptor Squadron (FIS), 4th Fighter-Interceptor Wing. He was listed as MIA on April 12, 1953.

1Lt Niemann departed Kimpo (K-14) Air Base (AB) at 1114-I (Korea time) on April 12, 1953, piloting an F-86E (Sabre), tail number 52-2891. He was flying as the number four aircraft in a flight of four aircraft, call sign "Charlie 4." The briefed mission was a fighter escort operation for a reconnaissance flight targeting an area southwest of Kanggye. Due to bad weather at the target area, the reconnaissance aircraft scheduled to be escorted by the F-86s returned to base and the 4-ship's mission was changed to a fighter sweep over the Sui-Ho Reservoir.

While patrolling the reservoir area, 1Lt Niemann's flight encountered a flight of enemy MiG-15s and was forced to separate into two elements. After several minutes of maneuvering, one of the MiG-15, was able to close on 1Lt Niemann's element. As the two F-86s rolled out headed south in a shallow dive, the MIG-15 moved into firing position. During the final seconds of the engagement, 1Lt Niemann was heard to say, "Here he comes again." Then both Charlie 4 and the MiG-15 slid from the wingman's view. No further transmissions were received from 1Lt Niemann. His F-86 was last seen at an altitude of 15,000 feet.

Repeated attempts to contact 1Lt Niemann by radio were unsuccessful. Aircraft from the 334th FIS conducted aerial searches of the area until 1733-I, which did not reveal any trace of 1Lt Niemann or his aircraft. Point of loss was believed to be in the mountains south of the Yalu River, about midway between Sinuiju and the Sui-Ho Dam. Documents previously located in TsAMO by U.S. researchers reported 1Lt Niemann perished during his shoot-down.

<u>Discussion</u>: The Russian Side stated as a result of archival research, materials related to the fate of 1Lt Robert Niemann were found which confirm his aircraft was shot down on April 12, 1953; he was killed as a result. But the Russian Side reported requests to have the materials further declassified were denied. However, Colonel Permyakov added the Russian Side is prepared to compile unclassified extracts for release. The Russian Side recommended the U.S. Side submit another request, asking specifically for information regarding the fate of 1Lt Niemann.

7. New Issue: Russian/Soviet Cemetery in Lushunkou District, China (formerly Port Arthur)

Background: A Russian/Soviet cemetery is located in the former city of Port Arthur, now called Lushunkou District, in the People's Republic of China (PRC). It came into being shortly after the Russo-Japanese War of 1904-1905. Many casualties of that war and the Soviet-Japanese War¹, are buried in this cemetery. Following decades of Japanese occupation, Port Arthur was liberated by Soviet forces on August 22, 1945, during the Soviet-Japanese War. By treaty with the Chinese, control of the Port Arthur returned to the Soviets, which lasted until May 1955 when Soviet forces departed the city and it reverted to Chinese administration. Many of the fallen liberators in 1945 are buried in this cemetery as are other military and civilians who died in Port Arthur from 1945-1955. Soviet personnel assigned to the 64th Fighter Aviation Corps (FAC) who were killed or died fighting in the Korean War in the rank of major and below were also buried here.

During the course of the USRJC's 27-year history, U.S. analysts have interviewed hundreds of Soviet veterans of the Korean War. On more than one occasion they heard from these veterans that the remains of deceased U.S. servicemen may have been taken to Port Arthur and buried in this cemetery as a gesture of human kindness and respect.

The Russian Office to Perpetuate the Memory of those Killed in the Defense of the Fatherland² is thought to be responsible for such cemeteries and for ensuring the final resting place of Russian and Soviet servicemen is maintained and honored. As such, it is possible this office maintains copies of the burial records for the cemetery in Port Arthur.

<u>Discussion</u>: The U.S. Side requested the Russian Side provide assistance in locating and gaining access to ledgers, lists, or documents on burials in this cemetery during 1950-1953.

The Russian Side stated that for cemeteries located outside the territory of the Russian Federation, it is likely only a list of Soviet burials is maintained. The Chinese government maintains the cemeteries and may have more comprehensive records. General Kirilin suggested the best way to access the cemetery records is through Defense Attaché channels. He stated he believed all foreigners were buried at the cemetery (St. Vladimir) on Sanli Street in the city. However, General Kirilin added the Russian Side will be meeting with the Russian representative in Beijing on December 20th and will request he search their databases for information on U.S. casualties. He also indicated he believes the chances of finding relevant information is "slim."

 2 Управления Министерства обороны Российской Федерации по увековечению памяти погибших при защите Отечества

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¹ How the Russians refer to the events at the end of WWII when the Soviet Union declared war on the Empire of Japan.

8. New Issue: Russian/Soviet Cemetery in Pyongyang, North Korea

<u>Background</u>: JCSD analysts recently became aware of a cemetery in Pyongyang which contains the remains of 742 Soviet citizens in three common graves and many individual graves, all of whom died from 1945-1953. Of this number, 364 were Soviet servicemen. The graves also contain the remains of Soviet civilian specialists and members of their families. There are also the graves of 89 unknowns who are believed to be Soviets. It was initially believed this cemetery contained remains of those who died during WWII, however, a photograph shows the grave of an individual who died in 1951.

<u>Discussion</u>: The U.S. Side requested the Russian Side provide assistance in locating and gaining access to any ledgers, lists, or documents regarding burials in this cemetery during 1950-1953.

The Russian Side stated the best way to access this information is via diplomatic channels. Colonel Permyakov added that depending on how the issue regarding the cemetery in Port Arthur goes, the Russian Side might be able to approach the subject of the cemetery in Pyongyang the same way.

