

THE GULAG STUDY



**Joint Commission Support Directorate
Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office**

Fifth Edition

Disclaimer: This Study is presented as an interim report of an ongoing investigation. Conclusions and judgments are derived from the material received to date. Specific accounts and cases are provided to support the topics under discussion and are not intended to be an exhaustive listing of material under investigation or consulted.

Front cover: cell door, Perm'-36 Strict-Regime Camp.

Back cover: a panel from the Memorial to Victims of the Gulag, Syktyvkar, Komi Republic.

The Gulag Study

This study was prepared by:
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“One big, dirty, hungry prison place.”
*American merchant seaman Delvio Senna describing the USSR
after his release from Soviet detention in 1921.*

February 11, 2005

To Our Readers:

After a hiatus of nearly three years, we resume our series of updates on the work being done to verify reports alleging that American servicemen were taken into the Soviet prison camp system during World War II and the Cold War period. However, before we look at the distinctive features of the fifth edition of the Gulag Study that you will find in the pages that follow, a word or two about the report's origins and historical antecedents is in order.

The quest for information that would allow the U.S. Side of the U.S.-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAs to determine whether and which American servicemen were transferred to, and detained in, the former Soviet Union is an integral part of the Commission's nearly thirteen-year history. As early as 1993, then U.S. Commission Co-Chairman, Ambassador Malcolm Toon, provided his counterpart, the late General – Colonel Dmitrii Volkogonov, a compendium of accounts from multiple, disparate sources claiming that Soviet forces, particularly during the Korean War, were involved with the treatment and disposition of captured American servicemen, a number of whom were believed to have been forcibly taken into the former USSR. The promised response to that compendium has never been received from the Russian Side. More recently, in November 1999, Ambassador Toon's immediate successor, retired Major General Roland Lajoie, furnished the current Russian Co-chairman, General-Major Vladimir Zolotarev, with a personal memoir of a former Soviet citizen containing numerous references to American servicemen taken prisoner by Soviet authorities during World War II and the Cold War. The memoir, which has triggered considerable public interest, was met by an outpouring of skepticism and suspicion when presented to Russian commissioners. A written Russian response to the document challenged the accuracy of its claims and the motives of its author without attempting to verify the specific incidents it addressed. A proposed bilateral investigative approach that would have allowed Commission researchers to visit sites noted in the memoir and speak with possible respondents never came about. All this has left the question of the transfer of U.S. service members into the former USSR unresolved and, by default, has made it a distinctly unilateral U.S. pursuit.

In scope and detail, the Gulag Study's fifth edition is a more ambitious work than its predecessors. Its principal drafter, Chief Petty Officer Michael Allen, draws upon a number of published works to offer a close look at the Soviet prison-camp matrix, its elaborate structure and vast reach. Using specific case studies, he then presents the process by which reports about Americans in the gulag have been analyzed to assess their credibility. Joined by others, past and present, from DPMO's Joint Commission Support Directorate, CPO Allen has himself participated in trips to remote sites that have generated some of the investigative leads appearing in the study.

The work of the U.S. Side of the Commission to resolve the transfer issue continues. Hopefully, at some point, circumstances will change to allow for a thorough,

bilateral inquiry into this elusive question. In the meanwhile, we proceed with our efforts to examine the data we have, pursue new leads, and make our findings known through reports such as this. In a sense, we are not unlike the thousands, if not tens of thousands, of Russian citizens who have embarked on a similar quest to learn the facts about their own relatives who disappeared in the gulag. Ultimately, for them as for us, it is persistence which will shape the outcome of this often frustrating, occasionally promising, and always daunting enterprise.

Norman D. Kass
Executive Secretary, U.S. Side

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Executive Summary

Since it was established as a distinct component of the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office in the fall of 1994, the Joint Commission Support Directorate has carefully examined a series of reports and sightings of U.S. servicemen held in the Soviet gulag, a network of penal camps that crisscrossed the former Soviet Union. Several points have become clear.

First, Americans, including American servicemen, were imprisoned in the former Soviet Union. The Soviets and their Warsaw Pact allies even transferred some of these Americans from satellite states such as the German Democratic Republic, to the Soviet Union, where they were detained. However, despite our extensive efforts, we have not yet acquired definitive, verifiable information that would allow us to determine the scope of such transfers or the ultimate fates of those whose lives were directly affected by them.

Secondly, sightings of Americans in the gulag vary by level of detail and clarity of circumstance. While there are numerous accounts of “American servicemen” who can be clearly identified as U.S. or non-U.S. nationals, most reports we have received lack the specificity needed to correlate them to individuals still listed as missing.

Thirdly, resolving the questions raised by reports of American servicemen in the Soviet Union will remain an elusive task. We continue to pursue permission from the Russian government for U.S. investigators to have greater access to former Security Service and Military Intelligence officers. To date the results of these efforts have been less than encouraging.

Lastly, immersing oneself in memoirs or anecdotal accounts can never substitute for unfettered access to historical records. It is these records, after all, which tell the story of those foreigners who became part of the deep abyss known as the Soviet gulag. No search for the facts about American servicemen in the Soviet prison camp system can be considered truly productive or even completely credible unless such access is provided.

Who We Are

US-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAs

In March 1992, the Presidents of the United States and Russian Federation joined together to establish the U.S.-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAs (USRJC). The work of the Commission focuses on three primary objectives:

- To determine if any American POW/MIAs are being held against their will on the territory of the former Soviet Union and, if so, to secure their immediate release and repatriation;
- To determine the fate of unaccounted-for members of the U.S. Armed Forces who were located on the territory of the former Soviet Union or about whom the Russian Government may have information; and
- To clarify facts pertaining to Soviet personnel missing from their war in Afghanistan, from Cold War-era loss incidents, and from World War II.

Over the course of the past twelve years, it has embarked on a number of initiatives of which the present study is but an example.

Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office's Joint Commission Support Directorate

The Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office's Joint Commission Support Directorate (JCSD) provides direct analytical, investigative, and administrative support to the U.S.-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAs (USRJC). As one of its principal tasks, JCSD has undertaken a in-depth review of the Soviet prison camp system as part of its mission to determine the fates of missing American service members.

What We Do

Our research covers the entire history of the former Soviet Union. The earliest known sightings of American servicemen held in the Soviet Union occurred in the 1920's following the Allied Intervention of 1918-1920. The greatest numbers of reported sightings occurred during World War II and through the mid-1950s.

The search for answers involves extensive, on-the-ground field investigations in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, an oral-interview program, archival research, and collaboration with experts in all pertinent disciplines. Our analysts routinely conduct research at the United States National Archives and Records Administration, the Library of Congress, the State Archives of the Russian Federation, and the Russian State Military Archives, as well as many other institutions throughout the world. They have conducted hundreds of interviews, reviewed thousands of documents, and spent months traveling—at times, to some of the most remote places on the Earth—searching for clues and evidence. Much of what we have discovered—however fragmentary and inconclusive it at times has been—appears in this study. It has been carefully examined, using various disciplines and techniques, in order to guide our research and provide answers to our questions: Were American servicemen transferred to the former Soviet Union, particularly during the wars in Southeast Asia and Korea? Were American servicemen detained in the former Soviet Union? Are there live American servicemen being held in the former Soviet Union?



An Arctic village located on the Laptev Sea

How We Do It

Sources and Methods

The four previous editions of the Gulag Study have provided a compendium of reported sightings primarily arranged by geographical location. These sightings were of individuals purported to be American citizens, specifically, American servicemen who were detained in the former Soviet Union. We have conducted on-the-ground investigations and archival research around the world in an effort to verify and, where possible, draw informed analytical conclusions. Much of the information in the Gulag Study is derived from sources outside the Russian Federation. Research in Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Slovakia, as well as the Baltic States and Ukraine, has, in a number of instances, been encouraging. Our research is ongoing in all of these nations and elsewhere, as appropriate.

One of the greatest impediments to resolving the questions raised by the Gulag Study is the lack of documentary evidence, with incomplete or anecdotal accounts frequently serving as the sole basis to generate investigative leads. Names, or the lack thereof, remain a problem. Many of the accounts lack any associated name, let alone full names, of the individuals reportedly encountered. The majority of full names that are available do not match the names of any known missing U.S. servicemen. Problematic as it may be, this fact, however, does not rule out the possibility that an individual may be a missing U.S. serviceman. A source, after all, could have remembered a name incorrectly, or the individual sighted may have been using an alias. The latter was the case, for example, with Russell R. Pattinger, a soldier from the American Expeditionary Force, who was imprisoned in Moscow until 1921. Pattinger used the alias Thomas Hazelwood until his repatriation on August 10, 1921.¹

Additionally, eyewitness accounts, especially of events that are years in the past, have been shown by scientific investigation to be generally unreliable.² Imagine asking the faculty and student body of a school to write down detailed descriptions of all the foreign exchange students who had attended that particular institution during a ten-year period which ended 20 years prior to an interview. The range of descriptions would be vast, with varying degrees of accuracy. This is not unlike the situation we have encountered while investigating eyewitness accounts of Americans in the Gulag.

Reported accounts can be grouped into categories based on the source of the information and the identity of the supposed American service member.

¹ Americans in Prison in Moscow; Military Observer, Baltic Provinces, Riga to Director of Military Intelligence, War Department, Washington, DC, May 3, 1921, Military Intelligence Division (MID), Record Group (RG) 165, National Archives, College Park (NACP).

² Elaine Cassel, "Behavioral Science Research Leads to Department of Justice Guidelines for Eyewitness Evidence." *Virginia Lawyer* 48, no. 7 (February, 2000), <http://www.vsb.org/publications/vlawyer/feb00/cassel.pdf>.

Sources usually obtained information through various forms of contact.

- Direct personal contact with the individual.
- Visual contact with the individual identified.
- Indirect or second-hand accounts.

The determination of identity as an American or an American serviceman is usually made in one or more of the following ways.

- An individual told a source that he was an American and/or an American serviceman.
- A source deduced through his own means that an individual was an American or an American serviceman.
- A third party told a source that an individual was an American or an American serviceman.

These possibilities, in turn, give rise to a number of variations. For instance, an individual may have told a source he was an American citizen and the source may have deduced on his own -- or was told by a third party -- that the individual was not only American, but was also a soldier.

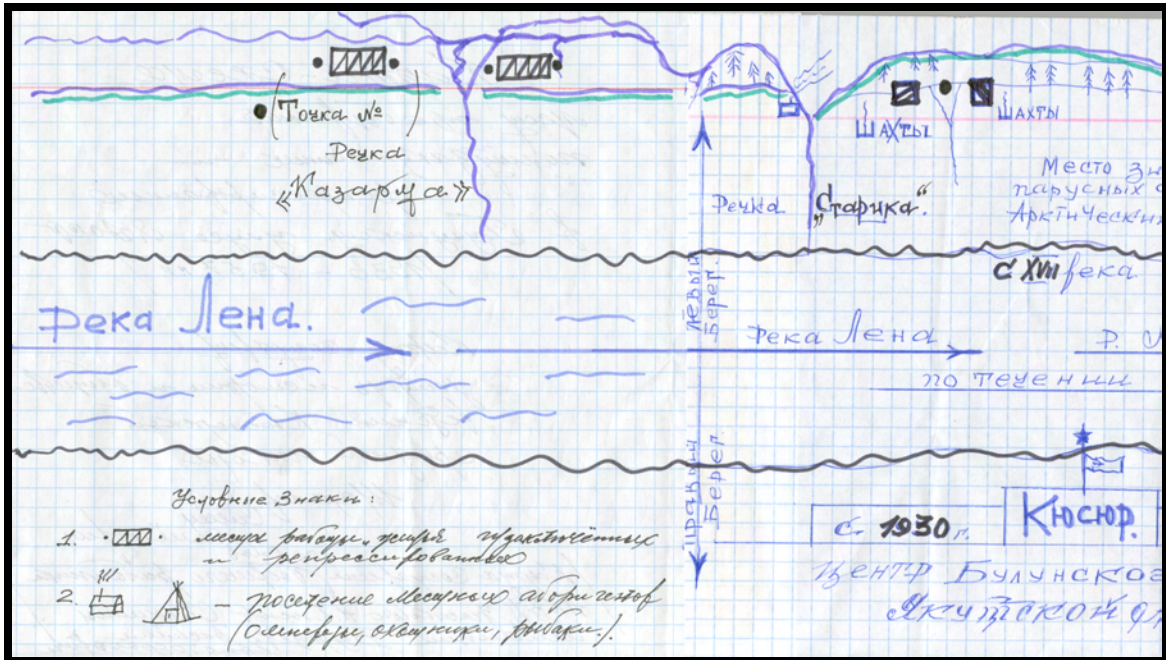
Individuals reported to be American servicemen typically fall into one of the following categories:

- Former POWs held by the Germans, liberated, and later imprisoned by the Soviets. They are often of Slavic or Germanic descent.
- Members of the Constabulary, Counter-Intelligence Corps, or an intelligence agency arrested or kidnapped by the Soviets, usually in Germany or Austria, between 1945 and 1960.
- Soldiers stationed in Germany or Austria arrested or kidnapped after inadvertently crossing into the Soviet zone.
- Crewmembers of an aircraft, usually a reconnaissance plane, shot or forced down over or near Soviet territory.
- Korean- or Vietnam- War POWs transferred to the Soviet Union.³
- Defectors or deserters.

This study allows for the possibility of all of these scenarios, with specific circumstances making some more plausible than others.

Sightings, however, are only one piece of the puzzle. By using a fusion of all-source information, JCSA analysts continue to work on resolving the questions central to the Gulag Study in as complete and accurate a manner as possible.

³ Reports of Vietnam War sightings are less common than those received for other periods being reviewed.



A hand-drawn map depicting 1950's era prison camps along the Lena River



A native Yakutian during an interview in Tiksi, Yakutia

Source Descriptions

Gulag Study Support Document Database

JCSD analysts have combed through U.S. diplomatic and military archives to collect as many contemporaneous reports of American servicemen in the former Soviet Gulag as possible. These include numerous accounts of U.S. POWs reportedly shipped into the former Soviet Union, as well as sightings of missing servicemen who were observed at camps and other former Soviet detention facilities.

The documents contained in the Gulag Study Support Document Database are a selection of declassified U.S. government documents that have provided JCSD researchers with key information to support and focus their on-the-ground research and investigations. The Library of Congress's Federal Research Division maintains the database. It is located on the World Wide Web at the following URL:

<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/gulag/gulaghome.html>

A subset of the Gulag Study Support Document Database is the Wringer Database. It is located at:

<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/wringer/wringerhome.html>

Further information about DPMO, the USRJC, and JCSD can be found on DPMO's website:

<http://www.dtic.mil/dpmo>



Krasnoyarsk City Museum



CPO Dennis Friedbauer interviews a Hungarian survivor of the Gulag

Interviews—The Oral History Program

One of the most important tools JCSA analysts have is the interview or “oral history” program. Analysts interview Soviet military and security service veterans, local inhabitants, former prisoners, subject-matter experts, and other individuals of interest. JCSA has also established contractual relationships with Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) such as KARTA, headquartered in Poland, and Memorial, based in Russia, to assist in interviews and archival research. Besides providing primary-source material, archival research in the United States, Russia, and elsewhere is essential for identifying and locating individuals for inclusion in the interview program.

Archives and Libraries

JCSA analysts carry out archival research throughout the United States, Russia, and various East European nations, most notably Hungary and the Czech Republic. The following highlights key archival collections where we have carried out research to date.

State Archives of the Russian Federation (GARF)

JCSD analysts have been conducting research at GARF, located in Moscow, for a number of years. GARF is the main repository for Gulag-related records, and those of the Main Administration of Camps, and its successor organization, the Main Administration of Places of Confinement (GUMZ). In addition, GARF maintains the records of the Ministry of Internal Affairs up to the year 1960. Equally important are the records of the various national-level entities such as the Main Administration of Railroad Construction, which were responsible for the Gulag's industrial productivity.



State Archives of the Russian Federation (GARF)

Russian State Military Archives (RGVA)

RGVA, also located in Moscow, has several collections of particular documentary importance to our Gulag Study, specifically: the records of the Main Administration of Prisoners of War and Internees and the records of the Ministry of Internal Affairs' Convoy Troops. The latter were responsible for escorting prisoners throughout the Soviet Union. RGVA also maintains a large collection of "trophy documents," i.e., captured foreign documents that are of interest to our researchers.

National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)

JCSD analysts conduct research at NARA facilities throughout the United States, including the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) in St. Louis, Missouri, and the various presidential libraries. The bulk of JCSD's research is carried out at the NARA II building in College Park, Maryland, where, our researchers have access to vast amounts of classified and declassified U.S. Government documents, as well as captured foreign documents.

The Library of Congress

The Library of Congress, located in Washington, D.C., is an invaluable source of hard-to-find books, newspapers, periodicals, and unpublished manuscripts. JCSD analysts routinely work in the library's European Reading Room. In addition, JCSD has a partnership with the library's Federal Research Division (FRD), which was mentioned earlier in this section.

Project Wringer

One collection of documents that deserves special mention are the "Wringer" documents, which have provided several new investigative leads.

In the late 1940's, the United States Air Force established Project Wringer. Primarily aimed at developing target folders for strategic bombing in the event of a future war against the Soviet Union, Wringer reports obtained strategic intelligence information on Warsaw Pact nations through overt interviews with former defectors, refugees, and POWs held in the former Soviet Union. The Wringer reports contain large amounts of detailed information specific to the Soviet infrastructure. Of particular interest is the unique and extensive look they provide into the vast, industry-based prison empire that has become known as the "Gulag." Wringer reports cover the period from the early 1940's until the late 1950's.

Project Wringer, now declassified, is stored in some 1,350 boxes at the National Archives and Record Administration. In early 2001, JCSD initiated a concerted effort to exploit the Wringer reports for references to, and sightings of, known and purported U.S. servicemen. Material gained through this effort is routinely incorporated into the Gulag Study

**Project Wringer received its name in 1949, during a briefing:
"I had always described what we were after as 'wringing out' every last bit of
usable data from every single person who had been inside the USSR..."**

(CLASSIFICATION)

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency) 7050 AISS		REPORT NO. 181385-59-B-1745 A		PAGE 2 OF 2 PAGES	
PLACE USSR	WAC NO. N/A	FN	EVAL F-6	IN CODE NO.	
POLITICAL LOCATION USSR		DESCRIPTIVE NAME OF REPORT Report on American Citizen Imprisoned as PW in USSR			
SOVIET ECON. REGION N/A	PROPER NAME	IMENI	DATES OF INFORMATION FROM Aug 49 to Jul 50		

I. PREAMBLE:

SOURCE, KLUECK, Gerhard, address: c/o Johannes Greber, Kehn 207, Vorst. bei Krefeld, who returned to West Germany at HERLESHAUSEN with transport # 7 on 9 October 1953, was imprisoned in various PW camps in USSR from Feb 48 to Sep 53. SOURCE gave the following information concerning an American officer imprisoned as PW in USSR.

II. INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION:

From Aug 49 to Jul 50 while SOURCE was at VORKUTA (6730N-6403E) in a distribution camp # 61, he met and spoke to an American officer, supposedly a major who claimed to have been kidnapped by the Russians in Apr 1945 while our troops were still at the ELBE. He was sentenced to 25 years by the Russians for espionage. He still wore the uniform of an American Major and was treated in accordance with his rank. The SOURCE stated that this officer was an American Staff Officer who was constantly questioned by the Russians as to German and American industrial installations.

SOURCE'S description of this officer is as follows:

- Dark blond hair
- Height: 1.75 m
- Slim figure
- Blue gray eyes
- Broad-shouldered
- Mustache
- Last name comparatively long

According to the SOURCE, a man named WRESCHNIK, Sepp, also spoke with this officer. WRESCHNIK is expected to arrive in the following transport from STALINO (4800N-3748E).

Edward N. Lordak
EDWARD N. LORDAK
Lt Col, USAF
Commander
7059 AISS

NOTE: THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE ESPIONAGE ACT, 50 U. S. C.—31 AND 32, AS AMENDED; ITS TRANSMISSION OR THE REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS IN ANY MANNER TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. IT MAY NOT BE REPRODUCED IN WHOLE OR IN PART, BY OTHER THAN UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AGENCIES, EXCEPT BY PERMISSION OF THE DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE, USAF.

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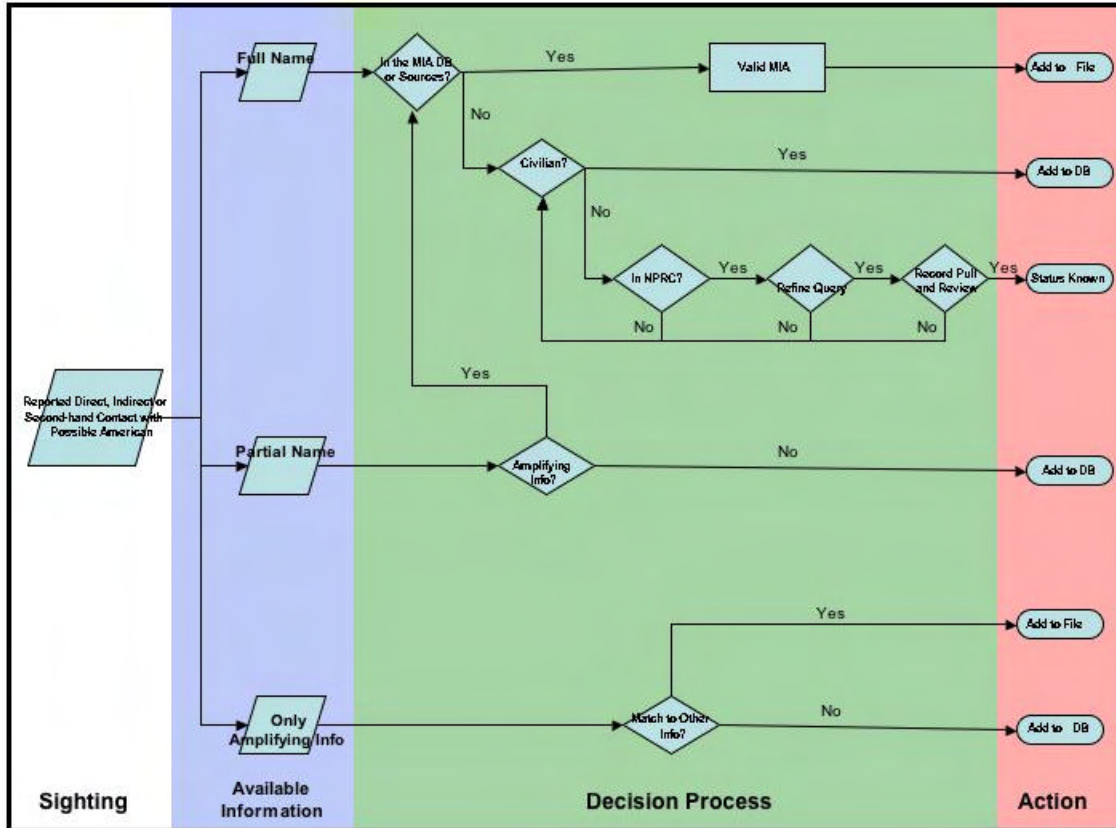
CONFIDENTIAL

(CLASSIFICATION)

AF USAF WISEN GER 33-95M-1289

The Verification Process

A subsection of a larger analytical process, the sighting verification schematic shown on this page, allows analysts to determine whether a reported sighting warrants further



investigation. During their review of existing documentation and interviews with new sources, investigators come across references to possible American servicemen in the Gulag system in three ways. References may appear in reports of direct contact – personal interaction between the source and a possible American serviceman; through indirect contact – visual contact with amplifying data as mentioned above, or through second-hand accounts of possible Americans.

Analysts usually differentiate sightings by the type of information available in a given report. The best reference, for analytical purposes, is a complete name. If a reference contains a full name, the analyst is able to compare a name with lists of known missing servicemen. If a correlation can be made, then the analyst must create a priority file and refine the search to determine if this is an actual missing serviceman and, if so, what further action must be taken.

If the full name is not within existing databases, the analyst attempts to determine if the referenced person may be an American civilian. To do this, the analyst refers to existing lists within U.S. Government and other data sources. If the full name appears in these lists, the analyst annotates this, determines if the individual is one and the same and, if so, the matter is referred to the State Department for further resolution.

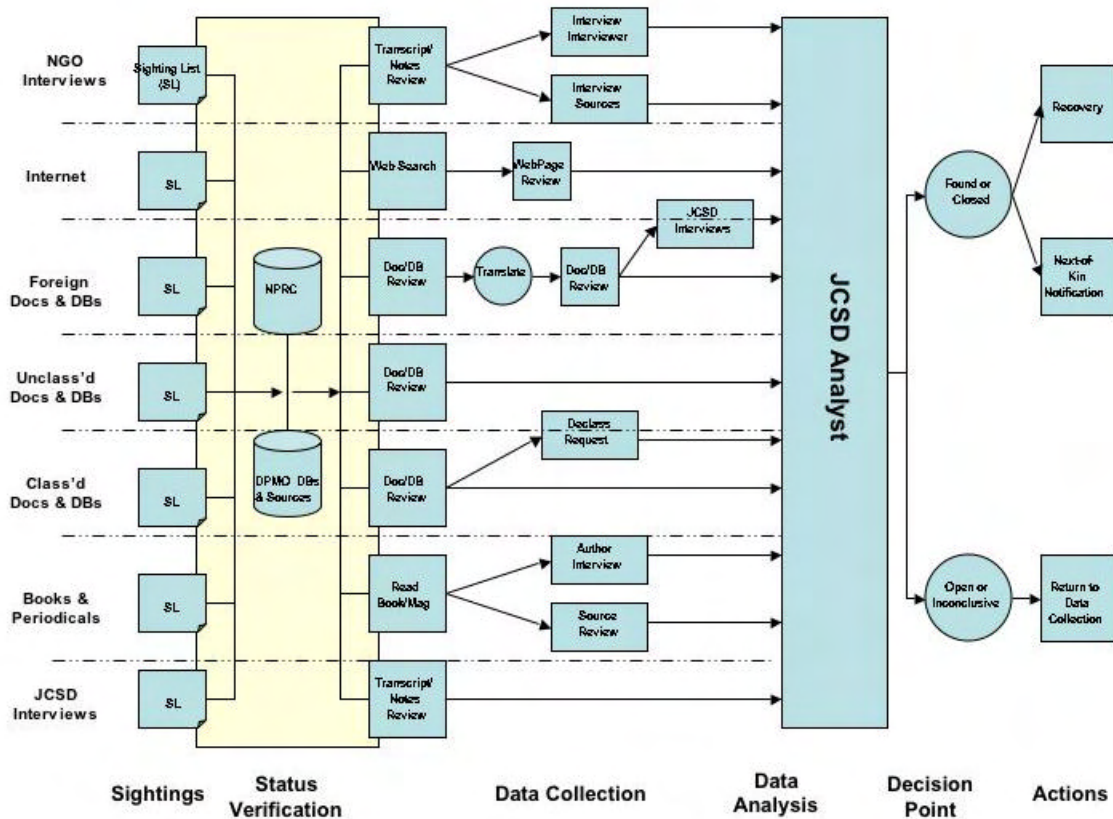
If a full name cannot be identified, a review is conducted at the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) in St. Louis to locate existing records that might match the full name. In the case of a potential match, the analyst attempts to refine the NPRC query by researching any relevant corollary information.

Reference data, when available, exists, is correlated with appropriate records to determine whether a match exists. If a correlation is made, the analyst may say with some confidence that the status of the referenced full name is known. The name may then be added to the sightings list for further investigation.

When a complete name cannot be verified with any level of confidence during the NPRC research process, the analyst returns the name to JCSD's data sources as undefined and awaits the discovery of other, clarifying information.

In those instances where only a partial name is provided, supplemental data such as hair color, identifying marks, or rank takes on particular importance. If such data exists, analysts follow the same procedure as used to verify a full name reference.

When no amplifying information exists, a partial name and reference document are recorded in JCSD's data sources. In cases where amplifying information is available, it is examined against other similar data on file. When a match occurs, the new information is added to the existing entry. If not, a new entry is created in JCSD's recorded holdings.



Analytic Process

The analytical approach we use examines the data acquired against the full spectrum of resources available. Sightings are identified and verified through our sighting verification process described above. Essential to the process is a comparison of sightings with US Government lists of missing American servicemen and other DPMO databases and sources. Once a sighting is received, the analyst then verifies the incident using documents and data from seven primary categories:

- Transcripts and notes from interviews conducted by NGOs
- Internet
- Foreign documents and databases
- Unclassified US Government documents and databases
- Classified US Government documents and databases
- Books (including published and unpublished memoirs) and periodicals
- JCSD-conducted interviews

Case Studies

The following actual case studies are given as examples of the analytical process. We have attempted to present sightings from a wide range of sources, with varying degrees of available detail, resulting in different outcomes.

The initial step in our analytical process is what we term “sighting verification.”

In our first example, Gulag Study analysts, while performing archival research, discovered a declassified US Government document from the 1950’s. The document contained a full name (withheld here because this case is still under investigation) with detailed amplifying information relating to a possible World War II missing service member. Analysts first ran the name through DPMO’s databases. These databases and DPMO’s other data sources, generated 15 names identical to that in this case study. Through further research, we found that eight of the 15 are known to have been Killed in Action and are buried in US military cemeteries overseas. The remaining seven are listed as missing; however, only one of these seven is missing from the European theatre. The amplifying data provided in the sighting report closely matches that associated with that one missing American.

Once verified as a possible missing American serviceman, a more extensive analysis begins, as described in the Data Collection and Data Analysis sections. In this case, the analyst’s next step was to go to the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) in search of any pertinent Missing Air Crew Report (MACR). The MACR is a declassified US Government document that details the crew list and technical details of aircraft lost during combat operations in World War II.

During our research, we have come across inconsistencies between data found in the MACRs and that contained in other sources. When this happens, we continue to consider the case as “Open” and continue to review our existing sources, looking for new data to move the case from “Open” or “Inconclusive” to “Resolved.”

In this instance, Gulag Study analysts have requested the individual’s personnel records to compare them with the reported sighting. We have sent a request for information to the Russian Military Medical Archives.

Our second example centers on a declassified CIA document from 1954, which was found at NARA. In it was a sighting of an American soldier with no name or rank given, located in Tayshet Camp 20 during the 1949-1950 time frame. A clear physical description was given, as well as mention of a shoot-down during a reconnaissance mission over the Baltic Sea. Most importantly, the sighting report mentioned burn scars on the American’s right cheek and his use of a cane.

In performing the sighting verification, Gulag Study analysts determined that this may be related to a PB4Y-2 shot down over the Baltic on April 4, 1950.

At first glance, it would appear logical to conclude that this was a crewmember from the April 1950 shoot-down. However, since the report fails to mention a specific date of loss, it is by no means certain that it unequivocally relates to that incident.

The large amount of clear amplifying data in this case allowed us to refine the list of possible servicemen by comparing specific data points – physical description, date/time of sighting, etc. – to other cases in the data sources. To do this we looked for other sightings in the same time frame in Tayshtet Camp 20. This significantly narrowed our search. Source materials revealed a declassified diplomatic cable from 1956 that states that, in 1950, a debriefed Austrian national and former Russian prisoner in Tayshtet Camp 20 met an American named Jim Fabian. Fabian claimed to have been a first lieutenant in the U.S. Army Air Force during World War II. One half of his face was scarred from a plane accident during the war, and he walked with a cane. He claimed to have been arrested in 1947-48 while visiting a relative in Prague.

With a full name and a plausible explanation of his burns and cane, we then began to research Jim Fabian in more detail. Fabian is described in many source documents as having had burns or a birthmark on his face. During the 1950's, the FBI and the State Department both investigated the reports about Mr. Fabian. Through researching case specifics within the United States, they determined that there was no US citizen matching the names or aliases surrounding James Fabian.

Finally, we found an unclassified US document in NARA that related news that Eugene Jan (Jimmy) Fabian had been repatriated to Czechoslovakia as a Czech citizen in August of 1955, and was residing there as a Czech national. Descriptions and other amplifying information confirmed that Jan Fabian was the “American soldier” reported in the various sightings. In this case, we state that this report is most likely “Closed” or “Resolved” and have recorded that in DPMO’s source records.

What We Have Found

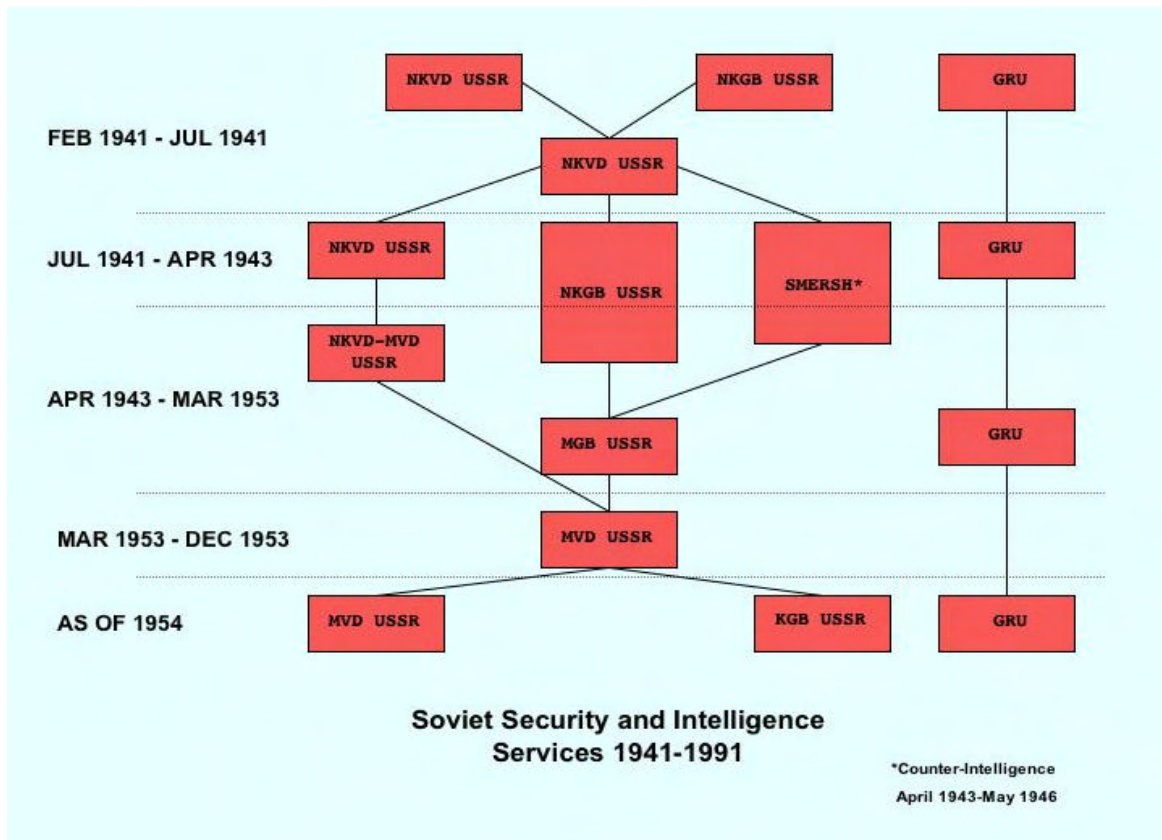
Terms of Reference: “Gulag” versus “gulag”

The word “gulag” became a familiar term in the West with the publication of Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn’s epic novel, *The Gulag Archipelag*, in 1973. A Russian acronym for *Glavnoe Upravlenie Lagerey* (Main Administration of Camps), “Gulag,” is often used to mean any oppressive penal system.

The former Soviet Gulag, as an administrative organization, did not come into being until the 1930’s. Prior to its establishment and during its tenure, other detention facilities also existed within the former Soviet penal system. Because of the complexities of these systems and the all-inclusive connotation of the word, “gulag,”—with a lower-case “g”—has been used in this volume as a general term to describe all places of confinement within the former Soviet penal system.

A basic understanding of that system, as well as the law enforcement and security services that controlled it, is necessary to put into context, understand, and analyze sightings of Americans in the gulag.

Former Soviet Law Enforcement and Security Services



The two primary Soviet organizations responsible for maintaining detention facilities were the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Committee of State Security, hereafter referred to by the Russian abbreviations MVD and KGB, respectively. The People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs, the NKVD, preceded the MVD; the Ministry of State Security, or MGB, preceded the KGB.

As law enforcement agencies, the MVD controlled the police, the convoy troops (responsible for prisoner transport), and internal troops. The KGB maintained responsibility for state security, including: border guards, foreign intelligence, counter-intelligence, and the political police. The names, structure, and authority of these agencies changed numerous times between 1917 and 1991 because of internal power struggles and administrative realignments.⁴ In addition to their presence at the federal level, these agencies existed on the republic, regional, and municipal levels.⁵

Military Intelligence, the Chief Intelligence Directorate of the General Staff of the Ministry of Defense (GRU), which was founded in 1926, did not play a role in the Soviet penal system; however, it was involved in prisoner-of-war debriefing and processing and would more than likely have played a key role in any possible transfer of American POWs to the Soviet Union or its satellite states.

Prison Agencies of the Former Soviet Union

Between 1917 and 1936, the predecessors of the MVD and KGB, as well as the Ministry of Justice, shared responsibility for operating all places of confinement located in the former Soviet Union. Each entity had its own prison agency responsible for managing these facilities. In 1934, with the creation of the Main Administration of Camps, the NKVD gained primary responsibility for the majority of places of confinement.⁶ The security services retained certain of their own places of confinement, primarily prisons such as the infamous Lubyanka in Moscow. Republics and regions maintained their own departments of Corrective Labor Colonies (*OITK*) and administrations of Corrective Labor Camps and Colonies (*UITLK*) separate from, yet loosely tied to, the Main Administration of Camps. The Soviets utilized these camps and colonies for individuals who were serving out terms of three years or less and who were not convicted of state crimes.

In addition to the camps and colonies, the MVD and KGB maintained their own jails and prisons. The MVD had a Directorate of Prisons responsible for maintaining prisons and jails. In 1953 the MVD maintained 587 prisons with a 249,000 prisoner capacity: two

⁴ The predecessors of the NKVD and MGB were the All-Russian Extraordinary Commission to Combat Counterrevolution and Sabotage (VCHK or Cheka), the State Political Administration (GPU), the Unified State Political Administration (OGPU), and the People's Commissariat of State Security (NKGB). The NKVD became the MVD in 1946; the MGB, the KGB in 1953.

⁵ See A. I. Kokurin and N. V. Petrov, *Lubyanka: Organy, VCHK-OGPU-NKVD-NKGB-MGB-MVD-KGB, 1917-1991, Spravochnik*, [Lubyanka; Organs, VCHK-OGPU-NKVD-NKGB-MGB-MVD-KGB, 1917-1991, a Guide] (Moskva; *Mezhdunarodnyy Fond "Demokratiya,"* Materik, 2003).

⁶ Originally the Main Administration of Corrective Labor Camps and Labor Settlements (*GUITLTP*), it was changed to Gulag in 1936 for reasons of simplification.

central prisons: Butyr'skaya and Lefortov'skaya; three special-regime prisons “*osobyie tyur'my*”: Vladimir'skaya, Aleksandrov'skaya, and Verkhneural'skaya; two special prisons “*spetsstyu'rmy*” (names and locations are unavailable for these); three psychiatric prison hospitals: Kazanskaya, Chistopol'skaya and Leningrad'skaya; 437 routine prisons, and 140 internal prisons.⁷ These figures do not include KGB detention facilities.

Jails were primarily small places of confinement for individuals convicted of minor offenses and held for short periods of time, or for those awaiting transfer to a larger, more secure facility. A special-regime prison, such as Vladimir Prison, served the purpose of detaining especially dangerous or special categories of prisoners, such as enemy generals, SS officers, high-profile prisoners such as Francis Gary Powers and possibly Raoul Wallenberg, or anyone else who needed to be segregated and kept in a maximum-security facility with highly controlled access.⁸ Psychiatric prison hospitals, later known as special prison hospitals, were punitive medical facilities controlled by the MVD and KGB. The security services would commit enemies of the state to these facilities, sometimes indefinitely. Two of the most infamous of these facilities are The Leningrad Special Psychiatric Hospital of the MVD and The V. P. Serbsky Central Scientific Research Institute of Forensic Psychiatry of the Ministry of Public Health.⁹ In 2000, Andras Toma, a former Hungarian POW of the Soviets, returned to Hungary after 56 years, most of this spent in the psychiatric facility in Kotel'nich, Russia.¹⁰ Special prisons were intended for specific purposes as in the case of the *sharashka* prisons described later in this section.

From 1939-1956, the NKVD/MVD also maintained the Main Administration of Prisoners of War and Internees (*GUPVI*), possessing a similar structure to the Gulag. Occasionally *GUPVI* prisoners' and Gulag prisoners' paths would cross while working on the same labor project. Prisoners of war who were not returned to their homelands by 1956, when the MVD shut down the *GUPVI*, were declared criminals and transferred to camps controlled by the Main Administration of Camps, or to special-regime prisons. These were usually members of the SS, high-level officers, or POWs who had violated a regulation while under the control of the *GUPVI*.¹¹

The Gulag was not only a system of confinement; it was a massive industrial complex spread out across the entire former Soviet Union. The MVD established several departments within the Gulag to manage specific types of industry and production in the

⁷ M.B. Smirnov, ed., *Spravochnik: Sistema Ispravitel'no-Trudovykh Lagerey v SSSR 1923-1960*, [The System of Corrective Labor Camps in the USSR, 1923-1960, a Guide] (Moskva, Rossiya; Zven'ya, 1998), p. 539. The two special prisons are unidentified in the text.

⁸ Michael R. Beschloss, *Mayday: the U-2 Affair: the Untold Story of the Greatest US-USSR Spy Scandal*, (New York: Perennial Library, Harper and Row, 1987), p. 343, and Marvin W. Makinen and Ari D. Kaplan, *Cell Occupancy Analysis of Korpus 2 of the Vladimir Prison: an Examination of the Consistency of Eyewitness Sightings of Raoul Wallenberg with Prisoner Registration Cards from the Prison Kartoteka*, (Report submitted to the Swedish-Russian Working Group on the Fate of Raoul Wallenberg, 2000).

⁹ Alexander Podrabinek, *Punitive Medicine*, (Ann Arbor: Karoma Publishers INC, 1980), pp. 145-147, 151-154.

¹⁰ Laszlo Erdos, *The Last Prisoner of War*, (Zrinyi: 2002).

¹¹ See M. M. Zagorul'ko, ed., *Voennoplennye v SSSR 1939-1956: Dokumenty i Materialy*, [Prisoners-of-War in the USSR, 1939-1956: Documents and Materials] (Moskva: Logos, 2000).

labor camps and prisons. These departments later became main administrations directly subordinate to the MVD. For instance, Vyatlag,¹² an industrial (logging) camp located in the Kirov Region possessed this dual chain of command: the Main Administration of Camps maintained responsibility for all the day-to-day aspects and logistics of running the camp, while the Main Administration of Forestry Camps (*GULLP*) of the MVD maintained responsibility for labor use and production, i.e., running the camp's logging business. Another example is that in 1950, the Head of the Vorkuta Corrective Labor Colony, a Colonel Fadeev, was also the Head of the Vorkuta Coal Combine. The Head of Special Camp Six (which was also located in Vorkuta and provided labor for the Vorkuta Coal Combine), a Lieutenant Colonel Shun'kin, was subordinate to Colonel Fadeev concerning industrial matters.¹³ At its peak, there were approximately twenty-three main directorates and directorates of the MVD responsible for various aspects of Soviet industrial and economic productivity. The Gulag ran everything from potato and sheep farms to coal and uranium mining camps. Prisoners built highways and railroads across vast tracks of the steppes and taiga, high-rise apartments in Moscow, and the White Sea Canal. Prisoners not only worked on Gulag-sponsored projects, but were also contracted out to other state enterprises.¹⁴

The Camps

There are approximately 476 camps listed in M.B. Smirnov's guide, *System of Corrective Labor Camps in the USSR 1923-1960*. This does not include *GUPVI* camps, prisons, or *OITK* and *UITKL* facilities. A camp, or *lager'* in Russian, was usually a massive complex covering a relatively large geographical area. These camp complexes consisted of a headquarters unit (*upravlenie*) and various subunits, including hospitals, factories, mines, logging camps, road and railway construction sites, etc. The primary subunits of a camp complex included: a camp section [*lagotdelenie (L/O)*]; an independent camp section [*otdel'nyy lagpunkt (OLP)*]; a camp sub-section [*lagpunkt (LP)*], and a transit camp (*perpunkt*).¹⁵ Occasionally sub-units would have a remote or temporary camp assignment (*komandirovka*) and a remote or temporary camp sub-assignment (*podkomandirovka*). Because the majority of these subordinate units do not have any ready English equivalents, they will be referred to primarily in Russian.