9. New Issue: 2nd Red Banner Special Purpose Aviation Division

Background: Since the inception of the USRJC in the spring of 1992, one of the major issues of concern was what is called "the transfer issue": were Americans transferred from the Korean Theater of Operations and taken against their will to the territory of the former Soviet Union?

While conducting research at TsAMO, U.S. researchers found references to the 2nd Red Banner Special Purpose Aviation Division, a special transport unit that flew to and from Moscow and the Korean Theater of Operations on special missions of carrying passengers and cargo of great importance. The term "special" applies not only to the top government and military leaders, but also to polar explorers, peacekeepers, diplomats, intelligence personnel, and other persons who have to fly out-of-the-ordinary routes or land at unimproved airfields. Some of these passengers are not inclined to wait for the weather to improve, or they may prefer information on their travel be kept away from the press.

<u>Discussion</u>: The U.S. Side requested access to the finding guides of this unit for the years 1950-1953 to see if there might be material of interest for a declassification review. The Russian Side stated it would review the request. Colonel Permyakov mentioned he is doubtful that anything will be found, since he had never seen anything about the 2nd Red Banner Special Purpose Aviation Division in his more than 20 years of work.

10. Soviet Korean War Casualties

<u>Background</u>: The operations group of the 64th FAC was established in the territory of the PRC 15-24 November 1950 in accordance with Directive #5564 by the chief of the Soviet Army General Staff. The directive was issued on 15 November 1950. The corps was established on the basis of three fighter aviation divisions (FAD) which mostly arrived in China within the period of 20-26 November 1950. Those divisions were the 28th FAD, the 50th FAD, and the 151st Guards Fighter Aviation Division (GFAD). The total number of their personnel was 844 officers, 1,153 sergeants, and 1,274 soldiers.

The corps headquarters was deployed in Mukden, and the divisions to airfields located in the vicinity of Mukden (now Shenyang), Anshan, and Andong (Dandong). The primary mission of the 64th FAC was providing the air defense of the most important industrial and administrative centers in northeastern China and North Korea, located on the Mukden axis.

The losses suffered by the 64th FAC was 120 pilots and 335 aircraft.

<u>Discussion</u>: The U.S. Side provided an updated list of 64th FAC losses from the Korean War which were located in TsAMO files. U.S. researchers also located non-64th FAC Soviet losses from the war and provided those lists of casualties, along with the request of identifying their units of origin. The U.S. Side asked if the Russians could identify their units and location of loss, the information could open up new lines of research.

The U.S. Side added it has in its possession unidentified Korean War-era remains that were recovered by the United States or the DPRK from 1990 through 2018. It would be useful to know the loss locations of non-64th FAC Soviet losses as another data point to help identify these unidentified remains. The Russian Side recommended the U.S. Side rephrase the question by inquiring about the methodology of accounting by military advisory groups and military specialists.

11. Russian Request: Lend-Lease

Background: The Lend-Lease Act stated the U.S. Government could lend or lease (not sell) war supplies to nations deemed "vital to the defense of the U.S." Under this law, the U.S. was able to supply military aid to its allies during WWII while remaining officially neutral. November 11, 2019 marked the 75th anniversary of the Lend-Lease Act.

Discussion: The Russian side requested "Lend-Lease" program files in U.S. records. Colonel Permyakov stated the purpose was to develop historically accurate appraisals on the scope of the contributions of the program, as there are claims in Russia in wide variance of its value in achieving victory in WWII.

The U.S. side suggested that the records are unclassified at NARA and recommended that the U.S.-based Russian researchers inform the U.S. Side if they are having difficulties accessing them.

Joint Closing Comments

General Kirilin noted Colonel Tank had expressed a few recommendations for future meetings. [Colonel Tank suggested numerous times throughout the discussion that it would be helpful to ask clearer questions in both construction and intent.] He stated that through the work today, several deficiencies were noted. He expressed the desire to correct these. General Kirilin stated that by the upcoming meeting of the Co-chairmen, both sides would try to correct these problems or at least come up with a strategy forward. He said the most positive part of today's talks was the fact that both groups worked professionally and full of optimism, which provided a chance to thaw relations. He stated the Commission remains the venue for other mutually beneficial projects. General Kirilin stated this is not only his opinion, but also that of both the Russian MoD and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as the Russian Embassy in Washington, D.C.

General Khristoforov thanked the participants and reiterated that both sides remain committed to this work. He stated these Cold War cases are particularly difficult due to the highly classified nature of the incidents and reiterated it had led to many rumors and conspiracy theories. He expressed gratitude that both sides were committed to relying on only the facts in these cases. General Khristoforov added he is committed to continuing this work and thanked the group for their mutual understanding.

Colonel Shea thanked the group and stated the high level of professionalism and trust between both sides has allowed our work to progress. He added that this session was the most balanced Cold War Working Group to date. He remarked both sides had an equal number of issues to discuss and that it was an optimistic sign moving forward.

Colonel Tank thanked the group and expressed the wish of the group to continue this great work and to continue moving forward.

Mr. Lyda stated the Cold War breakout session was very engaging and productive. He reiterated it was a very positive sign for the future of the USRJC. He vowed to take back the questions the Russian Side had and to work diligently to provide the answers it sought. He thanked the Russian Side for their gracious hospitality and said he will see them in January with General Foglesong.

General Kirilin thanked the U.S. Side for their kind words and expressed his hope the U.S. Side would be able to reestablish its office in Moscow soon.