A camp complex usually had several camp elements/components (*lagotdeleniya*) subordinate to the camp's headquarters (HQ) unit, which was frequently located in a town or city. Some elements/components, in turn, were comprised of several sub-sections. A number of camp sections had additional facilities such as a hospital (*sanitarnyy gorodok* or *sangorodok*), which sometimes operated within its own camp structure. The camp's HQ component had a number of directly subordinate elements. This was the result of geographical, political, security, or economic reasons. These elements usually had better facilities than those at a regular camp section. Examples of

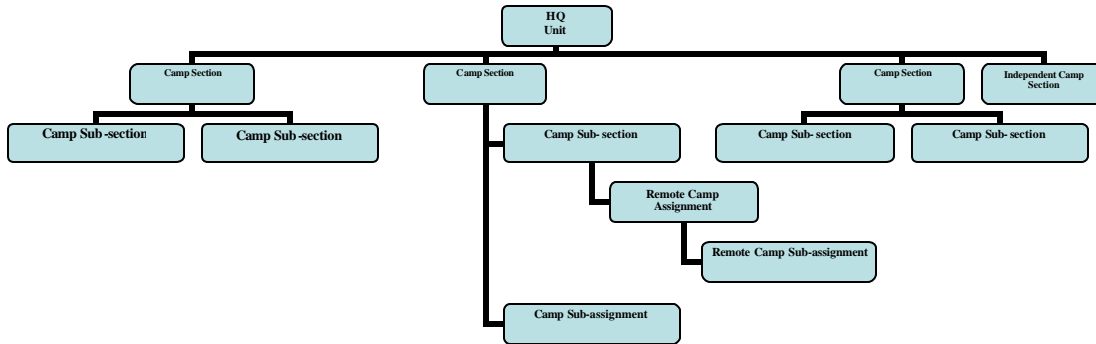
¹² Vyatskiy Corrective Labor Camp (*ITL*).

¹³ *Fond 9414, opis' 1, delo 1869, GARF*.

¹⁴ Galina Mikhailovna Ivanova, *Labor Camp Socialism: The Gulag in the Soviet Totalitarian System*, ed. Donald J. Raleigh, trans. Carol Flath (Armonk, New York; London, England: M. E. Sharpe, 2000), p. 98.

¹⁵ *peresyl'nyy punkt* or *peresyl'ka*, a transit point used to sort and distribute prisoners.

komandirovki and *podkomandirovki* include groups of prisoners sent out for short periods of time to log or to establish and maintain a rail line. Such activity was carried out with a minimum amount of supervision, temporary or semi-permanent shelter, and dry provisions.



Sample Camp Organizational Chart

A *lagotdelenie* or a *lagpunkt* is what people normally think of when they hear the term “prison camp.” They usually consisted of several prisoner barracks, a dining facility, bathhouse, and an exercise yard, all within a fenced-in compound zone (*zona*) surrounded by guard towers. Separate areas were set aside for administrative buildings, warehouses, possibly a clinic, and barracks for the guards. A prisoner’s place of work might be in “the zone,” an area nearby, or, possibly, a distant location, depending on the type of industry. Also located in or near the zone were disciplinary barracks (*baraki usilennogo rezhima* or *BUR*), and penalty or solitary-isolation cells (*shtrafnoy izolyator* or *SHIZO*). Many camp complexes had an entire penalty or disciplinary *sub-section*.

Camps and their subunits were named in a variety of ways using numbers, geographical names, or industrial designators. Camps were assigned code names, code letters, and alphanumeric postal codes by which they, even now, are often referenced, especially in the accounts of former prisoners. Camp structures continually changed. They grew or shrank like a living organism. One camp would absorb all or parts of another camp. *Lagotdeleniya* would be restructured, *lagpunkty* added or removed. Designators and names changed. *GUPVI* camps were similarly arranged. All of this adds to the difficulty of researching accounts of Americans held in the gulag.¹⁶

¹⁶ For instance in September 1949, *Vorkutlag OLP 54Zh* was transferred to *Rechlag* and was redesignated *L/O 10Zh*. *Fond 9414, opis’ 1, delo 1869*, GARF.



The "Zone" and *SHIZO* at Perm'-36



Special Camps and the “*Sharashka*” system

Two more aspects of the gulag deserve mention: special camps and the so-called “*Sharashka*” camps and prisons.

Special camps (*osobyie lagerya*) were strict-regime camps established to hold political prisoners and individuals categorized as especially dangerous criminals. In general, these camps were similar in structure and operation to other camps in the Gulag. There were twelve special camps—Coastal, Far, Lake, Meadow, Mineral, Mountain, Oak Forest, Reed, River, Sands, Steppe, and Watershed¹⁷—which were eventually subsumed into the regular camp system in the mid-to-late 1950’s.¹⁸

“*Sharaga*” or “*Sharashka*” is a Russian slang term with various definitions. In the context of the gulag, a *sharashka* is a “secret project, designers’ office, etc., manned by specialists subjected to repression.”¹⁹ These were prisons or camps where Soviet and foreign scientists and technicians, including prisoners of war, were forced to work on military and industrial projects. These prisons were part of the Special Technical Bureau (*OTB*), also known as the Fourth Special Department of the MVD.²⁰ The MVD would select prisoners with special technical skills or knowledge and transfer them from their place of confinement to a *sharashka*, where their abilities could be exploited. Prisoner-technicians worked in all fields of military-industrial research, including aviation, electronics, rocketry, and nuclear weapons. Generally, prisoners in a *sharashka* received better food and treatment than prisoners in a camp or prison. Andrei Tupolev, the great aviation designer, and Sergei Korolev, father of the Soviet space program, were prisoners in a *Sharashka*.²¹ Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn’s novel *The First Circle* is based on his experiences in the Marfino *sharashka*, formerly located in the Moscow suburbs.²² As highly secret facilities, their records remain largely classified. These facilities are of particular interest because of their use in scientific and technical exploitation of prisoners of war. If U.S. personnel with knowledge of advanced weapons systems were transferred to the former Soviet Union, these prisons were a likely place of confinement for them.²³

¹⁷ *Berlag, Dal’lag, Ozerlag, Luglag, Minlag, Gorlag, Dubravlag, Kamyshlag, Rechlag, Peschanlag, Steplag, and Vodorzdel’nyy Lager’*.

¹⁸ M.B. Smirnov, *Spravochnik: Sistema Ispravitel’no-Trudovykh Lagerey v SSSR 1923-1960*; N. A. Morozov, *Osobyie Lagerya MVD SSSR v Komi ASSR (1948-1954 gody)*, [Special Camps of the MVD in the Komi ASSR] (Syktyvkar: Syktyvkaskiy universitet, 1998); and *fond 9414, opis’ 1, dela 1857 and 1869, GARF*.

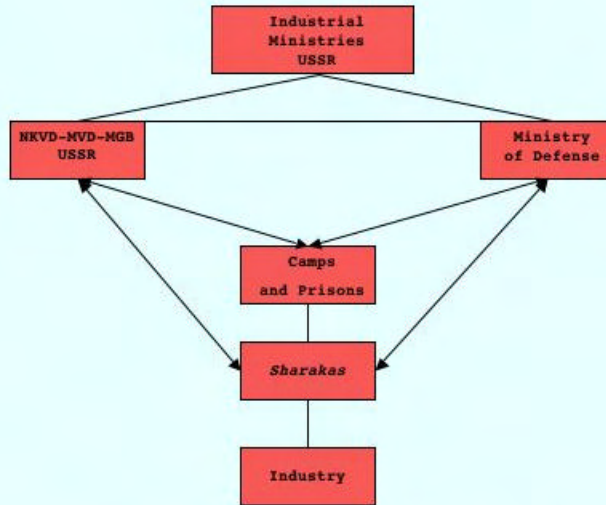
¹⁹ D.I. Kveselevich, *Dictionary of Unconventional Russian, Russian-English*, (Moskva: Astrel’; AST, 2002), p. 1069.

²⁰ *Osoboe Tekhnicheskoe Byuro*. A. I. Kokurin and N. V. Petrov, *Lubyanka: Organy, VCHK-OGPU-NKVD-NKGB-MGB-MVD-KGB, 1917-1991, Spravochnik*, (Moskva: Materik, 2003), p. 201 and V. F. Nekrasov, *MVD Rossii, Ehntsiklopediya*, [MVD of Russia: an Encyclopedia] (Moskva: MVD Rossii, OLMA-PRESS, 2002) pp. 371-374.

²¹ Central Design Bureau No. 21 (*KV-21*) formerly located in Moscow.

²² Special Prison “*Spetstyur’ma*” No. 220.

²³ See Paul M. Cole and Theodore Karasik, *The Sharashka System: The Link Between Specialized Soviet Prison Camps and American POW-MIAs in Korea?* (RAND, 1993) and L. L. Kerber, *Stalin’s Aviation Gulag: a Memoir of Andrei Tupolev and the Purge Era* (Washington and London: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1996).



The Sharashka-Intelligence Cycle



SHIZO, Lagpunkt Seven, Ukhtpeshlag, Ukhta, Komi Republic

The Komi Republic



Vorkuta-Vorkutlag-Rechlag

In the summer of 1932, an OGPU (a predecessor of the KGB) geological survey group, primarily made up of prisoners, set out to the north from *Ukhtpeshlag* and established Survey Mine Number ½ on the right bank of the Vorkuta River. Six years later, Vorkuta was one of the largest and most productive cities in the Soviet Union; it was also one incredibly large prison—*Vorkutinskiy Lager'*, (*Vorkulag*)—built entirely with slave labor.

Vorkuta is etched in the mind of every student of repression and totalitarianism. It is probably the most well-known Soviet-era penal colony, outside of Kolyma (just north of Magadan), and has, the largest number of reported sightings of Americans of any location in the gulag.

By January 1st, 1941, there were 19,080 prisoners working ten hours a day, eight of those hours in coal mines, in Vorkutlag.²⁴

On August 27th, 1948, the Main Administration of Camps established Special Camp Number Six (*Osobyy Lager' Nomer Shest'*), also known by its less prosaic title of *Rechnoy Lager'*, (*Rechlag*)—*River Camp*, in the area of Vorkutlag. By January 1st, 1950, 13,465 prisoners from Vorkutlag, and 5,391 prisoners from other camps and prisons had been transferred to Rechlag.²⁵

An analysis of sightings in the Vorkuta area demonstrates that the majority of all Americans, especially American servicemen, imprisoned or said to have been imprisoned in Vorkuta between 1948 and 1954 were detained in camps and facilities subordinate to Special Camp Number Six—*Rechlag*.

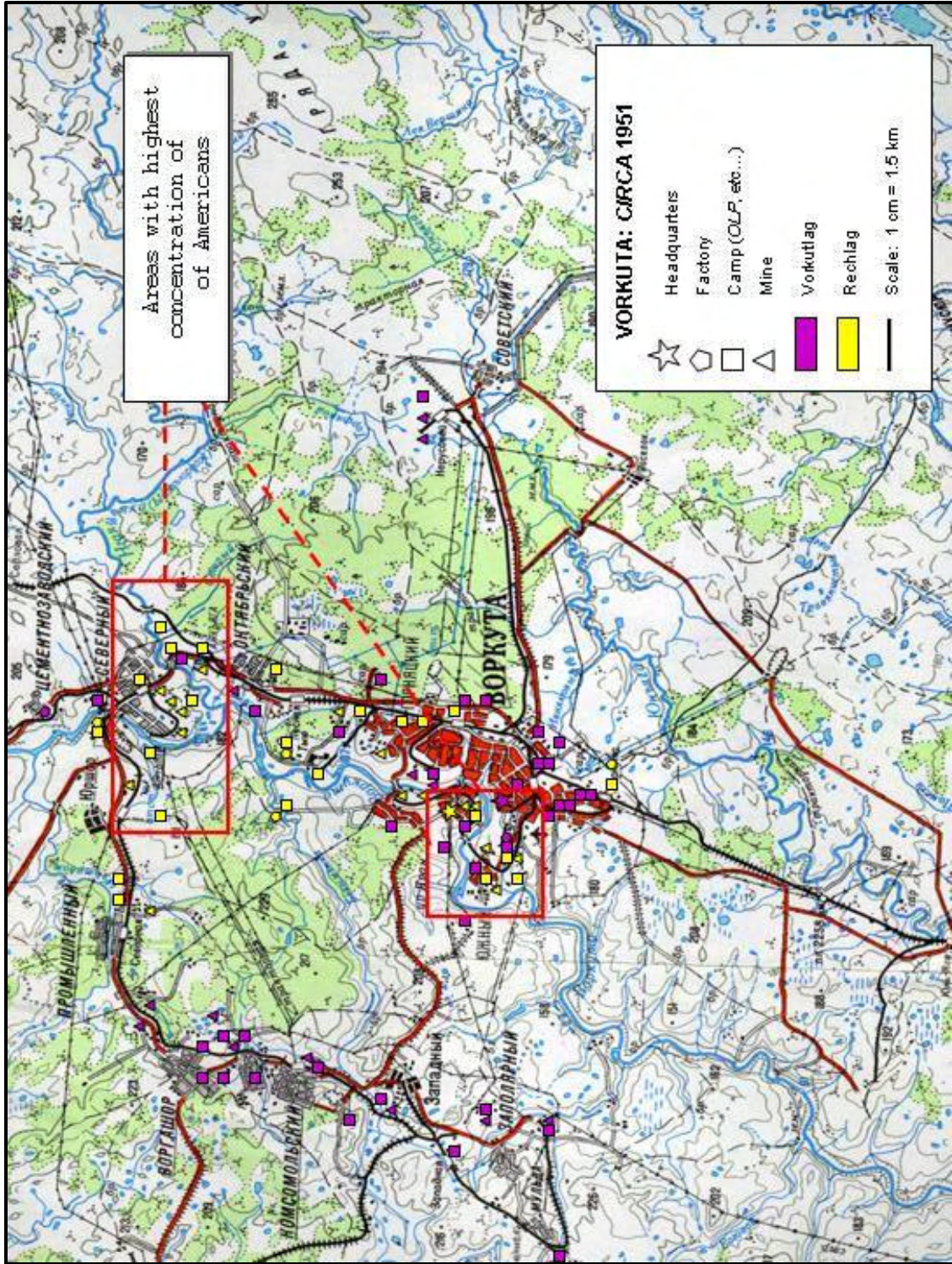
The following map of the Vorkuta Region, *circa* 1951, depicts the vastness of that camp complex. The map is to the scale of 1=150,000 or 1 cm=1.5 km. Camps, mines, and other industrial facilities subordinated to *Vorkutlag* are displayed in magenta; those subordinated to *Rechlag* appear in yellow.

The two boxes outlined in red highlight the *Rechlag* facilities (symbols depicted in yellow) most frequently associated with sightings of Americans, especially American servicemen.

A brief case study of an American serviceman, Private Homer H. Cox, who was detained in *Rechlag* during this time period, is provided as well.

²⁴ N. A. Morozov, *Gulag v Komi Krae: 1929-1956*, [The Gulag in the Komi Area, 1929-1956] (*Syktvykar: Syktvykarskiy Gosudarstvennyy Universitet*, 1997), p. 49.

²⁵ N. A. Morozov, *Osobyie Lagerya MVD SSSR v Komi ASSR (1948-1954 gody)*, (*Syktvykar: Syktvykarskiy Gosudarstvennyy Universitet*, 1998), p. 10.





U. S. Army Private Homer Harold Cox—1949

Homer Harold Cox, AKA: Jim or Harold Cox, H. Cake, Cook, Sergeant Cox, and Lieutenant Cox, An American Military Policeman assigned to the 759th Military Police Service Battalion in West Berlin, was drugged and arrested while in the Soviet Sector of East Berlin on September 6th, 1949. He was sighted at Sverdlov No. 6118 in Shcherbakov (Rybinsk),²⁶ **Vorkuta Mine No. Four**,²⁷ **Vorkuta Mine No. Seven**²⁸ and Bautzen, East Germany.²⁹ Soviet authorities returned him to U.S. custody in Berlin on December 29th, 1953 along with U. S. Merchant Marine Leland Towers.³⁰

Private Cox was carried as AWOL during his captivity. On January 21st, 1954, a board of inquiry determined Private Cox could not be held accountable for his absence.³¹ He passed away of pneumonia in Lawton, Oklahoma on September 27th, 1954.³² Shortly after his death, Cox's fiancée made a statement to the press that he was in very good health and that "...murder is the only explanation..." This has led to persistent rumors that Mr. Cox was the victim of foul play and a KGB plot.³³

²⁶ Moscow #164 to State, November 17, 1953

²⁷ Handling and Processing of Prisoners in USSR, IR-255-56, NBG Team, 7051st Air INTSERON, 7050 Air INTSERGU (USAFE), 18 December 1956, Air Intelligence Reports 1947-62 (AIR), Deputy Director for Collection and Dissemination (DDCD), Records of Headquarters U.S. Air Force (Air Staff), Record Group 341 (RG 341), National Archives at College Park, College Park, MD (NACP).

²⁸ Memorandum for the Record by Paul H. Vivian, Army Task Force Russia, January 6, 1993.

²⁹ POLAD Heidelberg #SX-3361 to State, October 20, 1953, 611.61251/10-2053, Decimal, Central Files, RG 59, NACP.

³⁰ Moscow #782 to State, December 30, 1953, 611.6125/12-3053, Decimal, Central Files, RG 59, NACP.

³¹ *The New York Times*, January 22, 1954.

³² *The Stars and Stripes*, September 29, 1954.

³³ "The Austrian sweetheart of Homer H. Cox, who fell in love with her at a Russian slave camp, sobbed today, that 'murder is the only explanation' for his death in a tourist cabin at Lawton, Okla." *The Stars and Stripes*, September 29, 1954.



Vorkuta—2000



Britanka

In the mid-1960's, a Soviet geologist was working near the village of Sed'vozh in the Komi Republic. Sed'vozh is located approximately 73 kilometers northeast of the city of Ukhta along the main railroad line. During the course of his duties, he noticed the remnants of a former prison-labor camp north of Sed'vozh along the east side of the railroad tracks. When he asked about the camp, the local villagers told him that this former camp was known as "Britanka"—a former Gulag camp.

Local villagers recounted to him that the prisoners were brought to Britanka following the Second World War. Although supplies were taken to the camp, the locals never saw the prisoners leave the compound. He later reported this information to a local historian. Since the word Britanka has no connection to the region, the historian concluded that the camp name probably referred to British citizens who were detained there.

In August 2000, the historian's colleague, an archeologist, conducted an oral history program in Sed'vozh. During his visit, one of the locals related that she never heard of a prison zone named Britanka, but that there was a place the locals called the "English Colony."³⁴

The location of the English Colony was in the same approximate area where the geologist reported the Britanka camp. According to those interviewed, a British firm was involved in logging in the area before and during the Russian Civil War. The archeologist recorded a local legend that British workers from the logging firm were detained in the Britanka Camp following the Russian Civil War.

In addition, a local resident recalled a cemetery in the area of the Britanka zone. While visiting the cemetery, she saw rows of grave markers with foreign names on them. She believed that the remnants of the wooden crosses and nameplates have since been destroyed during a field fire in the early 1990's.

The historian sees the English Colony in a different light. According to his research, the British inserted hundreds of Special Forces into Nazi Germany to disrupt the German war machine. Many of these Special Forces were arrested and detained in POW camps in Poland. He believes that when the Soviet Army liberated these camps, the British POWs were transferred to Britanka.

According to his archival research, 480 foreign internees were transferred from Poland to Camp 225 in the Sed'vozh region of the Komi Republic in 1946. By 1948, Camp 225 no longer contained the 480 prisoners, and the fate of the prisoners' is unknown. Archival documents examined to date do not provide an exact location of Camp 225, and he surmises that Camp 225 and Britanka are one in the same.

³⁴ The colony of Americans working in Magnitogorsk in the 1930's was called "Amerikanka." Stephen Kotkin, *Magnetic Mountain: Stalinism as a Civilization*, (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1997), p. 125.

Moreover, he believes that Stalin detained the British troops as especially dangerous forces, in preparation for a possible World War III scenario with the Soviet Union's former allies. During the years 1946 through 1948, the internees were reportedly detained in the camp and were not permitted to leave on work details. He posits the view that the British forces were starved and worked to death.

The reference to British prisoners from the Russian Civil War is, in his view, nothing more than a disinformation ploy designed to conceal the fact that British POWs from World War II were detained in Britanka.

In pursuing this matter at the State Archives of the Russian Federation (GARF), JCSD's researchers requested access to a special *fond* concerning the location of Camp 225 in the Komi Republic.

During research trips to GARF in 2003, analysts discovered that there is apparently no documentation showing Camp 225 to have been a part of the Gulag. Further research in April of 2004 at the Russian State Military Archives in Moscow established that Camp 225 was part of the Main Administration of Prisoners of War and Internees (*GUPVI*) camp system.

Camp 225 was located in the Komi Republic and subordinated to the Administration of Northern Railroad Camps. These camps and their prisoners were responsible for building the rail line from Kotlas to Khal'mer-Yu and from Vorkuta to Labytnangi. The main administrative headquarters was located in Ukhta.

Of particular interest is the fact that numerous documents exist for most camps in the *GUPVI* system, but only two documents were found for Camp 225. Both of these documents were in a file that lists prisoners of war who had died in captivity. The first document was a list of 108 Germans; the second is a list of 670 Germans, Poles, and Ukrainians. Neither document cites an exact location for Camp 225, which was apparently liquidated in 1948.

In her book *Gulag: A History* author Anne Applebaum states that one researcher came across a reference at RGVA to "ten Scotsmen" in a prisoner-of-war camp located in the area, but that the actual document was missing.³⁵

In April of 2004 the historian informed our researchers that a colleague had recently written him stating he had found the names of several British citizens who were detained in Labytnangi and Salekhard. The Administration of Northern Railroad Camps controlled both of these camp locations.

He maintains that "Britanka/Camp 225" was liquidated and the prisoners transferred to Labytnangi and Salekhard. This theory has some merit. Because of the type of work involved, railroad camps tended to have shorter life spans than other types of camps. The

³⁵ Anne Applebaum, *Gulag: A History*, (Doubleday, 2003), pp. 463 and 628.

historian has promised to provide us with a list of the British citizens as soon as it is available.



Memorial to the victims of the gulag, Syktyvkar, Komi Republic

Americans in the Gulag

There have been reported sightings of American citizens, civilian and military, imprisoned in the former Soviet Union since the Russian Civil War.³⁶ Most of these sightings remain unsubstantiated. A number of these Americans returned home to the United States, often after years of imprisonment and exile. Others were executed; some remained in the former Soviet Union, never to see the United States again.³⁷ Often these sightings, especially of U.S. military personnel, remain unsubstantiated. John Noble and Alexander Dolgun are two of the better-known American civilians who suffered in the gulag and eventually returned to the United States. Others are Victor Herman and Morris Hershman.³⁸ In the late 1940's and early 1950's, six U.S. servicemen are known to have been arrested in Germany or Austria and transferred to the former Soviet Union.³⁹ All six eventually returned to U.S. control after years in various prisons and camps in East Germany and the former Soviet Union.

On July 1st, 1960 a Soviet MIG fighter shot down a U.S. Air Force RB-47 reconnaissance jet over the Barents Sea. Captains John R. McKone and Freeman B. Olmstead survived and were held in a Moscow prison until their release on January 24th, 1961. The Soviets shot down Francis Gary Power's U-2 on May 1st, 1960. He was held in Lubyanka and Vladimir prisons until his release on February 10th, 1962.



³⁶ Decimal File 164-334; Department of State to War Department; May 24, 1921; MID, Records of the War Department, RG 165, NACP.

³⁷ John Earl Haynes and Harvey Klehr, *In Denial: Historians, Communism, and Espionage*, (San Francisco: Encounter Books, 2003) pp. 115-121.

³⁸ All four men have published autobiographies.

³⁹ Homer H. Cox, Wilfred C. Cumish, Murray Feingersch (Fields), William T. Marchuk, Sidney R. Sparks, William A. Verdine.

Sightings by Geographical Location

Sightings in this section are arranged in geographical order from East to West. Locations are listed as referenced or spelled by the source. Sections dealing with regions outside the current Russian Federation have been added to provide a more comprehensive approach. Future additions may include other former Warsaw Pact nations.



Moscow

Krasnaya Presnya Prison—In a letter to President Nixon, repatriated American John Noble reported that, etched into the wall of Krasnaya Presnya Prison in Moscow, he saw the name of a Major Roberts or Robbins, with his American address and the inscription, "I am sick and don't expect to live through this....".⁴⁰ In 1958 Mr. Noble reported this incident had occurred in Orsha Transit Prison in Byelorussia (where he was imprisoned prior to his confinement at Krasnaya Presnya).⁴¹

Lubyanka—In 1947, while in pre-trial confinement in Potsdam, a Polish witness shared a cell with a U.S. Army sergeant, reportedly a gunner. The witness believed that the sergeant had unintentionally entered the Soviet Zone in Berlin by car and had been immediately arrested. The source described the American as a sturdy fellow, whose father was a farmer. The American gave the source an overcoat. They spoke German, although both spoke it very poorly. They met again at the Lubyanka Prison in Moscow at the turn of 1948.⁴²

A follow-up interview with the source revealed that in the winter of 1948-1949, he saw the same American in the Transit Prison at Sverdlovsk-na-urale. He waved at the American from afar and never saw him again. Some time after this encounter, source heard from a French officer that the American was shot and killed while attempting to escape.⁴³

Monino Air Force Academy—During a series of interviews in 1996, a Soviet veteran who lived in Minsk claimed to have seen a U.S. POW in May or June 1953. The POW reportedly was a Korean War F-86D pilot whose plane had been forced to land. The pilot landed his plane undamaged, was captured, and his aircraft taken to Moscow. The incident occurred in the late spring of 1953. According to the witness—who served in An Dun, China, from December 1952 through February 1954—the pilot was sent to Moscow the day after his forced landing, "because Stalin wanted to speak with him." The witness said that his commander, Colonel Ivan Nikolayevich Kozhedub, interrogated the pilot. He believed the U.S. POW was not injured. The witness stated that the late General Vasiliy Kuzmich Sidorenkov had a picture of the American POW, which Sidorenkov showed to him years ago, declaring, "that's our American." He stated that the U.S. POW depicted in the photo was white, with light brown hair and blue or light brown eyes, was about five feet seven inches tall, and had a two-and-a-half inch scar above the right eye. The witness revealed that this pilot later became an instructor and taught at the Monino Air Force Academy in Moscow from 1953-58. The U.S. POW did not speak Russian and served at Monino under an assumed Russian name. He did not know the name and could not recall any other details about the U.S. POW, who reportedly taught air battle techniques and

⁴⁰ Sworn Affidavit to President Richard M. Nixon by John Nobel, May 26, 1973, p. 2.

⁴¹ John Noble, *I Was a Slave in Russia*, (Broadview, Illinois: Cicero Bible Press, 1964), p. 73.

⁴² KARTA Center's research project (KARTA): Searching for Information on American Citizens Gone Missing during World War II and after it in the Territory of the USSR, Final Narrative Report for the Period April 1-October 30, 1998, p. 9.

⁴³ Joint Commission Support Directorate Phone Interview, October 4, 2001.

tactics and assisted the Soviets in figuring out a U.S. radar sight (*radio-lokatsionniy pritsel*).⁴⁴

Moscow Transit Prison—In 1954, a German returnee reported meeting an American Army or Air Force captain while detained in the Moscow Transit Prison in 1949. Source was imprisoned in one cell with 19 other German officers from February to April 1949. For three to five days in March another prisoner was placed in source's cell. This prisoner spoke broken German with an American accent and also spoke fluent Russian. He claimed to be a captain in the U.S. Army or Air Force. The Soviet Internal Security Forces reportedly arrested him in the USSR while operating as an agent. Source described him as 30-35 years old, five feet eleven inches tall, slim, athletic build, black hair, slender face with a straight nose and medium-sized ears. He was reticent, but energetic. He gave the impression of being well educated. Source had no further information about the man.⁴⁵

⁴⁴ JCSD-AMEMBASSY Moscow, 191534Z MAR 96, 161242Z MAY 96.

⁴⁵ Alleged American National in Soviet Prison near Moskva, 51-B-13005A, 7050 AISW (USAFE), 1 March 1955, Reports of Returning POWs and Detainees Under Soviet Control 1949-1955 (Wringer Reports), Office of the Director of Intelligence (ODI), Records of Headquarters U.S. Air Force (Air Staff), Record Group 341 (RG 341), National Archives at College Park, College Park, MD (NACP).

Vladimirskaya

Vladimir Central Prison—A United Press release, dated September 1, 1955, reported that nine Austrians and one Italian were released from a Russian prison camp. The returnees reported that U.S. servicemen Wilfred Cumish [returned], Sidney Sparks [returned], Frederick Hopkins [returned], and Grisham [not returned] were in the same camp.⁴⁶

Vladimir Central Prison—Source met a U.S. signals technician named Wallace while incarcerated in Vladimir Prison in 1948. Wallace was of average height with dark blond hair and brown eyes. He was approximately 50 years old. He studied radio technology in California, possibly at the California Institute of Technology. Later, he had worked for eight years, until 1946 or 1947, in Canton, China. He left Canton for Moscow, where he was arrested as a U.S. intelligence agent. While in Vladimir, Wallace wrote two papers on radio technology for the Soviets. In 1949 Source learned Wallace was transferred to Moscow, possibly to work for the Soviets in his field of expertise.⁴⁷

Vladimir Central Prison—An Austrian returnee reported meeting a soldier from New York named George Dick some time prior to September 1, 1955.⁴⁸

Vladimir Central Prison—An Austrian returnee met an alleged American official of the U.S. Legation to Bucharest, Romania, named William C. Wallace. He was originally from New York City.⁴⁹

Vladimir Central Prison—A second Austrian returnee reported that he had met William C. Wallace of New York, the former American Commercial Attaché to Bucharest. Wallace had been held in Aleksandrov Prison prior to 1953-54.⁵⁰

Vladimir Central Prison—A German returnee reported meeting an American Army officer, Captain William Wallace, from San Francisco in Vladimir Prison.⁵¹

⁴⁶ United Press, UPR37, September 1, 1955.

⁴⁷ US Signals Technician Incarcerated in Vladimir Prison in 1948, RV-417-56, USAREURIC 513th MI Group, June 13, 1956.

⁴⁸ Alleged US Citizens Imprisoned in the USSR; HQ USFA, AC of S, G2 (SSB/CIB) APO 168, NY, NY; July 15, 1955.

⁴⁹ Alleged US Citizens Imprisoned in the USSR; HQ USFA, AC of S, G2 (SSB/CIB) APO 168, NY, NY; July 15, 1955.

⁵⁰ American Citizens Detained in the USSR, ZF000004W Detention of American Personnel By Foreign Agency (ZF000004W) pp. 4-76, IRR Case Files: Impersonal Files 1940-1976, Records of the Investigative Records Repository (IRR), Counter Intelligence Corps (CIC).

⁵¹ American Citizens Detained in the USSR, ZF000004W, pp. 4-76.

Mordovska

Dubrava Camp—Several repatriated Iranian witnesses claimed that, at this location in 1953, they knew of an American, a Colonel Jackson, who had been reportedly kidnapped by the Soviets in Berlin.⁵²

Dubrava Camp, Ust'-Tarna—A Ukrainian reported that in 1947 two disabled Americans were imprisoned here.⁵³

Pot'ma—In March 1955 a repatriated German POW informed U.S. Air Force debriefers that in June 1954, while interned in a prisoner of war camp awaiting repatriation to Germany, he met three alleged Americans who had arrived in the camp from Sverdlovsk (Yekaterinburg). One was approximately 43 years old, five feet nine inches tall, stout build, blond hair with gray streaks combed back, brownish-gray eyes, and a full face. Although born in Russia, his parents immigrated with him to the United States, where they later became U.S. citizens. He claimed to be former a military policeman who accidentally crossed into the Soviet Sector of Berlin shortly after World War II. The second was described as approximately 30 years old, five feet one inch tall, with a stout build, blond curly hair, and gray eyes. He was called “Jolly”, spoke German and worked at the camp dispensary. The third was described as a black man, 30 years old, five feet ten inches, and had a slim build. He did not speak German or Russian. The alleged Americans never received any packages from the Red Cross or any mail. On December 27, 1954, they told the German good-bye, stating that the Russian authorities had informed them they would be repatriated. The source had no further information about where the Russians transported the alleged Americans.⁵⁴

Pot'ma Camp 18—An Estonian witness alleged that he met a U.S. POW from Korea in 1952. The POW's first name was Gary or Harry. The POW was still at the camp when the witness left in the autumn of 1953.⁵⁵

Pot'ma Camp 19—A Polish witness was the chief of a work brigade in Camp 19 in Pot'ma, working primarily in the forest. He claimed there were a few Americans among the 17 nationalities in his brigade.⁵⁶

Pot'ma Camp 385— In 1960, a German source reported that, while interned in the Soviet Union, he met two American military personnel. Source met the first American in the autumn of 1957 at Pot'ma Camp 385, Sub-camp Eleven, and last saw him in the autumn of 1959 in Sub-camp Seven.

⁵² American Citizens Detained in the USSR, ZF000004W, pp. 4-12.

⁵³ KARTA Center's research project (KARTA): Concerning Research in Central and Eastern Europe and the Former Soviet Union on the Fate of Missing Americans During and After the Second World War, Final Narrative Report for the Period September 17, 2002-September 16, 2003, p. 10.

⁵⁴ Alleged Americans at PW camp at POTMA, 52HD-55-196B, 7050 AISW (USAFE), February 25, 1954, Wringer Reports, ODI, RG 341, NACP.

⁵⁵ JCSD-AMEMBASSY Moscow, 161156Z, Aug 93.

⁵⁶ KARTA, 1998, p. 8.

The American was named Jack. He was a light-skinned African-American, 28-30 years old, six feet five or six feet six inches tall, and slender. Jack's mother was part Native American. He had lived in Saint Louis, Missouri.

Jack had originally served with the U.S. Constabulary in Bad Hersfeld, Germany as a "First Sergeant." Jack showed source a photo of himself wearing a uniform with a 7th Army patch and constabulary insignia. Source could not remember any insignia of rank. After serving in Bad Hersfeld, Jack returned to the United States.

At an unknown date Jack returned to Europe as a member of the United States Air Force in Europe (USAFE). He was stationed at Celle Airfield during the Berlin airlift, and later with the Military Police in Berlin as a "Sergeant Major." Jack showed the source a second photograph of himself in an "Ike" jacket with Air Force staff sergeant stripes and airborne (parachute) insignia above the jacket pocket.

The third photograph was of Jack in a military police uniform with a white garrison cap with visor, leggings, Sam Brown belt, and a .45 holster. In this picture, Jack was standing in front of a military police jeep with the Memorial Church in Berlin in the background. The United States Army Europe and USAFE emblem with "Highway Patrol" in the center appeared just below the windshield of the jeep. Reportedly, Jack went out one evening in Berlin and awoke the next morning in the custody of Soviet authorities in the town of Karlshorst. He was not allowed to write to friends or relatives⁵⁷.

Source met the second alleged American in Sub-camp 11-1 in 1958. This individual claimed to have been a Marine who fought the Japanese in the Philippines during World War II. He was arrested in Manchuria around 1944, supposedly because he was of Russian heritage. He was between 36 and 38 years old. This individual was permitted to write and receive mail from New Jersey via an unknown location in Sweden.

Saransk (Zubovo-Polyanskiy) Camp 385/8—In 1955, a CIA source reported meeting an American from Philadelphia who was a pilot during World War II. He was fairly tall, very strong, and approximately 30 years old with light brown hair and gray eyes.⁵⁸

Yavas—A former German POW met an American prisoner, John Hansen, in August 1955, after having previously heard about him from another prisoner as early as 1953. John Hansen spoke both German and Russian and was described as five feet six inches tall, medium build with brown hair and gray eyes.⁵⁹

⁵⁷ Prisoners of Special Interest at the Potma Rehabilitation Camp, MI-3640B-60 AEUMF-HM, USAREUR, September 1960.

⁵⁸ American in Soviet Forced Labor Camp near Saransk, Central Intelligence Agency, May 1955 and American Citizens Detained in the USSR, ZF000004W, pp. 4-37.

⁵⁹ Soviet Apprehension of U.S. Personnel, AEUC-GI D-30477, HQ 66th Counter Intelligence Corps Group, December 1, 1955.

Yavas—A Ukrainian witness stated that between 1950-51 he worked with a prisoner who claimed to have been in the U.S. Army. He was described as a tall Native American between 40-45 years of age.⁶⁰

⁶⁰ KARTA, 2003, p.10.

Rostov

Novocherkassk Camp 1/421—During a 1947 interview, a former German POW reported that he met two American soldiers in POW Hospital 5351 located at Novocherkassk in September 1945. The Americans stayed at the hospital until February 1946, when they were transferred to an engine factory in the same town. The witness provided the names of five other sources who he claimed would be able to verify this information. The one source contacted did in fact verify the account as provided by the witness.⁶¹

⁶¹ Americans Held in Russian PW Enclosure, Office of Military Government of Bavaria Intelligence, Historical and Reports Branch, Ag 383.6 MGBI, July 11, 1947.

Kirov

Kirov—Repatriated American William Marchuk received information from a German POW who was imprisoned in a camp in Kirov. The German stated that he was in the camp together with nine American POWs, all captains and majors, who were Korean War aviators.⁶²

⁶² American Citizens Detained in the USSR, ZF000004W, pp. 4-32.

Komi

Abez—A German source reported seeing an American pilot while in a prisoner of war camp in Abez from May to November 1949. The American, who was supposedly a pilot shot down in World War II, was still in Abez when the source left in November 1949.⁶³

Inta—A Russian witness claimed that, from 1956 until 1975, the KGB maintained a facility on the shore of the river Inta. In 1965, people were brought to Inta from Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam, where they were imprisoned and killed, and their records burned in the boiler room in an eastern suburb on Shakhtnaya Street. More than 1,000 people ended up in the Inta prison, both American enlisted personnel and officers. The witness claimed that Petr Ivanovich Kuznetsov, who reportedly worked as a driver for the MVD for twenty years, could confirm this information. The latter now lives on Mir Street in Inta. [Efforts to contact Mr. Kuznetsov during a visit to Inta in October 2000 proved unsuccessful as Mr. Kuznetsov claimed that he was too ill to meet with USRJC representatives who traveled to Inta to speak with him.]⁶⁴

Inta—A Polish witness reported two Americans in a camp in 1949-1950.⁶⁵

Inta—In 1948, a reputed American soldier was kept here separate from the other prisoners.⁶⁶

Inta—A CIA source reported that in 1948 he met an alleged American citizen who had Polish documents in the name of Fawitsky or Faveleki. The American refused to reveal his true name. He spoke German, Russian, French, and English fluently. Source stated Soviets had a photograph of the reported American in an U.S. enlisted man's uniform. Source last saw this man in Lubyanka Prison in 1951.⁶⁷

Inta Camp Three—A Polish witness recalled meeting two Americans in Camp Three in Inta in 1954. They worked in his brigade, which was led by Wladyslaw Szyszko. He related that, while they were building a bridge, one of the Americans jumped into the Kosyu River and drowned.⁶⁸

⁶³ Area Description of Abez, 51-B-13074A, 7050 AISW (USAFE), March 9, 1954, Wringer Reports, ODI, RG 341, NACP.

⁶⁴ TFR 140, Task Force Russia, p. 1.

⁶⁵ KARTA, 1998, p. 3.

⁶⁶ KARTA, 2003, p. 11.

⁶⁷ Alleged American Held in Soviet Prison, Information Report No. CS-79883, Central Intelligence Agency, December 8, 1955.

⁶⁸ KARTA, 1998, p. 8.

Inta Camp Six—A Ukrainian witness in Topol-3 near Dnepropetrovsk stated that he was interned in Inta Camp Six from 1949 through 1955. During that time, the camp held many foreigners of various nationalities. In 1952, a man who claimed to be an American and was referred to as Leonid Teryashchenko (a pseudonym), was transferred to Inta. Teryashchenko's real name was never disclosed. His prisoner number had an additional slash and digit following the usual letter and three-digit sequence given to other prisoners. The witness frequently talked to Teryashchenko, who told the witness that he was imprisoned for political reasons. The witness described Teryashchenko as an athletic man with a large frame, a former boxer, approximately 30-33 years old. In late 1953 or early 1954 Teryashchenko committed suicide to avoid further torture. Teryashchenko overpowered one of the guards, took his weapon, and shot himself in the mouth. He was buried in a common grave in the camp (exact location unknown).⁶⁹

Inta Mining Camp (Minlag)—A Russian witness indicated that she had spent four years in the Inta "Minlag" camp complex (1952-1956). During that time, she heard reports of two American flyers in the Inta camp complex in the early 1950s, although she did not see them herself. Some of the women who worked in the central hospital said there were many foreigners in the camp, including two American pilots. According to these reports, the two men were shot down or forced down over Germany after having strayed over Soviet-occupied territory. One of the two was white, while the other had black skin (*chernokozhiy*). The witness said that these women told her that the reputed Americans had been imprisoned since 1946.⁷⁰

Inta Mining Camp, Section Five—A CIA source reported in 1957 that, while interned he became acquainted with an American citizen. This individual was named Jan (John) with a double family name—the first American, the second Polish. He was born in the United States of Polish and French extraction. Jan was a U.S. Army captain stationed in Berlin from 1946 to 1947. The Soviets arrested him in the Soviet Zone while he was visiting his girlfriend. Source last saw Jan in September 1953 at the eye, ear, and nose clinic of the Section Five, Barracks 27 hospital.⁷¹

Inta Mining Camp 15—A Russian source stated that he knew of two Americans in the Inta Gulag system detained at Mining Camp 15 (circa 1950). The two men were U.S. service members and went by the names of John and Michael.⁷²

Pechora—A Lithuanian witness claimed to have met an American Major or Colonel on 15 or 16 February 1950. The American reportedly was captured in the Ukraine during WWII. The witness saw him on two occasions before being sent into exile.⁷³

⁶⁹ JCSD-AMEMBASSY Moscow, 181139Z Nov 94.

⁷⁰ JCSD-AMEMBASSY Moscow, 051347Z Nov 96.

⁷¹ American Held in Soviet Prison, Information Report, Central Intelligence Agency, May 30, 1957.

⁷² JCSD-AMEMBASSY Moscow, 141940Z Jun 01.

⁷³ JCSD-AMEMBASSY Moscow, 070842Z Jul 93

Pechora Kozhva (Koschwa)—A German POW reportedly had direct contact with a U.S. Air Force Captain described as being five feet eleven inches tall, 28-33 years old, with reddish hair. The witness last saw him on January 5, 1950. The American claimed that at the end of WWII he was arrested for participating in an altercation at a Moscow restaurant. He was sentenced to ten years in prison. The American spoke broken German.⁷⁴

Pechora Kozhva (Koschwa)—A German returnee reported meeting an American soldier named Jack. Jack claimed the Soviets arrested him in 1945. Jack spoke fluent English, Russian, and German. He was approximately 29 years old, five feet ten inches tall, 180 pounds, with blond hair and blue eyes. He had five tattoos on his arms including a navy anchor, right upper arm; English script, right forearm; an eagle, right wrist; and a half moon, left upper arm. In August 1949, Jack became ill with tuberculosis and was transferred to the prison hospital, where he died in August 1950. Source last saw Jack in August 1950. His body was lying on a table in the hospital following a post-mortem examination.⁷⁵

Ukhta—A German interned in Ukhta from 1947 to February 1950 reported meeting and developing a friendship based on an escape plot with an American citizen named James Stafford, who reportedly arrived in Ukhta in 1948.

Stafford was born between 1910 and 1914 in Breslau, Germany, where his father worked for the city police. His father immigrated to the U.S. via Czechoslovakia in 1919. Stafford followed with his mother and sister in 1920. Stafford's mother was from Chemnitz, Germany. The family changed their surname from Lenz to Stafford and settled in San Francisco. Stafford attended school in San Francisco and married a South American woman, who bore him a son.

Stafford claimed to be an American intelligence operative. After six months' training, he was posted in 1939 to his first assignment as a radio technician in Spain. During World War II he carried out various missions in Germany until German counter-intelligence finally captured him in Helsinki. The Germans transported him to Tallinn for execution. When the Russians captured Tallinn, they freed him.

The Russians arrested him in 1945 while he was attempting to escape to Finland with a group of Estonian civilians. He was first sent to a camp in Kirov, where he escaped and was recaptured before eventually being sent to Ukhta.

Stafford was better known in the camp by his World War II cover name Kurt Nisslone or Nissloni. The Russians knew his American identity but sentenced him under the name Nissloni Stafford.

⁷⁴ Americans Imprisoned in the Soviet Union, III-33330, Region III 66th Counter Intelligence Corps Group, December 11, 1953.

⁷⁵ (LNU) Jack, D-30477, HQ 66th CICG, October 5, 1954.

James Stafford was husky; five foot seven inches tall, 165 pounds, dark hair, gray-blue eyes, prominent cheekbones, short chin, and high forehead. He spoke fluent American English, German with a Silesian dialect, and Russian.

Stafford was still in Ukhta when the source was transported from the camp in February 1950. The day before source departed Stafford requested that, if source ever returned to West Germany, he contact the nearest American intelligence office and report that he had met Stafford in a Russian penal camp. Stafford told him, “All you have to do is mention to them that you met K-226 Helsinki, and they will know who I am.”⁷⁶

[An earlier report, most likely from the same source, cited almost exactly the same information about James Stafford with the additional detail that Stafford had worked in Helsinki as an American newspaper journalist and that his journalist ID card was number K-226.]⁷⁷

Ukhta Camp 226/4—A German source interned in a Russian labor camp from January 1949 to December 1953 became acquainted with two alleged members of the U.S. Army, who were transferred from the Soviet prison in Hohenschoenhausen, East Germany, to Ukhta Camp 226/4 in July 1948. Source had occasional conversations with these individuals between January 16 and July 19, 1949. Source reported meeting a U.S. Army major named Bob, who previously resided in New York. While stationed in Berlin, Bob was lured into the Soviet Sector, where he was arrested for espionage. Bob was approximately 28 years old, five feet eleven inches, squarely built, with dark hair and bright eyes. The second American was an Army sergeant named Jack, approximately 22 years old, five feet three inches, slender, with thin, fair hair, a “boxer’s” nose, and sunken eyes. Source heard from other convicts that Bob and Jack were transferred to Siberia in autumn, 1949. Source stated that a special camp for foreign convicts (Americans, English, French, etc.) was located in Siberia.⁷⁸

Ust-Ukhta Camp Two, Three, and 14—A German source interned from December 1949 to June 1953 reported meeting two members of the U.S. Air Force. In December of 1949, while confined in Camp Three, source heard two individuals speaking English and asked them who they were. They responded that they were Americans who had made a forced landing in Kharkov in 1949 when their four-engine bomber lost both right engines.

One man was named Harry Rosenberg. Rosenberg showed the source a U.S. Air Force cap, which he had in his pocket. It was a gray-blue overseas cap with an airman’s U.S. silver wing insignia and one silver horizontal bar. Harry was 26 years old, five feet seven inches, slim with black hair. He had a scar on his upper right arm and spoke some German. In camp he wore a bright blue airman’s shirt without pockets. Sometimes he

⁷⁶ American National in Penal Camp at Ukhta, 51-B-13547-C, 7050 AISW (USAFE), May 11, 1954, Wringer Reports, ODI, RG 341, NACP.

⁷⁷ Americans Imprisoned in the Soviet Union, III-33330, Region III 66th Counter Intelligence Corps Group, December 11, 1953.

⁷⁸ Members of the U.S. Army Interned in a Convict Camp at Ukhta, 49-D03-873/1-0554, Office of Special Investigations (USAFE), May 24, 1954, Wringer Reports, ODI, RG 341, NACP.

wore a brown-green shirt with two pockets closed with buttons. He wore Russian work clothes in the winter.

Source did not recall the second man's name. He was five feet nine inches, blond, slim, broad-shouldered, and lame in the right leg. He wore similar clothes to Harry Rosenberg's but also had a plain beige tie. Both men were reportedly from New York State.

In January 1950 source and the two airmen were transferred to Camp 14. In March or April 1950 Harry Rosenberg escaped, making it as far as Kotlas before being caught and returned to Camp 14. He was placed in a special prison as punishment. Source was placed in the same prison with Rosenberg a few days later. Ten days later source was released from the special prison back into Camp 14. Harry Rosenberg was transferred to the disciplinary barracks in Camp Two.

In the summer of 1950 a prison gang murdered the second American while robbing him. Source, along with three Russian prisoners, buried the American in a cemetery containing five thousand graves located 1.24 miles from Camp 14. They placed a wooden cross with the letters U.S. made of copper on the grave. Soon after this incident the source was transferred to Camp Two, where he once again spoke with Harry Rosenberg.

In the fall of 1951 source saw Harry Rosenberg being escorted through the camp gate by two soldiers. They exchanged a few words. Rosenberg stated he was going to Moscow. This was the last time source saw or heard of Harry Rosenberg.⁷⁹

[In June 2002 Gulag researchers made a trip to Ukhta. Three possible sites for Camp 14 were determined. Two of these sites are now heavily industrialized areas. The third site is the least likely site based on its geographical distance from Ust-Ukhta. Interviews with local residents in the area and a search on foot by the team were unsuccessful in determining the location of the camp cemetery. Research is ongoing with the help of local specialists.]

Vorkuta—An Austrian journalist met an American pilot while interned in Vorkuta some time prior to June 1954. The pilot was active in the Berlin airlift. He was the only crewmember to bailout when his plane crashed in 1948 or 1949.⁸⁰

Vorkuta—A witness met and spoke with a group of eleven American prisoners in December 1946, at Vorkuta. All were flyers, one was black, and they included both officers and enlisted men. They were kept in a small barracks separated from the rest of the camp and surrounded by barbed wire. The witness claimed these might have been part of a group of American pilots coerced into staying in the Soviet Union after WWII.

⁷⁹ Americans Held Near Ust'-Ukhta, 59B-B-5865B, 7050 AISW (USAFE), May 18, 1954, Wringer Reports, ODI, RG 341, NACP.

⁸⁰ American Citizens Detained in the USSR, ZF000004W, pp. 4-20.

These pilots claimed to have flown missions against Nazi targets using airfields in the Soviet Union.⁸¹

Vorkuta—A German witness reported meeting U.S. Air Force member Bob (last name unknown), in July 1951. Bob had been stationed in Berlin as a U.S. Air Force bombardier. While visiting his girlfriend in the Soviet Sector in 1948 or 1949, he was arrested and sent to Vorkuta. He previously lived in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and spoke only English. Bob was 30-35 years old, five feet eight inches tall, and had dark hair.⁸²

Vorkuta—A source who had been imprisoned in Vorkuta reported meeting an American with the last name "Cox," whose physical description matched that of a West Point cadet named Richard Alvin Cox, who mysteriously disappeared from the U.S. Military Academy on 14 January 1950.⁸³

[Further investigation and analysis of the primary source document (NBG Team, 7051st Air INTSERON, 7050th Air INTSERGU Air Intelligence Information Report IR-255-56 dated 18 December 1956)⁸⁴ indicated the source probably met Private Homer H. Cox, a U.S. military policeman who was detained by Soviet authorities in East Germany in September 1949. Private Cox was detained in Vorkuta and released on December 29, 1953.⁸⁵ He returned to his home state of Oklahoma, and died of pneumonia in 1954.⁸⁶

The primary source document stated: COX, first name unknown, from CHICHASHA (3501N/9755E) OKLAHOMA, 30-35 years old, blond, five feet eight inches tall. Source heard from fellow prisoners that this man deserted his military unit in West Germany.]

Vorkuta—A Lithuanian witness in Vilnius stated that, while a prisoner in a camp in Vorkuta, he met a prisoner who claimed to be a U.S. WWII pilot named John.⁸⁷

Vorkuta—A woman from Kiev reported that during interviews with former prisoners in the Vorkuta and Berlag camps, several claimed to have seen American pilots. The pilots were shot down during the Korean War.⁸⁸

⁸¹ Zoltan Toth, *Prisoner of the Soviet Gulag*, (Gresham Books, 1978), pp. 62-64.

⁸² Allied Personnel Imprisoned in USSR, D-30477, HQ 66th Counter Intelligence Corps Group, June 15, 1955.

⁸³ American Prisoner at Vorkuta Camp, USSR, Memorandum for the Record, Central Intelligence Agency, May 24, 1957.

⁸⁴ Handling and Processing of Prisoners in USSR, IR-255-56, NBG Team, 7051st Air INTSERON, 7050 Air INTSERGU (USAFE), December 18, 1956, Air Intelligence Reports 1947-62 (AIR), Deputy Director for Collection and Dissemination (DDCD), Records of Headquarters U.S. Air Force (Air Staff), Record Group 341 (RG 341), National Archives at College Park, College Park, MD (NACP).

⁸⁵ The New York Times, December 30, 1953.

⁸⁶ The Stars and Stripes, September 29, 1954.

⁸⁷ JCSD-AMEMBASSY Moscow, 231127Z Jun 95.

⁸⁸ JCSD-AMEMBASSY Moscow, 181139Z Nov 94.

Vorkuta—The son of a Soviet engineer stationed at Vorkuta stated that of the several thousand persons in that camp complex, there were two black American soldiers, an American major, and several British citizens, as well as "other Europeans."⁸⁹

Vorkuta—During a press conference in 1999, a Russian journalist stated that in 1962, while living in Vorkuta, he conducted an expose on the KGB, presumably to highlight its good work at protecting the borders of the former Soviet Union. To present his findings, the reporter held a press conference with several KGB officers in attendance. The journalist asked the officers whether there were any U.S. servicemen in Vorkuta. He reported that one KGB officer commented, "Of course we have American prisoners from the Korean War here in Vorkuta." When asked to expound on this, the officer demurred, indicating that he did not want to discuss the issue any further.⁹⁰

Vorkuta—A female source, who was imprisoned in Vorkuta and Ukhta from December 1947 until December 1953, reported the presence of American or British, and French male prisoners in Vorkuta. Other female prisoners, who spoke French and English, told this to source in March 1953 while working at an excavation site in Vorkuta. The English-speaking male prisoners were supposedly airmen who had been arrested after bailing out of their aircraft.⁹¹

Vorkuta—A CIA source reported in 1955 that among the prisoners in Vorkuta was an American citizen named Walter Kovalik. Kovalik was born in 1921. He was missing his right arm. Kovalik was arrested in Mongolia on an unknown date. He gave his address as 4406 South Hermitage Avenue, Chicago, Illinois. His sister Mrs. Frank (Katherina) Sarna lived at the same address.⁹²

Vorkuta—A female Austrian returnee interned from 1946 to 1955 reported meeting an American colonel in Vorkuta. In 1946, source met the alleged American, a Colonel Davison, in the Soviet prison located in the basement of a building at Tolbuchkinstrasse 48, Vienna in 1946. The Prison Commander was Lt. Colonel Dobrovolsky. Source's interrogator was named Ivan Ivanovich Petrov. Colonel Ponomorev, a member of the Soviet element of the Vienna Inter-Allied Command, handled Colonel Davison's case. A Major Orlov interrogated Colonel Davison. Davison was approximately 48 years old, and came from Ohio. He was arrested in February 1946 at the Hotel Erzherzog Rainer in IV (Soviet) Bezirk of Vienna after being entrapped by an Estonian dancer and Soviet agent named Helena Leit. Source later met Davison in Vorkuta in 1947. When source left Vorkuta in 1950, Davison was ill in the camp hospital. In 1953 in Verkhne-Uralsk source learned from two other American prisoners (see Chelyabinsk section) that Davison was out of the hospital and still in Vorkuta.⁹³

⁸⁹ American Citizens Detained in the USSR, ZF000004W, p. 4-91.

⁹⁰ Trip Report for TDY to Moscow and Perm, Russia, Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office, Joint Commission Support Directorate, Gulag Research Team, June 2001.

⁹¹ Russian Forced Labor, Penal, and Correction Camps in Ukhta and Vorkuta, 59A-B-2792D, 7050 AISW (USAFE), July 29, 1954, Wringer Reports, ODI, RG 341, NACP.

⁹² American Held in Soviet Prison, Information Report, Central Intelligence Agency, October 19, 1955.

⁹³ Amembassy Vienna to State, American Citizens Detained by the Soviet Union, October 20, 1955, 611.61241/10-2055, Decimal, Central Files, RG 59, NACP.

Vorkuta—Source reported meeting an American soldier named Sheridan who claimed the Soviets kidnapped him in Germany in 1949.⁹⁴

Vorkuta Camp One—A CIA source stated in 1954 that a person who claimed to be an American flyer had been in Vorkuta since 1948.⁹⁵

Vorkuta Camp One, Nine/Ten, and Eleven—A German source was interned in Vorkuta from July 1950 to June 1953. On numerous occasions he spoke with a fellow prisoner who claimed to be an American. The prisoner claimed to be a U.S. Army corporal named Bill Matthiuk, a member of the U.S. Occupation Forces in Berlin. He was arrested in Potsdam in 1948 after falling asleep on a train. At the time, he was twenty-five or twenty-six years old, stout, dark blond with bushy eyebrows. Source last saw him in December 1952.⁹⁶

[This is possibly Private William T. Marchuk. United States Army. Private Marchuk was reported absent without leave February 1, 1949 in Berlin. He was imprisoned in Vorkuta and other camps in the Soviet Union until his release to U.S. authorities on January 8, 1955.]

Vorkuta Camp Three—Repatriated American John Noble reported that shortly after his arrival at Camp Three, he had spoken with a Yugoslavian national. The Yugoslav told him that several months before, an American Navy reconnaissance plane had been downed by the Soviets over the Baltic Sea and that eight of the ten crewmembers had survived. The survivors were being held in the Vorkuta area. However, they were told that the United States Government had accepted the official Soviet statement declaring them dead. This effectively doomed their chances of ever returning to America. Noble was never able to identify the survivors by name. However, he heard repeatedly from other inmates who were transferred from one camp to another that Americans were held in the same camps from which the transferees had come.⁹⁷

Vorkuta Camp 5-153/5-OR—A Ukrainian source stated that towards the end of 1949 he met two American military officers who were musicians.⁹⁸

Vorkuta Camp Six—A German witness reported that he knew a U.S. Major Schwartz from 1951 until 1952. Schwartz had been stationed in Frankfurt, Germany, when Soviet security police in Kassel, West Germany, kidnapped him in 1949. The American, last seen by the witness in 1952, spoke Russian and English. He was described as being 51 to 56 years old, five feet ten inches to six feet tall, 165 to 175 pounds, dark hair, dark complexion with protruding teeth and a missing upper front tooth.⁹⁹

⁹⁴ American Citizens Detained in the USSR, ZF000004W, p. 4-82.

⁹⁵ Soviet Concentration Camps in the Vorkuta Area, Information Report, April 23, 1954, Central Intelligence Agency.

⁹⁶ Area Description of Vorkuta, 52B-11085A, 7050 AISW (USAFE), December 7, 1954, Wringer Reports, ODI, RG 341, NACP.

⁹⁷ Sworn Affidavit to President Richard M. Nixon by John Nobel, May 26, 1973, p. 1.

⁹⁸ KARTA, 2003, p.10.

⁹⁹ U.S. Personnel in Soviet Custody, XE-030477, 66th Counter Intelligence Corps Group,

Vorkuta Camp Six—A returned German reported that, while interned from March 1950 to January 1954, he occasionally conversed with prisoners who claimed to be U.S. citizens. In early 1953, source met a colonel in the U.S. Army; approximately 50 years old, five feet eleven inches, slender with gray hair. He claimed the Russians kidnapped him in the Russian Sector of Vienna in 1948, while he was making a trip by car with his girlfriend. Source stated this prisoner was still in Camp Six when he left Vorkuta in January 1954.

Once in January of 1954 at the tailor's shop, the same source met an alleged U.S. Army soldier named Joe, approximately 40 years old, five feet seven inches, slender, with dark blonde hair. Joe had a scar over his right eye and limped on his right leg. He was sentenced to five years hard labor in 1945 and had been "free" since 1950. He lived in exile in the Vorkuta area with a Russian woman. Joe worked as the head of the bathhouse for Coal Mine 29.¹⁰⁰

Vorkuta Camp Nine—An Austrian journalist imprisoned in various camps from 1948 until 1954, claimed to have known a naturalized American, Colonel Brandenfels, in Vorkuta in 1951. (Brandenfels was reportedly the name he used before becoming an American citizen.) The American had been stationed in Berlin after WWII and was picked up in a bar in the Soviet Zone.¹⁰¹

Vorkuta Camp Nine—While detained in Camp Nine in 1952, a former German POW heard rumors from camp guards and officers that Americans were detained in Vorkuta. In early 1952, the camp's security officer, Fedor Nikolayevich Kolesnikov, told the source he had seen the American officers. The source also spoke with the Chief of State Security for Vorkuta, Mishanov, who acknowledged Kolesnikov's statement.

The source reported that seven American military prisoners were reportedly detained in the *Vorkuta Mekhanicheskiy Zavod* (The Vorkuta Mechanical Factory) Camp Complex, Camp 23 or 25—one lieutenant colonel, two majors, two captains, and two civilian engineers. Another American prisoner was detained in Camp Nine and worked in Coal Mine Eight. Source remembers the latter American's name as Johnny Thomson or Johnny Chemson.

This American prisoner reportedly told the source that he had been the first engineer of an American vessel anchored at Port Author, USSR (no time frame reported). The engineer went on a short errand ashore, was arrested for illegally entering the harbor area, and sentenced to six to seven years in the Vorkuta Gulag.

November 20, 1957.

¹⁰⁰ U.S. Citizens, Interned in Russian Convict Camps at Vorkuta, 49-D03-886/1-0554, Office of Special Investigations (USAFE), April 27, 1954, Wringer Reports, ODI, RG 341, NACP.

¹⁰¹ U.S. Citizens Reportedly Detained in USSR, Headquarters United States Forces in Austria, Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, September 20, 1954.

The source doubted whether the Soviet authorities would release him after he completed his sentence. He believed that the engineer would have been forcibly settled somewhere in the Urals. Source also noted that the Soviet authorities seemed proud of having American officers in custody.¹⁰²

Vorkuta Camp 13—A German interned from November 1950 to June 1953 reported meeting an American soldier while working in Coal Mine 13. In November of 1950 source became acquainted with a man named Frank who claimed to have been an army sergeant in the Berlin motor pool. In early 1949 Frank had been at a restaurant in Berlin-Neukoelln near the border of the U.S.-Soviet sectors. He decided to return home via a short cut through the Soviet Sector. Russian soldiers arrested him while still in the U.S. zone. He was sent to Vorkuta in October 1950, and was transferred to an unknown labor camp in November 1951. Frank was 27 to 30, six feet tall, dark hair, olive skin, broad-shouldered with athletic build. He spoke German with an American accent and Russian. His parents were allegedly Russian.¹⁰³

Vorkuta Camp 223/III¹⁰⁴—A German returnee who was interned from June 1950 to December 1953 reported meeting a man who claimed to be an officer in the U.S. Army. From 1951 to the summer of 1952 the source occasionally spoke with a prisoner who worked as the camp bookkeeper. He spoke fluent English as well as German, French, and Russian. He claimed to be a U.S. Army colonel who at one time was the military attaché in Leningrad. Source described him as approximately 35 years old, five feet eleven inches, slender, with blonde hair and blue eyes. He had a twisted mouth. He left Vorkuta in the summer of 1952.¹⁰⁵

Vorkuta Coal Mine One—A Polish witness arrived at Vorkuta Coal Mine One in 1950. Other prisoners pointed out to him an American colonel. He appeared about 60 years old, was quite tall, broad-shouldered, and pale. He wore a quilted jacket and did not converse with other prisoners. After some time the camp administration summoned the colonel, returned his gold ring and watch, and released him from Vorkuta.¹⁰⁶

Vorkuta Coal Mine One—A Polish witness claimed to have met an American pilot in the summer of 1946. They could not understand each other, but the witness was able to understand that the pilot "fell down" from a plane. He was tall (six feet), slight of build, dark-skinned, with an oval face. He looked robust. The witness saw him in the camp for a few days, and did not know what became of the American.¹⁰⁷

¹⁰² American Prisoners in Vorkuta, 59A-B-2673 E, 7050 AISW (USAFE), September 29, 1954, Wringer Reports, ODI, RG 341, NACP.

¹⁰³ U.S. Prisoners in Vorkuta, D-58-B-3353 B, 7050 AISW (USAFE), April 15, 1954, Wringer Reports, ODI, RG 341, NACP.

¹⁰⁴ 223/III (3), the postal code for Special Camp Number Six, Rechlag, *Lagotdelenie* Number Three.

¹⁰⁵ U.S. Officer, Interned in Russian Convict Camp North of Vorkuta, 49-D03-1121/2-0654, Office of Special Investigations (USAFE), June 2, 1954, Wringer Reports, ODI, RG 341, NACP.

¹⁰⁶ KARTA, 1998, p. 3.

¹⁰⁷ KARTA, 1998, p. 3.

Vorkuta Coal Mine One—A Polish source who was at this camp in 1954 heard that an American colonel downed over East Germany (near Berlin) was among a group of prisoners who arrived that year.¹⁰⁸

Vorkuta Mine Two—A witness reported that between 1946-1947 he was imprisoned with an individual who claimed to be an American pilot who had seriously injured himself when he bailed out of his plane after it was hit by anti-aircraft fire. He had large scars on his face, was taciturn and spoke Russian poorly. He was later transferred to another camp.¹⁰⁹

Vorkuta Coal Mine Six—A Polish witness recalled that an American arrived at the camp around June of 1953. Other prisoners told the witness that the American was a pilot from a spy plane downed by the Soviets. The American was approximately 40 years old, over six feet tall with an oval face and a shaved head, wearing a quilted jacket (like everybody else). His Russian was very poor. The witness saw him while the Polish prisoners were being prepared for release.¹¹⁰

Vorkuta Coal Mine Six—In 1954 this Polish witness came into contact with an American and had a short conversation with him (The source's English was poor, and the American could not speak Russian). The American stated that he was a colonel in the U.S. Army, captured in Vienna by Soviet agents. He looked about 40 years old, of medium height, thickset, with dark or auburn hair. The witness left the camp in 1953 [sic] and did not know what happened to the American.¹¹¹

Vorkuta Mine Six—A Ukrainian witness stated that in 1952 he met an individual who claimed to be an American citizen of Ukrainian descent. He claimed to have been arrested for spying while on a mission in Lvov in 1949. He was described as disabled, tall, with a round face and wavy blond hair. He was approximately 30 years old.¹¹²

Vorkuta Coal Mine Seven—A Polish witness reported that he met an American colonel, kidnapped in Berlin. The American recounted that at first he had been sent to Moscow (Lubyanka Prison). He was originally sentenced to death, but the sentence was somehow commuted to 25 years' imprisonment. He was sent to Vorkuta and worked in Coal Mine Seven, where the source first met him. The witness met him a second time between May and June 1954 in prison in Tayshet, while being moved from Tayshet to Krasnoyarsk.

¹⁰⁸ KARTA, 1998, p. 3.

¹⁰⁹ KARTA, 2003, p. 10.

¹¹⁰ KARTA, 1998, p. 4.

¹¹¹ KARTA, 1998, p. 4.

¹¹² KARTA, 2003, p. 10.

The American told the witness that, after the uprising in Coal Mine Seven in Vorkuta in 1953, he had been sentenced to death because of his participation in the uprising. However his sentence was commuted to ten years in a camp somewhere in the Irkutsk District. The American was of average height with blond hair and was about 45 years old.¹¹³

Vorkuta Mine Nine—A German witness met a U.S. Navy ensign named Sobeloff [Sobelev], reportedly captured in China in 1948, when Communist forces took control of the country. Sobeloff claimed to have been the captain of a U.S. vessel at the time of his capture. He was Russian by birth, but a U.S. citizen. He was last seen at Vorkuta Mine Nine in November 1955.¹¹⁴

Vorkuta Mine Nine/Ten—A witness reported that an American citizen was imprisoned here between 1949 and 1953. The other prisoners were banned from contact with the purported American. He was approximately 40, of medium height with dark hair.¹¹⁵

Vorkuta Coal Mine Eleven—A Polish witness was moved from Coal Mine Nine/Ten to Coal Mine Eleven in Vorkuta. While at Coal Mine Eleven, he came into close contact with an American officer named Langier, who had been captured by the Soviets somewhere in Eastern Asia and sentenced for espionage. Langier worked at the baths. He spoke some Polish and claimed he had some Polish friends in the USA. The source believed Langier was from Alabama. He was tall, fair-haired and very friendly. Langier sometimes shared food with the source. He also helped him transfer back to Coal Mine Nine/Ten (Langier had a good relationship with the camp doctor). When the witness was released in 1954, the camp at Coal Mine Eleven no longer existed. The witness assumed that Langier had been moved somewhere else earlier.¹¹⁶

Vorkuta Coal Mine 16—In 1951 or 1952 a Polish witness remembered meeting a young American 20-25 years old, thin, medium-sized, who spoke Russian and worked at the baths. The witness believed he had been captured in Germany. The witness also heard rumors about an American plane downed over Latvia near the town of Limbava and that the crew was imprisoned in one of the camps.¹¹⁷

Vorkuta Coal Mine 29—In 1955, a German source imprisoned in Vorkuta from September 1950 to June 1953 reported meeting an American citizen named Harry. Harry's last name sounded like "Waterwolf", but he was always addressed or referred to as "Ami". Harry spoke almost fluent Russian and some German. The source spoke some English allowing the two to communicate. Harry claimed to be a member of a control board that examined an air crash between an American and a Soviet aircraft in the Soviet Zone of Germany near Berlin.

¹¹³ KARTA Center's research project (KARTA): Searching for Information on American Citizens Gone Missing During World War II and After it in the Territory of the USSR, Final Narrative Report for the Period February 1-December 31, 1999, p. 3.

¹¹⁴ SOBELOFF, Eugene, D-30477, 66th Counter Intelligence Corps Group, August 3, 1956.

¹¹⁵ KARTA, 2003, p. 10.

¹¹⁶ KARTA, 1999, p. 3.

¹¹⁷ KARTA, 1998, p. 4.

Source could not recall the circumstances of Harry's arrest. He was transported from Berlin to Moscow, where he was placed on a transport to Vorkuta with the source. In July 1951, Harry transferred to the camp that served Coal Mines 10, 14, and 16. In 1953 while in Moscow, source heard from a fellow prisoner that Harry was still in Vorkuta. Harry's parents were Americans living in Japan when he was born. He was described as 28 years old, six feet one inch tall, dark blue eyes, thin blond hair, very slender with tattooed arms and chest. The left side of his face appeared paralyzed with the skin hanging loose. His left eye had a reddish appearance, which he stated was the result of an air crash.¹¹⁸

Vorkuta Mine 29—A Ukrainian witness reported meeting an individual in 1954 who claimed to be an American colonel who had been abducted in Germany after the Second World War. He was of medium height, approximately 40 with red hair. He was educated and spoke Russian well. The purported colonel lived with the Russian prisoners and worked at the mine's warehouse.¹¹⁹

Vorkuta Coal Mine 40—A Polish witness recalled that in early September of 1951 or 1952—after some kind of Russian-American incident in Berlin—a large number of Germans were brought to Vorkuta. They came mostly from Berlin (both East and West) and around 20 ended up in Coal Mine 40. One German from this group was about 45 years old, a doctor and disabled soldier who had a platinum plate in his skull. He related that during a rail trip to Vorkuta he had met in the carriage an American major who had been captured on a street in Berlin near the East-West border. He believed there were a total of three Americans in this convoy and that, at a transfer point, they were directed to other coal mines in Vorkuta.¹²⁰

Vorkuta Mine 40—An eyewitness reported that in 1950 he met a tall, 35-year-old American pilot named John Czekman.¹²¹

Vorkuta Distribution Camp 61—A former German POW reported direct contact with a U.S. major (five feet nine inches tall with blue-gray eyes, moustache, and slim build) who claimed to have been kidnapped in 1945 while the Americans were still at the Elbe River. The Soviets sentenced him to 25 years for espionage. He wore an American uniform.¹²²

Vorkuta Pit 40—Austrian witnesses claimed to have met a naturalized American who immigrated to the U.S. as a child. His adopted name was Bizet. The Soviets referred to him by his birth name, Wasiljevski. He was supposedly taken prisoner by the Soviets in 1945 in Korea, where he was serving with the U.S. Navy. The Soviets reportedly did not recognize him as a U.S. citizen.¹²³

¹¹⁸ Forced Labor Camp in Vorkuta, 52HD-55-29A, 7050 AISW (USAFE), January 11, 1955, Wringer Reports, ODI, RG 341, NACP.

¹¹⁹ KARTA, 2003, p. 10.

¹²⁰ KARTA, 1998, p. 5.

¹²¹ KARTA, 2003, p. 10.

¹²² Americans Imprisoned in the Soviet Union, III-33330, Region III 66th Counter Intelligence Corps Group, 11 December 1953.

¹²³ American Citizens Detained in the USSR, ZF000004W, pp. 4-94.

Vorkuta Transit Camp—A German source reported that in August 1949 he met an individual who claimed to be a U.S. Army colonel. This individual remarked that he was on a secret mission in the Soviet Zone of Germany when arrested. He was described as between 44-45 years old, five feet seven to five feet nine inches tall, with dark hair and a slender build. He claimed to have been a spy in Germany during World War II. He spoke fluent German with no accent and was never heard to speak English.¹²⁴

Vorkuta Transit Camp—A German source reported that, between October 4 and 18, 1949, he saw a U.S. Army colonel. He was in U.S. uniform without insignia, stout, five feet nine inches, 40-45 years old with dark blond hair. Source did not speak with the alleged American; however, a German lieutenant general named Schartz spoke with him in English. General Schartz later told source that the man had claimed to be a U.S. colonel arrested in the Soviet Zone of Vienna. General Schartz did not believe the man was really an American but was an informer posing as one.¹²⁵

Vorkuta Transit Camp 58—A former German POW claimed to have had direct contact with an Army or Air Force colonel (five feet eleven inches tall with dark blond hair) during the week of August 21-25, 1949. The U.S. colonel spoke perfect German. He claimed to have been dropped behind German lines during WWII to conduct espionage and was captured in East Germany.¹²⁶

Vorkuta OLP Eight—While in the hospital of *OLP Eight* from September 1949 to March 1950, a German source was in the same ward as an American citizen. The American's last name ended in "ich". He was 58-60 years old, slender with black hair, between five feet nine and five feet eleven inches tall. The alleged American was born in San Francisco of Yugoslavian decent. He was employed on an American vessel as chief engineer. In 1946, while on a trip from Port Duna, Soviet authorities arrested him in Vladivostok. When source was released from the hospital, the American had recovered considerably and was expecting to be repatriated.¹²⁷

Vorkuta OLP Nine—While detained in separate labor camp section *OLP Nine* in 1953, a former German POW heard from a driver that approximately 19 miles north of Vorkuta was a Camp of Silence (the inmates of the camp did not have to work, and were not eligible for mail privileges). According to the driver, who was an ex-prisoner engaged in hauling supplies to various camps, this Camp of Silence held Americans and British captured in Korea.¹²⁸

¹²⁴ Area of Vorkuta, 56A-5120-A, 7050 AISW (USAFE), June 30, 1954, Wringer Reports, ODI, RG 341, NACP.

¹²⁵ Source's Experience in Penal Labor Camps in Vorkuta, 51-B-13376-H, 7050 AISW (USAFE), 26 March 1954, Wringer Reports, ODI, RG 341, NACP.

¹²⁶ Americans Imprisoned in the Soviet Union, III-33330, Region III 66th Counter Intelligence Corps Group, December 11, 1953.

¹²⁷ U.S. Citizen in Hospital at Vorkuta, 51B-13892A, 7050 AISW (USAFE), July 1, 1954, Wringer Reports, ODI, RG 341, NACP.

¹²⁸ Urban Area of Vorkuta, 51A-10623, 7050 AISW (USAFE), July 12, 1954, Wringer Reports, ODI, RG 341, NACP.

Molotov (Perm)

Molotov (Perm)—A CIA report dated September 2, 1952 cites the location of Soviet transit camps for Prisoners of War from Korea. The following indented paragraphs have been excerpted from that report:¹²⁹

Since July 1951, according to new information, several transports of Korean POWs passed through the ports of Bukhta (near Vladivostok), Okhotsk and Magadan. Each ship contained 1,000 or more prisoners. Between the end of November 1951 and April 1952, transports of POWs were sent by rail from the Poset railway junction on the Chinese-Soviet frontier. Some were directed to Chita in Eastern Siberia and some to Molotov, European Soviet Russia, west of the Ural Mountains.

Information about non-Asiatic POWs was received on April 30, 1952 from the Gubakha railway station in the Komi-Permyak National District, in Northwestern Siberia. According to this information, about 300 POWs were transported by rail from Chita to Molotov in February 1952. The prisoners were clothed in Soviet-type cotton padded tunics with no distinctive marks. They were first transported from the railway station to the MVD prison and then sent by rail, in a train consisting of 9 wagons, to Molotov on or about April 5, 1952. The train was heavily guarded by railway guards of the MVD.

In March this year transports of POWs passed through from Khabarovsk to Chita and from Chita to Molotov roughly every fortnight. They were in small groups of up to 50 persons. According to latest information, dated 30 June 1952, the prisoners, after arriving in Chita, were first sent to the local MVD prisons, and then, after a sufficient number of them had been assembled, were sent further to Molotov. It is most probable that POWs are undergoing some sort of investigation and selection process while in the MVD prison in Chita. Some of them are retained in prison in Chita for a long time, while others are sent directly by rail to Molotov and other industrial regions in the Ural Mountains.

¹²⁹ Location of Certain Soviet Transit Camps for Prisoners of War from Korea, Information Report, Central Intelligence Agency, September 2, 1952.

From December 1951 up to the end of April 1952, several railway transports of American and European (probably British) POWs were seen passing at intervals of 10 to 20 days through the Komi-Permyak National District in Northwestern Siberia. These transports were directed to Molotov, Gubakha (Northeast of Molotov), Kudymkar (Northwest of Molotov), and Chermos on the Kama River North of Molotov. The prisoners were clad in cotton-padded gray tunics and pants and wore civilian caps, so-called "Sibirki". They had no military insignia. They spoke among themselves in English, and they knew no other languages, except a few words of Russian.

During the journey they remained locked in heavily guarded wagons and were not allowed to leave them. They received their meals from MVD guards. Each wagon had small windows on two levels. Each window was barred and covered by opaque glass.

According to information gathered between April 1 and 20, a certain number of American POW officers, among whom was a group referred to as the "American General Staff", were kept at that time in the Command of the Military District of Molotov. Some of the POWs were accommodated in the building of the MVD in Molotov, having been subjected most probably to interrogations. They had been completely isolated from the outside world.

In the town of Gubakha and in the industrial regions of Kudymkar and Chermos there were three isolated camps and one interrogation prison for American POWs from Korea, according to information dated February and April 1952. Prisoners kept in the three labor camps were employed on the construction of a new railway line. In one of these camps, called GAYSK about 200 Americans were kept. They were employed in workshops assembling rails and doing various technical jobs. These camps were completely isolated from any civilian camps located in neighborhood. Political control was carried out by the local Party organization, headed by (first name unknown (fnu)) Edovin, a delegate from the Obkom of the Komi-Permyak National District. All these camps were under the charge of (first name unknown) Kalypin, a Soviet officer of unknown rank who was sent from Molotov in February 1952.

In some camps situated near the Gubakha railway, which are called "*Zapretchdelanki*", [Russian term difficult to translate - means "isolated plots"] about 150 Americans were kept, probably soldiers and NCOs. An interesting thing was that from these camps one to three POWs were taken every few days by officers of the MVD for transportation to Gubakha or Molotov. They never returned to their camps and their fate remained unknown. According to the supposition of persons acquainted with MVD methods, these POWs had been observed in the camps by specially

assigned agents of the MVD, who knew the English language and thus were able to identify those individuals who were very hostile to the Communist regime and ideology and those who could be considered sympathetic. Those belonging to the first group were most probably sent either to prison or to especially hard labor camps for extermination; the others were probably sent to special political courses in Molotov.

Solikamsk—A stateless refugee who was detained by the Soviets from February 14, 1950 until May 18, 1955 reported meeting five American servicemen. In June of 1954 source was in a camp near Kirov when a fellow inmate informed him that five Americans were being held in a cell nearby. A few days later, he transferred by train to the Central Dispensary at Solikamsk.

The train arrived in Solikamsk at 4:30 pm on 19 June 1954. The prisoners were ordered to disembark and line up by nationality. Source noticed five men to his right and began speaking to the closest in German. The man told source his name was Room or Rum and that he and the other four men were Americans. He was wearing an American or British army uniform without insignia or devices. He was 28 to 33 years old, approximately six feet two inches tall, dark eyes, and brown hair. He had a bad case of eczema on his head. He spoke excellent German.

The other four had common faces, wore prisoner clothes, and spoke poor German. Source stated they used German words peculiar to Berlin. Source had the impression Room was the leader of the group. Source spoke with Room for approximately five minutes before the guard told them to be quiet and marched the five Americans away separately from the group. Room told source that they were being taken to a camp in the Molotov area, Gardinsky region, postal district Bondiuk, post office box AM 244 9/2. He requested source notify American authorities if he was ever released.¹³⁰ [Note: AM 244 was the postal code for Usol'skii Corrective Labor Camp, "Usol'lag" in Solikamsk.]¹³¹

¹³⁰ U.S. Personnel Imprisoned by the Soviet Forces, D-30477, Headquarters 66th Counter Intelligence Corps Group, June 13, 1955.

¹³¹ M.B. Smirnov, *Spravochnik Sistemy Ispravitel'no-Trudovykh Lagerey v SSSR*, (Moskva, Russia: Zven'ya, 1998), pp. 433-434.

Sverdlovsk (Yekaterinburg)

Nizhne-Issetskiy—A German POW, who was incarcerated in the Nizhne-Issetskiy Forced Labor Camp saw three Russian-born Americans working as mechanics. Two of them were more than forty years of age; the third was nineteen years old and did not speak Russian. They sang American songs, and, when the German inquired, he learned from fellow POWs that the three men were arrested aboard a ship by Mao's police in Shanghai, China, imprisoned, transferred to the Soviet authorities, and lived as free laborers in Sverdlovsk.¹³²

Nizhniy Tagil Strict Regime Camp—An Austrian returnee reported meeting a U.S. sergeant and corporal in late 1952. One was believed to have been kidnapped in Vienna.¹³³

Sverdlovsk—A German POW was incarcerated in the Sverdlovsk City Jail from February to July 1951, where he met one U.S. and one British citizen. The American was James Pushkan, born 1916 in Manchuria. His mother was Manchurian, and his father was an American merchant. Pushkan was about six feet tall, blond, blue eyes; he spoke fluent English, French and Russian. Pushkan reportedly joined the U.S. Navy when he was 20 years old and served as a lieutenant on a cruiser during World War II. After the end of the war, he separated from the U.S. Navy and went as a civilian to Shanghai, China. He subsequently traveled to Shenyang (Mukden) in 1950 to look for his parents. In Shenyang, he was arrested by the Soviets, convicted, and sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment. He was later transferred from the Sverdlovsk City Jail to an unknown prison camp in May 1951.

The German POW also met a British citizen by the name of Soja Aginski. Aginski was born in 1909 in Vladivostok, Russia. His parents fled Russia following World War I, and lived in the United Kingdom, where Aginski studied law. He reportedly served in the British Navy as a military judge, and earned the rank of major. He was captured in China, where he was living illegally following World War II. While in the Sverdlovsk jail, he wore civilian clothing and possessed a British military coat. Aginski was sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment and transferred to an unknown prison camp with Pushkan.¹³⁴

¹³² Socio-Political Information, 272130-56-B-4321A, 7050 AISW (USAFE), January 20, 1954, Wringer Reports, ODI, RG 341, NACP.

¹³³ American Citizens Detained in the USSR, ZF000004W, pp. 4-90.

¹³⁴ Area Description of Sverdlovsk, 51-A-9352A, 7050 AISW (USAFE), February 24, 1954, Wringer Reports, ODI, RG 341, NACP.

Chelyabinsk

Verkhne-Ural'sk—An Italian returnee reported meeting an American Army major in a camp in Verkhne-Ural'sk in 1953. The American's parents were Hungarian; he was born in the United States. At the end of World War II the major was in Hungary and later was present at the Nuremberg trials. He returned to Hungary as a civilian and was arrested by the Soviet Secret Police. He was sent to prison in Baden, Soviet Zone of Austria, where he spent three years and from there was transferred to Verkhne-Ural'sk in 1951, remaining there, in poor health, until May 1953, when he was transferred to Moscow.¹³⁵

Verkhne-Ural'sk—An Austrian woman detained in the Soviet Union from 1946 until 1956 reported meeting two American officers in Verkhne-Ural'sk. One gave his name as Captain Peterson. He was approximately 30 years old and claimed that he had been kidnapped in Vienna while working at General Mark Clark's headquarters in 1946. Source first met Captain Peterson in 1953 and last saw him in 1955 at Vladimir Prison. The second individual whom the source alleged to have met was a Captain Sing Oisman, who was approximately 30 years old at the time and had supposedly been kidnapped in Vienna in 1949. Source last saw Captain Oisman in September 1953 at Verkhne-Ural'sk. Both Peterson and Oisman reportedly told the source that 27 Americans were being held in the Krasnoyarsk Region.¹³⁶

Verkhne-Ural'sk—Source reported meeting a U.S. Army captain named George Mackelly. Mackelly claimed to have been stationed in Hanover, Frankfurt am Main, and Berlin. The Soviets arrested him in Berlin in 1950.¹³⁷

Chelyabinsk PW Camp—Source met an American who arrived in camp in July 1950 along with three German prisoners. The American was called 'Yam'. He claimed to be a lieutenant who had been shot down over eastern Germany in 1945. He was transferred to the Soviet Union when the Red Army captured the hospital where he was recuperating. He was described as approximately 40 years old, fair with a slim build. He spoke English, German, and Russian. His parents allegedly owned a large farm or estate in New York State. At the end of July 1950 source and the American were transferred to Shakhty. The American was transferred to Rostov Prison in September 1950 for beating a guard.¹³⁸

¹³⁵ Amembassy Vienna to State, Alleged American in the USSR, December 6, 1954, 261.1111/12-654, Prisons and Camps USSR No. 3, Operations Section Files, 1949-54, Operations Section (POW Desk), Office of Naval Intelligence, Records of the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Record Group 38, NACP.

¹³⁶ Amembassy Vienna to State, American Citizens Detained by the Soviet Union, October 20, 1955, 611.61241/10-2055, Decimal, Central Files, RG 59, NACP.

¹³⁷ American Citizens Detained in the USSR, ZF000004W, pp. 4-66.

¹³⁸ Alleged US Citizens in Russian Hands; HQ USFA, AC of S, G2 (SSB/CIB) APO 168, US Army; 3August 3, 1955.

Novosibirsk

Novosibirsk Transit Prison—During an interview in 1993, a witness in Lithuania described an encounter with Americans at the Novosibirsk Transit Prison around June 1952. The witness stated there were two American pilots in a group of prisoners brought into his small room. The other two or three prisoners were German. The Americans reportedly told him that they had been shot down in Korea. They were dressed in khaki shirts and trousers with no belts. The first American told the source that he was a captain in the U.S. Air Force. The source could only recall that the captain was tall and had a red beard. He could not remember any details about the second individual.¹³⁹

¹³⁹ JCSD-AMEMBASSY Moscow, 070842Z Jul 93.

Krasnoyarsk

Kirovskiy—In his memoirs (provided to the Russian Side in November 1999), a former Soviet citizen quoted seven people who claim to have seen Americans in Kirovskiy. Excerpts from his memoirs:¹⁴⁰

1. [In the] fall, 1951, a group of American POWs from Korea arrived in a camp by the town Kirovsk, in the Krasnoyarsk area. However, in the beginning of 1952, they disappeared. In any case, during the liquidation of the prison camp during the winter of 1951 and into 1952, they were not part of the prisoners who were transferred to Motygino (to the south)....
2. A worker from Kirovskiy witnessed how, late at night, during Russian Christmas, a group of 20, maybe slightly more, were led from the camp along the Veniaminovky Road.
3. Another witness and her friend claimed that during the last days of December 1951, more than 20 prisoners, wearing bare threads and half frozen, were moved along the road to Veniaminovsky.
4. A witness in Veniaminovky, stated that on Christmas "we had a present which the NKVD delivered to the town (half frozen prisoners). They did not speak Russian. They only said 'American, American,' and 'eat, eat.' ... Then in the morning, around 6 am, they were taken and marched further."
5. A hunter and driver, from the town of Chinuel, saw from his car, a number of prisoners who did not speak Russian, being marched along the road...this was early in the morning, around Christmas...The next day, around 7 am, he was going back to Kirovsk and saw the prisoner column moving toward the town of Kamenka (and the lake).
4. One more witness worked in the town of Kirovsk. In February 1952, while hunting, in the area where the Kamenka and Porenda rivers meet, he came across an area where he suspected people were buried. The ground was overturned and his dogs were picking up strange scents.

¹⁴⁰ The Memoirs, Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office, Joint Commission Support Directorate, pp. 7-11.

7. A cleaning lady in the camp made a list of 22 names of citizens of the USA who were in the camp by Kirovsk during the winter of 1951 to 1952. She was able to take a pencil to the Americans and have them record their names and addresses on pieces of newspaper. She smuggled these pieces out of the camp, put them in a can and buried them.

Many names on the list match those of missing service members from the Korean War. These include:

Foster	1LT Robert Foster,SGT Elmer Foster, and PFC Robert Foster are missing
Hatch	SFC Robert Hatch is missing
Leon	PFC Chang Jay Park Kim assumed the name "George Leony" upon his capture in order to disguise his Korean heritage...reported to have died in a POW camp in Korea. ¹⁴¹
Miller	There are 42 missing Millers
Davis	There are 39 missing Davis
Johnson, Hubert	CPL Herbert Johnson is missing
Morin	CAPT Arthur Morin and CPL Fernand Morin is missing
Larson	PFC Gerald Larson is missing
Boyar	Cpl Andrew Boyer and CPL William Boyer are missing
Fisher	There are 8 missing Fishers
Helfand	PFC Osvaldo Galvan is missing
Kaiser	MSGT George Kyzer is missing

Noril'sk—A Polish witness heard from fellow prisoners that two Americans, probably pilots, were in the camp. They were described as being around 30-35 years old.¹⁴²

Noril'sk "Bear Stream" Mine—A Ukrainian witness stated he saw a tall, American pilot between the age of 20 and 23 years old at this mine in 1947 or 1948.¹⁴³

Noril'sk "Medvezhka"¹⁴⁴ Camp—A witness reported seeing six or seven American prisoners at this camp in 1946-47; he thinks they were later taken to Tayshet in Irkutsk.¹⁴⁵

¹⁴¹ Amendment to a Study of Repatriation U.S. Military Personnel Sept 25, 1953 Amended Oct 6, 1953, Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff J-2, Headquarters Far East Command, Oct 6, 1953, p. 2.

¹⁴² KARTA, 1998, p. 7.

¹⁴³ KARTA, 2003, p. 11.

¹⁴⁴ From the Russian for bear, same as "Bear Stream" mine.

¹⁴⁵ KARTA, 2003, p. 11.

Noril'sk Camp Four—A Polish witness claimed to have worked with 36-38 American POWs from the Korean War (pilots shot down near Vladivostok) in the early 50s. He recalled the name of one of the prisoners, Scott, but was unsure if this was the first or last name.¹⁴⁶

Noril'sk Camp Four or Five—A Polish witness claimed to have been in the camp with an American for about one year. The American was pudgy and fair-haired, and did not speak Russian.¹⁴⁷

Noril'sk Camp Five—A Polish witness met an American or English pilot, probably a captain, in Noril'sk in the first half of 1953. This pilot carried out reconnaissance flights during the Korean War, and, due to bad weather and instrument failure, landed at Dal'niy, USSR. He was arrested and sentenced on espionage charges. According to the witness, the pilot was approximately 30 years old, tall, dark-haired, and looked healthy. Under his prison clothes he wore an "English" military blouse. The source did not know the pilot's eventual fate. In May-June 1953 the camp inmates staged an uprising, and in July, the witness, one of the revolt's leaders, was transported to Kolyma, where he stayed until 1956.¹⁴⁸

Noril'sk Camp Nine, Cement Plant Five—A witness in Lithuania said that he was working with the third camp division near Cement Plant Five at Noril'sk Camp Nine in 1953. Camp gossip alleged that a heavily guarded corner facility in the camp was for American POWs from Korea. The witness observed these prisoners from a distance of about 110 yards. They were young white males dressed in prison garb. He felt it was significant that during the prison uprisings in May-June 1954 these special prisoners were quickly removed. He had no idea what happened to them.¹⁴⁹

Noril'sk Camp Eleven—A French doctor who was incarcerated in various camps in the Soviet Union from June 1941 until February 1957 reported hearing about an American Air Force officer imprisoned in Camp Eleven of the Noril'sk camp complex near Dudinka. The alleged American officer was attached to the United States Military Aid Group training Turkish pilots in Turkey. In 1951, he made a forced landing inside the Soviet Union near Erevan. The American was still in Noril'sk as of September 1953. Source never personally saw this individual.¹⁵⁰

¹⁴⁶ Trip Report for TDY to Poland, Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office, Joint Commission Support Directorate, 1998.

¹⁴⁷ KARTA, 1998, p. 7.

¹⁴⁸ KARTA, 1998, p. 6.

¹⁴⁹ JCSD-AMEMBASSY Moscow, 070752Z Jul 93.

¹⁵⁰ Amembassy Paris to State, Report of U.S. Air Force Officer in Soviet Prison Camp, April 9, 1958, 611.61241/4-958, Decimal, Central Files, RG 59, NACP.

Noril'sk Camp 54—An eyewitness reported that between 1951-56, U.S. airmen were kept in a separate barracks from other prisoners in this camp. They were escorted to and from work under special surveillance. The witness apparently knew this information from hearsay.¹⁵¹

Noril'sk Dudinka Transit Camp—A Lithuanian witness reported seeing American WWII officers at the Noril'sk Dudinka transit camp in August of 1946.¹⁵²

Rybak—In his memoirs (provided to the Russian Side in November 1999), a source wrote that in the very beginning of 1953, he was sent to handle an emergency situation at the northern mining enterprise called Rybak. One of the technical experts he worked with was a demolition-qualified inmate, who he described as tall, exhausted by hunger and the Arctic, and having a very characteristic, slightly elongated artistic face. His unnaturally protruding gray eyes in sockets sunken from emaciation revealed someone ill with exophthalmic goiter. In an accent clearly that of an English speaker, he identified himself as a citizen of the United States of America, Allied Officer Dale.

In Noril'sk, many years later, a geologist, who had worked with the witness in Udereya at the time in question, related that many of the Americans "who had fallen into our hands in 1945 from the liberated Fascist camps were held in Rybak and probably perished there...."¹⁵³

During a visit to Krasnoyarsk in September 2001, the Director of the human-rights organization "Memorial" confirmed the existence of Rybak. He commented that Rybak was a top-secret uranium mine located on the Leningradskaya River. Unlike the majority of Gulag camps, Rybak was not subordinate to the MVD. It is not known what entity controlled Rybak, but it is believed that several Soviet geologists worked at the camp. The camp was centered on a mining shaft, and the uranium ore was placed into river ships for transport. Because the camp produced very little uranium it was eventually destroyed and traces of the camp removed. No known archival records or memoirs of the camp exist. The Memorial director knew of the camp only through acquaintances that served as geologists for the Soviet Union.¹⁵⁴

Unknown location—While serving his sentence in the Krasnoyarsk Kray in 1949-1950, a Russian witness met with Japanese and Korean prisoners of war and conversed with them. They told him that, along with them, several Americans who had arrived at a camp's sub-section (*lagpunkt*) had been prisoners of war of either the Japanese or the Koreans; later they (Americans, Japanese, Koreans) all became prisoners of the Russians.¹⁵⁵

¹⁵¹ KARTA, 2003, p. 10.

¹⁵² JCSD-AMEMBASSY Moscow, 070752Z Jul 93.

¹⁵³ The Memoirs, Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office, Joint Commission Support Directorate, pp. 2-3.

¹⁵⁴ Trip Report for TDY to Moscow, Krasnoyarsk, and Irkutsk, Russia, September 9-26, 2001, Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office, Joint Commission Support Directorate, Gulag Research Team, 9 November 2001.

¹⁵⁵ TFR 14, Task Force Russia, pp. 11-12.

Irkutsk

Aleksandrovsk Central Prison—An Austrian returnee reported meeting in May 1955 an American military police first lieutenant named Gevi or Gevy Robinson. He was 47 or 48 years old. The Soviets arrested him in Berlin. He was not allowed to write. The prison post office box was 5110/51 Moscow.¹⁵⁶

Irkutsk—An Austrian returnee stated that while imprisoned in Irkutsk from September to December 1954 he met an American serviceman named 'Gaby'. Gaby claimed to have been stationed with an American military police unit in Berlin. The Soviets kidnapped him while he was standing watch in 1948. Source had learned some English while working for U.S. forces in Heidelberg; he was convinced that Gaby was a native English speaker. Gaby was not permitted to write or receive letters or packages.¹⁵⁷

Irkutsk Camp 19—A Ukrainian witness was sent to the Irkutsk Oblast in 1959. During a brief stay in Camp Four, he heard rumors that Americans were being held in Camp 19, about five miles away. He said he heard that a part of Camp 19 housed the Americans and that it was a particularly high-security zone, surrounded by an eight-yard fence, with several feet of barbed wire.

After having been caught stealing bread, he was sent to Camp 19 in March 1959 and immediately thrown into the "BUR" (*Barak Usilennogo Rezhima* - Disciplinary Barracks), located near the bathhouse and guard tower. Inside he was thrown on top of the badly bloodied bodies of two men lying on a makeshift table. He said that lying next to the bodies were seven gold teeth and part of an artificial jaw. It was obvious that the men had been beaten and had their teeth knocked out. He could not recall whether the teeth were completely covered with gold, or just the crowns.

The guards told him that the bodies were those of American officers and that the same would happen to him if he did not obey the rules. The witness said that it was impossible to discern the color of their skin or even guess at their age, due to the severity of the beatings. He said that he was sent off to wash up and that, when he returned, the bodies were no longer there.

He later heard that the bodies were buried near the fourth guard tower, and the prisoners' clothes were doused with gasoline and burned. The witness added that he had heard rumors that there were another 18 Americans housed in the camp, aside from these two. He said these prisoners were gradually killed off between May and July 1959.

¹⁵⁶ American Citizens Detained in the USSR, ZF000004W, pp. 4-63.

¹⁵⁷ Alleged US Citizens in Russian Hands; HQ USFA, AC of S, G2 (SSB/CIB) APO 168, US Army ; August 3, 1955.

He claimed approximately once a week, one of these prisoners was taken out, forced to dig his own grave, stripped, and then shot. The camp guards told him that these victims were U.S. aircrews who had been taken prisoner in Korea. They were buried outside the camp, near the guard tower, separately from the other prisoners. He added this was not in the local cemetery, which was also located just outside the camp.

The witness could not recall the camp commandant's name. He recalled the surnames of two camp guards, Popov and Ivanov, but could not remember their first names or patronymics.¹⁵⁸

Tayshet—A former German POW reported direct contact with U.S. Army Captain Johnny Anderson from 1951-1953. Captain Anderson was reportedly stationed in Berlin in 1946, and was arrested while drunk in the Soviet sector. The source believed that he might have been in the Air Corps.¹⁵⁹

Tayshet—A female German prisoner detained in Irkutsk Prison Camp Nine from September 1949 to May 1953 reported that a female Lithuanian prisoner told her about a prison camp in Tayshet that contained approximately seven hundred male American, British, and French prisoners. These prisoners did not work. The female Lithuanian prisoner had spent time in Tayshet but did not know where or how these men were taken prisoner.¹⁶⁰

Tayshet—Source stated that in 1953 he met an American U.S. military police sergeant named Robert Robinson. Source described him as approximately 36 years old with a stomach ailment. He claimed the Soviets arrested him in Vienna in 1948. Robinson was not allowed to write letters. The camp address was Post Office Box 5110/37 Moscow.¹⁶¹

Tayshet-Bratsk Chuna Camp 19—A Polish witness claimed that at the end of the summer of 1951 or 1952, an American escaped from Camp 19 at Chuna, on the Tayshet - Bratsk railway, 90 miles from Tayshet.¹⁶²

Tayshet Camp 20, Farm 25—A Japanese returnee reported that in the period of 1949-1950 he had direct contact with an American flyer, about 40 years old, tall, with a ruddy complexion. The flyer was shot down over the Baltic States while on an aerial reconnaissance mission and sentenced to 20 years. He was burned in the crash, leaving scars on his right cheek and left leg, necessitating the use of a cane. He spoke some Russian.¹⁶³

¹⁵⁸ JCSD-AMEMBASSY Moscow, 291316Z Dec 98.

¹⁵⁹ POW Returned from USSR, MI OPS 69, Commanding Officer, 532d Mil Intel Bn, December 12, 1955.

¹⁶⁰ MVD Penal Camps in the Irkutsk Area, E-56B-B-4959A, 7050 AISW (USAFE), February 11, 1954, Wringer Reports, ODI, RG 341, NACP.

¹⁶¹ American Citizens Detained in the USSR, ZF000004W, pp. 4-69.

¹⁶² KARTA, 1999, p. 4.

¹⁶³ American Citizens Detained in the USSR, ZF000004W, pp. 4-41.

Tayshet Camp 26—A German civilian returnee reported meeting U.S. Air Force Major William Thompson. According to the source, Major Thompson made a forced landing, and was arrested by the Russians, who sentenced him to twenty-five years for espionage. He spent the years 1944 to 1948 in Budenskaya Prison in Moscow. He was transferred to Tayshet Camp 26. Major Thompson was approximately 38 years old, six feet one inch tall, slim, fair hair, and had blue eyes. His home was in San Antonio, Texas.¹⁶⁴

[Major Wirt Elizabeth Thompson, U.S. Air Force, departed Myitkyina, Burma 4 December 1944 on a mission to Kunming, China. He was reported shot down and is listed as missing in action. Major Thompson, also known as Worth and William, was born in Italy, Texas and attended high school in San Antonio.]

Tayshet Special Camp Six—A Latvian witness reported he had knowledge of three U.S. POWs in Tayshet camps from the period 1949-1951.

He met the first American in 1950, in Tayshet Special Camp Six, where he worked as a barber. This camp held primarily French, Indians, and people from the Baltic States. The American was a U.S. military officer taken in 1949 from Austria. During his capture, he had been hit on the head, resulting in a skull fracture. He was Caucasian, about five foot nine inches tall, had light brown hair, blue eyes, was 30 years old and from New Jersey. He was at the camp until 1951, when he was released to exile in Krasnoyarskiy Kray.

The witness saw a second Caucasian American in Special Camp Six during the summer of 1951, but does not know if he was civilian or military. This individual was either brought in blind, or simulated blindness, and was approximately 30 years old. The American escaped, and his fate is unknown.

The witness saw a third American in Special Camp Six, who was Caucasian, and around 40 years old. The American was transferred to another camp. The new camp and the fate of the American are unknown.

The witness also cited rumors at the time of his captivity that at least some of the crew from the U.S. aircraft shot down on April 8, 1950, were taken alive and sent to camps.¹⁶⁵

Tayshet Labor Camp Four—In February 1954 a repatriated German commented during a U.S. Air Force debriefing that he met four U.S. servicemen in the summer of 1947 at a sub-camp of Tayshet Labor Camp Four.¹⁶⁶

¹⁶⁴ Political Adviser, Headquarters, U.S. Army, Europe, Heidelberg to State, Report of Americans Imprisoned in USSR, 18 February 1954, 611.61251/2-1854, Decimal, Central Files, RG 59, NACP.

¹⁶⁵ JCSD-AMEMBASSY Moscow, 250540Z Nov 96.

¹⁶⁶ U.S. Nationals in Penal Labor Camp No. 04 in Tayshet 58-B-3004-B, 7050 AISW (USAFE), February 18, 1954, ("Wringer Reports"), (ODI), (Air Staff), (RG 341), (NACP).

For two days in July 1947, the source was billeted in a sub-camp of Tayshet Labor Camp Four. The camp was located in the forest 34 miles east of Tayshet, and consisted of two 2.5 by 1.5 mile compounds, which housed thousands of penal laborers of various nationalities.

While there, the source met four Americans between the ages of 28 and 36. He described them as over five feet nine inches tall and broad-shouldered with close-cropped hair. They wore khaki denims with a pocket on the trouser. The Americans, the source, and some Latvian prisoners were all able to communicate with one another through their broken German. The Americans told the source that they were members of the U.S. Air Force who had been stationed in Vienna.

In 1946 Soviet soldiers arrested them at the Vienna Prater Park. They were transported to Moscow and tried for espionage. While in Moscow they were kept in underground cells, repeatedly beaten, and interrogated. The Soviets sentenced them to 25 years in a labor camp. At the end of 1946 they were transferred to Tayshet Labor Camp Four. The source was unable to give any names but made it a point to keep track of the Americans through fellow prisoners who worked on the Tayshet-Bratsk railroad line. He was certain that the Americans were still working on the railroad line when he left Tayshet in February 1950.

Unknown location—A resident of Irkutsk claimed that his mother had seen an American prisoner in March 1946, while working as a porter on a train carrying NKVD prisoners from the Far East. The porters were ordered to bury eight of the prisoners who were believed dead, but one of the eight was still breathing, so she took him in. He died a week later, but before he died he indicated he was an American. The source believed his name was something like, "Fred Kolin or Kollinz." The American drew a picture indicating an aircraft being shot down and three people possibly bailing out of the aircraft.¹⁶⁷

Vikhorevka (southwest of the city of Bratsk)—A former Gulag prisoner and ethnic Estonian source reported that, while detained in the village of Vikhorevka in the zone reserved for foreigners, he met an American serviceman named Thomas (last name unknown). Thomas said that he was a U.S. pilot from the Korean War. The source reported that Thomas was 35 years old when he met him in 1953. Thomas was five feet five inches to five feet seven inches tall and walked with a limp. Thomas was assigned to work on the camp water tower.¹⁶⁸

¹⁶⁷ JCSD-AMEMBASSY Moscow, 181401Z May 95.

¹⁶⁸ U.S. and British Citizens in Prison Camp in Eastern Siberia, Central Intelligence Agency, September 29, 1958.

Sakha-Yakutia

Bulun—On 15 October 1957, a Polish witness visited the American Consulate in Strasbourg, France. He stated he was held in a prison camp in Bulun until July 1957 and reported seeing the following Americans:

Watson, an American professor of physics captured in Vienna,
Dick Rozbicki, an American soldier captured during the Korean War,
Stanley Warner, an American soldier captured during the Korean War, and
Jan Sorrow, an American soldier captured during the Korean War.¹⁶⁹

Bulun Camp 217—On September 20, 1957, two Polish witnesses visited the American Consulate in Genoa, Italy. Both men claimed to have been WWII POWs held captive in Bulun Camp 217. They had escaped on May 6, 1957. They claimed to have made their way across the USSR, Rumania, and Yugoslavia, entering Italy on September 18, 1957. They reported that two men, who claimed to be American army officers captured during the Korean War, had been transferred to Bulun Camp 217 from another camp on July 24, 1955.

The men were: Stanley Rosbicki, approximately 24 years old, of Buffalo, New York and Jack Watson, 38 or 39, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Both were infantry lieutenants.¹⁷⁰

Bulun Camp 217—In mid to late June 1957, a Polish refugee visited the British Consulate in Innsbruck. He stated that he had been imprisoned at Bulun Labor Camp 217 near Yakutsk until early 1957. While there, he met two British soldiers who claimed to have been captured in Korea in 1951: Sergeant Stanley Rayder, approximately 38 years old, and Corporal Bill Coolig, approximately 32 years old. Source had never seen the names written and gave what he thought were approximations. The soldiers had requested that source notify British authorities of their circumstances. Source had returned to Poland when released. From Poland he traveled through Hungary and Czechoslovakia to Yugoslavia. He then crossed over illegally to Austria. His only documentation was an Austrian Police certificate stating they had detained him from March 12 to June 12, 1957.¹⁷¹ [Original source document mentions camp location one time and spells name of camp location as Lubun. This is a probable typographical error.]

¹⁶⁹ AmConsulate, Strasbourg, France to The Department of State, Washington (State), Information Regarding Americans Allegedly Detained in Soviet Union, October 21, 1957, 611.61341/10-2157, 1910 to 1963 Decimal File (Decimal), Records of the State Department Central Files (Central Files), Record Group 59 (RG 59), National Archives at College Park, College Park, MD (NACP).

¹⁷⁰ AmConGen, Genoa to State, Peripheral: Alleged Escapees from Soviet Camp Give Names of Possible American Prisoners, September 24, 1957, 76100/9-2457, Decimal, Central Files, RG 59, NACP.

¹⁷¹ 081, British Consulate, Innsbruck, June 26, 1957, Papers for Colonel-General D Volkogonov from the Army Historical Branch, Ministry of Defence, United Kingdom, p. B-2.

Bulun Camp 307—On September 5, 1960, a Polish witness visited the American Embassy, Brussels, Belgium. He stated he had been imprisoned in Bulun Camp 307 for seven and a half years and was released on May 1, 1960. He reported seeing two U.S. Army personnel captured in Korea: Ted Watson, an infantry lieutenant, and Fred Rosbiki, a commando or paratroop sergeant.¹⁷²

Bulun Camp 315—A Catholic priest visited the U.S. Embassy in Paris on July 11, 1958 to report an interview he had recently conducted with a former Polish Gulag prisoner. The prisoner told the priest that he had recently escaped from North Siberia where he had been held in Bulun Camp 315. He claimed to have been acquainted with two Americans in the same camp: a chaplain, John Westley, captured in Korea in 1952, and a lieutenant, Stanley Rosbicki, from New York. The witness further advised the priest that the two Americans, who appeared to be in good health, had requested that he convey this information to the American authorities for transmittal to their families.¹⁷³

Bulun—A Sakha-Yakutian government representative reported that her grandmother lived in Bulun at the end of World War II and worked as a seamstress in the Bulun Gulag. In the late 1940's, her grandmother routinely met American, Lithuanian, Estonian, Polish, and Finish prisoners of war. The source reported that her grandmother kept a diary, which documented her time in the Gulag and her acquaintance with Americans. The Bulun Gulag, located at the mouth of the Lena River (N 70° 44.280' E 127° 21.281') was a fishing camp—male prisoners worked in the fishing industry and female prisoners sewed clothes and prison uniforms. Today nothing is left of the camp except for an underground fish storage cell. The source's grandmother died in 1996.¹⁷⁴

Kyusyur—In 2002, a source in Poland who had grown up in Kyusyur, a village on the opposite bank of the Lena River from Bulun, stated that her father, a Polish prisoner in Bulun and Kyusyur, had known an American named Stanley Warner. Stanley Warner worked at the village power plant from 1951-1956. In January 1956 he was arrested and transported to Yakutsk. Her father knew a second American named Jack, who visited their family possibly in 1974. Jack wrote them letters often and had married a Yakutian woman.¹⁷⁵

¹⁷² Amembassy, Brussels to State, Korean War Prisoners Reported In Soviet Union, September 8, 1960, 611.61241/9-860, Decimal, Central Files, RG 59, NACP.

¹⁷³ State to Amembassy, Paris, Welfare-Whereabouts: Report of American Prisoners in Soviet Union, July 16, 1958, 611.61251/7-1658, Decimal, Central Files, RG 59, NACP.

¹⁷⁴ Trip Report for TDY to Moscow, Krasnoyarsk, and Irkutsk, Russia, September 9-26, 2001, Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office, Joint Commission Support Directorate, Gulag Research Team, November 9, 2001.

¹⁷⁵ The Karta Center Project Concerning Further Research in Eastern Europe and the Former Soviet Union on the Fate of Missing Americans During and After the Second World War, Narrative Report for the Period: September, 17, 2001-September 16, 2002, pp. 5-6.

Yakutsk—The CIA report dated September 2, 1952, excerpted above, cites the location of Soviet transit camps for Prisoners of War from Korea. Excerpts from the 1952 report:¹⁷⁶

Those POWs who arrived by ship in the ports of Bukhta, Okhotsk and Magadan were then transported by train, or by trucks or by motor-driven barges, to Vaikaren on the Chukotsk Sea, to Ust Maisk on the river Aldan and to Yakutsk on the river Lena.

POW camps of Koreans in the Yakutsk A.S.S.R. are situated between Ust Maisk and Yakutsk. Prisoners there are employed in building new shafts for coalmines, earthworks and dams. The camps are situated 30 to 125 miles from one another and contain 500 to 1,000 prisoners each. Soldiers of the MVD guard them. The camps and inmates are under the supervision of the Ministry of Coal Production or the Ministry of Forests. The chief over all camps in this region was, in April 1952, a civilian functionary (fnu) Andreev. The commandant of the MVD units assigned to guard the camps was Col. (fnu) Vassilevsky. The prisoners are doing very heavy physical work and are living under primitive conditions. In one of the camps in this region, called AMGA, about 300 POWs died in February and April 1952 as a result of serious illnesses and overwork. Over 400 of them were placed in very crude barracks for the sick.

Topolinyy—On November 13-14, 1997 a JCSD team traveled to Taganrog to conduct an interview with a source who claimed to have personal knowledge of a U.S. Korean War POW living in Yakutiya (now officially called The Sakha Republic) as late as 1983. Source had contacted the U.S.-Russia Joint Commission through a journalist, who in November of 1997 wrote an article in the Russian newspaper *Sovershenno Sekretno* based on the source's story.¹⁷⁷

Source told the team that in 1975 he traveled to Yakutiya, in Northeast Siberia, as part of a scientific expedition. He and some other comrades returned the next year to the village of Topolinyy to earn some extra money as seasonal laborers, building a boarding school for local children. There he met an individual known only as "Kolya", also nicknamed "Kon" ("The Horse"). Local rumor had it that Kolya was a former prisoner who had been sent to Yakutiya, after being convicted as an American spy. At the time, Kolya was around 50 years old and in excellent physical condition, although he was unsociable and drank heavily.

¹⁷⁶ Location of Certain Soviet Transit Camps for Prisoners of War from Korea, Information Report, Central Intelligence Agency, September 2, 1952.

¹⁷⁷ *Kolymkiy Plennik, Taisiya Belousova, Sovershenno Sekretno* No. 11, November 1997.

Some foreign-language students from Yakutsk State University came to the area that summer and would sometimes practice English among themselves. One time Kolya, having drunk heavily, began to use a number of what source described as English words. (Note: source admitted that he does not know English himself, other than the phrase, “the best,” which Kolya taught him. Kolya himself spoke excellent Russian, but with a slight accent.) One of the Yakut students learned from Kolya that his real name was “Oscar”.

Kolya gradually opened up to source, and during the course of several talks, stated that he was born in a Midwestern state in the USA. Source could not remember which one in particular but stated it was neither a northern nor a southern state and definitely not Texas. His father was a well-off farmer, who had a wife and three children: Kolya, and two older sisters. Kolya was the first in his family to choose a military profession, having completed a military high school. He entered the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, and then transferred to the Naval Academy at Annapolis. After graduating, Kolya attended courses at Quantico, Virginia, and was commissioned a 2d Lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1949.

Kolya told source he had served in the Korean War in the 3d Company, 2d Battalion, 1st Marine Division, assigned to the U.S. Army X Corps. Source was unable to remember the designation for Kolya’s regiment. Kolya said that he took part in the Inchon landing on 15 September 1950. (Note: the 1st Marine Division was assigned to the U.S. Army’s X Corps during the Inchon landing on September 15, 1950. Marine companies are alphabetically designated, not numerically. The three Marine infantry regiments assigned to the 1st Marine Division were the 1st, 5th, and 7th Marines, and the division artillery regiment carried the designation of the 11th Marines.) Kolya stated that he was supposed to have been decorated and promoted prior to his capture in November 1950. Kolya blamed General Ridgeway for his capture. (Note: Ridgeway assumed command of the 8th Army on December 26, 1950.)

Kolya stated that on the night he was captured, his company was located next to the 1st British Battalion. He stated that two other Americans were captured along with him, one who was black. They were taken to Mukden, China. He never saw the other two again. In Mukden he was kept in solitary confinement and tortured for 20 months by his Chinese captors. Source later said that he saw numerous scars on Kolya’s legs.

Kolya was then transferred to Khabarovsk, USSR, where his captors again kept him in solitary confinement, and unsuccessfully tried to recruit him as a spy. After seven months he was transferred to Yakutiya and forced to sign a statement promising not to reveal any details of his captivity, upon pain of death. He was amnestied in 1956, but forced to remain in the area in permanent exile. Afterwards, Kolya made his living working odd jobs around the area. He even “married” twice to two local women—one who drowned in the Tompo River, and a second, who bore him a daughter.

Source said that Kolya became especially attached to him when he found out that source's father had served in Washington, D.C. As source was preparing to return to Kiev, Kolya asked him to pass a letter on to the U.S. Embassy, since he knew that source would be returning through Moscow. It was at this point Kolya admitted that he was an American citizen.

However, instead of handing over the letter at the American Embassy, source showed the letter to his father, who became quite angry. The source's father had a lifelong hatred of Americans and pointed out the danger in which the source was putting his family. Source said that his father tore the letter up and told him not to get involved in such matters anymore. He added that his father could read English but refused to tell source Kolya's real name from the letter.

Source saw Kolya several more times over the years during subsequent trips to Yakutia. The last time was in 1983, in the village of Teplyy Klyuch. When source traveled to Teplyy Klyuch in 1986, he was told that Kolya had returned to Topolinyy.

Kolya reportedly left a glass jar with several letters in English, explaining who he was. Source admitted to the team that he neither saw Kolya write these letters, nor did he see Kolya bury them. He explained they had agreed beforehand that Kolya would leave behind some sort of evidence, should anything happen to him, in a mutually agreed upon place.

Source had planned to return to Yakutiya on November 25, 1997 to attempt to determine Kolya's fate.¹⁷⁸

From August 14-22, 1998, a JCSD investigator, accompanied by source, traveled to Sakha-Yakutiya in Northeast Siberia, to investigate the reports of the U.S. Korean War POW. The team was unsuccessful in developing significant information on the case of the individual known as "Kolya the Horse".

On August 19, the team finally reached the confluence of the Tompo and Deline Rivers. This was the spot, according to source, where Kolya buried a jar, allegedly containing a written description of his identity. Source immediately spotted a wooden shack situated on the far bank and pronounced that this was the spot. However, he quickly determined that the hiding spot no longer existed, because the bank had obviously suffered considerable erosion during the spring thaw. He rechecked his bearing several times, but always with the same conclusion. At this point there was nothing left to do, and the team returned to Teplyy Klyuch.

One rumor had placed Kolya in the Ust-Nera area as of 1983, from where he had supposedly gone to work in the mines at Sarylakh. This was well to the northeast of the team's present location, and even further into the Taiga. A later rumor placed an apparently intoxicated Kolya loitering at the Yakutsk airport in 1985.

¹⁷⁸ JCSD-AMEMBASSY Moscow, 251422Z Nov 97.

Another rumor placed Kolya in Yakutsk two years after the reported Ust-Nera sighting. The team decided the best course of action was to return to the city of Yakutsk, which they did. They talked to several people in the area, but could find no further information about Kolya.¹⁷⁹

In March of 2002, The JCSD Gulag researchers traveled to Yakutsk, Tiksi, and Bykovskiy in the Republic of Sakha-Yakutia. They interviewed numerous villagers, long-term residents, government officials, human rights workers, and members of the media. During a meeting with high-level members of the government, media, and several representatives of the human-rights organization Memorial in Yakutsk, the story of Kolya was broached by a senior member of the government who had come to the meeting with a copy of the *Sovershenno Sekretno* article. The Russian Memorial Society representatives present noted that Kolya had a daughter. They were familiar with the area where Kolya had lived and volunteered to attempt to find Kolya's daughter.

While conducting interviews in Tiksi, a local native and long-time resident of Kyusyur (a town located across the Lena River from the remains of Bulun) provided a map and detailed information of a system of secret camps that existed along the left (west) bank of the Lena in the 1950s. These camps held Caucasian prisoners, were off limits to the local indigenous tribal people, and had fences. The camps on the right bank of the Lena were Special Resettlement Camps and did not have fences. The most secret of the left-bank camps was nicknamed "Kazarma" and designated 315. It was located a few miles south of Bulun. A local anthropologist independently confirmed that a secret camp known as "Kazarma" had previously existed south of Bulun.

¹⁷⁹ JCSD-AMEMBASSY Moscow, August 8, 1998.

Chita

Chita—Refer to the sections on Molotov, Khabarovsk, and Sakha-Yakutiya for excerpts from the CIA report dated September 2, 1952 that cite the location of Soviet transit camps for prisoners of war from Korea located in the region of Chita.¹⁸⁰

¹⁸⁰ Location of Certain Soviet Transit Camps for Prisoners of War from Korea, Information Report, Central Intelligence Agency, September 2, 1952.

Magadan

Arkagala—A Polish source stated that in 1955 he saw an alleged Ukrainian American soldier who was captured in North Korea and transferred to the Soviet Union by the intelligence services. The man wore civilian clothes and was the only American in the camp. Source was released in 1956.¹⁸¹

Atka—In June 1950, a German POW reported that a ‘spy’ had been captured by two Soviet officers and brought into the Atka penal labor camp (6050N/151,80E). The prisoner’s hands were shackled to his back. He was about five feet, nine inches tall, of slight build, dark complexion, very emaciated features; he was dirty and had a few days growth of beard. He was clad in a waist-long, brown leather jacket with front-zipper, which he wore open, showing a white fur lining, and a yellow shirt. The prisoner had long leather trouser of grayish color, tucked into a half-length black boots, of which upper parts were made of felt or some other soft material. The prisoner wore a flying helmet of solid gray or green material, which covered the ears; the helmet fitted closely around the face with a rimmed pad. The attire of the man, which had no rank or other insignia, was strange, unsuited for the cold nights and never worn in this style by civilians or military personnel in the Atka region. The prisoner remained silent, and seemed to be sick and very depressed. The prisoner was kept in the hospital about 30 minutes, then was marched back to the guardhouse and driven away in the direction of Magadan. The German POW heard that the prisoner was a U.S. airman, who had lost his bearings and bailed out when he ran out of gas, as he could not land in the rough and mountainous terrain. He had been picked up by chance by two camp officers who were out by car on a hunting trip about 30 miles west of Atka.¹⁸²

Chukotskaya Kult'baza —A returned German POW stated that when he arrived at a forced labor camp near Chukotskaya Kult'baza in April 1948, he met a man who claimed to be a U.S. national. Source said the man spoke German with an accent and was fluent in Russian. He claimed to have been born in the United States, and was a pilot sentenced to 20 years’ hard labor for espionage. The alleged American was 30 years old, approximately five feet nine inches tall, broad-shouldered, and oval-faced, with brown hair. The man wore prison clothes with a brown uniform jacket. He often spoke of escaping to Alaska across the Bering Straits. Source lost track of the man when source was transferred in May 1949. Source heard in February 1950 from fellow prisoners that the alleged American was working in a tungsten mine near Chukotskaya Kult'baza.¹⁸³

¹⁸¹ Joint Commission Support Directorate Phone Interview, October 4, 2001.

¹⁸² US-Airman Prisoner in Atka, E-51-B-12938E, 7050 AISW (USAFE), Jun 50, Wringer Reports, ODI, RG 341, NACP.

¹⁸³ U.S. National in Soviet Custody, E-58-B-3395 C, 7050 AISW (USAFE), April 30, 1954, Wringer Reports, ODI, RG 341, NACP.

Magadan—The CIA report dated September 2, 1952 cites the location of Soviet Transit Camps for Prisoners of War from Korea. The following indented paragraphs are excerpts from the report:¹⁸⁴

In December it was known that transit camps for prisoners of war captured by the Communists in Korea had been established in Komsomolsk on the Amur, Magadan on Bogaeva Bay in the Sea of Okhotsk, Chita and Irkutsk. Through those transit camps were passing not only Korean POWs but also American POWs.

Since July 1951, according to new information, several transports of Korean POWs have passed through the ports of Bukhta (near Vladivostok), Okhotsk and Magadan. Each ship has contained 1,000 or more prisoners. Between the end of November 1951 and April 1952, transports of POWs were sent by rail from the Poset railway junction on the Chinese-Soviet frontier. Some were directed to Chita in Eastern Siberia and some to Molotov, European Soviet Russia, west of Ural Mountains.

Those POWs who arrived by ship in the ports of Bukhta, Okhotsk and Magadan were then transported by train, or by trucks or by motor driven barges, to Vaikaren on the Chukotsk Sea, to Ust Maisk on the river Aldan and to Yakutsk on the river Lena.

POWs shipped to Vaikaren were sent to a network of camps in the Nizhni Kolymsk region on the East Siberian Sea, to be employed building roads, electric power plants and airfields. Their number varies considerably due to high mortality and to transfer to other camps on the Chukotski Peninsula. All these camps are under supervision of MVD and are entirely isolated. There were about 12,000 Korean POWs in April 1952 in the Nizhno Kolymsk camp network. The camps were under the charge of (fnu) Sorotchuk, a Major of MVD and (fnu) Chimbo, a civilian Party functionary, probably an employee of MGB. Chimbo was in charge of education and political indoctrination.

Magadan Berlag—A Ukrainian witness from Gribenko was transferred from Vanino Bay to Magadan Berlag in 1950, where he remained until his release in 1960. The witness stated that in the summer of 1954 a large group of foreign prisoners, perhaps as many as 2000, were brought to Magadan Prison. This group included three Americans. When asked how he knew they were Americans, he replied that it was common knowledge, and everyone knew it. The Americans were in regular prison garb, but upon arrival at the Berlag were ordered to remove their prison numbers from their shirts and hats. While working as a medic in the camp, he was asked to examine one of the Americans for tropical skin ulcers. Due to the color of the man's skin and the thickness of

¹⁸⁴ Location of Certain Soviet Transit Camps for Prisoners of War from Korea, Information Report, Central Intelligence Agency, September 2, 1952.

his lips, the witness thinks this American was a Mulatto. When asked if he had talked with the individual, the witness stated that he had not because it was strictly forbidden. He went on to say that the three prisoners were young, all had brown hair, and all appeared to be in good health.¹⁸⁵

Mokhoplit Village—On March 29, 1996, an interview was conducted with a Russian living in Yekaterinburg, who spent from 1952-1970 in various gulags, to include Kolomna, Indigirka, and Chukhotka. He claimed to have seen an American citizen in 1956/57 in the Magadan Oblast, at Mokhoplit Village, in the Tentiskiy gold mining region. This U.S. citizen, Azat Tigranovich Petrosian, was born in Armenia in the 1920s, and somehow wound up in a Nazi POW camp that was liberated by the Soviets. The Soviets refused to repatriate him and sent him to the gulag. The source did not know Petrosian's eventual fate.¹⁸⁶

Myaundzha (near Susuman)—On August 12, 1996, a witness living in Moscow delivered a written response to the Radio Liberty program, "Americans in the Gulag," being played on Radio Liberty/Voice of America. She had worked at the Directorate of the PTU (Professional Technical Academy) Energostroy for the electrical power station in Myaundzha, Magadan Oblast, from 1955-63, then in Magadan until 1965, when she moved to Moscow. In the letter, the witness told of a Rudolf Martinovich Benush (1917-1995), who allegedly served as a U.S. Army captain during the Nuremberg Trials. The witness worked with Benush, who was referred to as the American spy, "either in derision, or in reference to the article under which he was convicted" (Article 58), when he was a "trustee" prisoner in the Myaundzha camp in Magadan Oblast near Susuman in 1955, until his release in 1956. The camp had 3,000 prisoners, mostly Baltic and Ukrainian nationalists. Benush spent the majority of his remaining years in Magadan.¹⁸⁷

Narioberug Central Hospital—Around March 1952, a Japanese witness saw and spoke for about 20 minutes with an American in room number two, first medical section, at a hospital in Magadan. A hospital attendant named Nikolai told him that the American was a captain who had crashed in the vicinity of Kamchatka. During the conversation, the American stated, "I cannot accept the sentence of being a spy. The sentence of 15 years based on Item six of Article 58 is unjust." He appeared to be about 28 years old, with blond hair and blue eyes. In June 1953 the witness was transferred to an internment camp in Khabarovsk.¹⁸⁸

¹⁸⁵ JCSD-AMEMBASSY Moscow, 251431Z Nov 94

¹⁸⁶ JCSD-AMEMBASSY Moscow, 090806Z Apr 96.

¹⁸⁷ JCSD-AMEMBASSY Moscow, 260757Z Aug 96.

¹⁸⁸ Information on Probable U.S. Air Force Officer Detained in Soviet Russia, IR-960-54, 6004th Air Intelligence Service Squadron, July 27, 1954, AIR, DDCD, RG 341, NACP.

Khabarovsk

Khabarovsk—A CIA report dated 2 September 2, 1952 cites the location of Soviet Transit Camps for Prisoners of War from Korea. The following paragraph has been excerpted from the report:¹⁸⁹

In March this year transports of POWs passed through from Khabarovsk to Chita and from Chita to Molotov roughly every fortnight. They were in small groups of up to 50 persons. According to latest information, dated June 30, 1952, the prisoners, after arriving in Chita, were first sent to the local MVD prisons, and then, after a sufficient number of them had been assembled, were sent further, to Molotov. It is most probable that POWs are undergoing some sort of investigation and selection process while in the MVD prison in Chita. Some of them are retained in prison in Chita for a long time, while others are sent directly by rail to Molotov and other industrial regions in the Ural Mountains.

Khabarovsk Prison—A Japanese repatriate who was in Khabarovsk Camp No. 21 from 1950-1953, heard from Soviet guards, prisoners, and laborers that, in April or May of 1953, twelve or thirteen Americans from a military plane shot down by the Soviets were in Khabarovsk Prison. Source heard from a Soviet guard in October 1952 that two Americans had been brought to Khabarovsk Prison and were being investigated as spies. In June 1952, source heard from a prison train guard at Khabarovsk Station Number 2 that there was a prison camp in the USSR solely for American prisoners.¹⁹⁰

Khabarovsk Sub-camp 5M—A Russian living in Semipalatinsk, Kazakhstan, reported that in November 1952, he saw three American prisoners at the "5M Lagpunkt"¹⁹¹ detention facility in Khabarovsk, Russia, where he was incarcerated. He went on a woodcutting detail with one of them. In December 1952 the Americans were transferred out of the camp to an unknown destination. A Russian female prisoner serving a sentence for "betraying the motherland" accompanied the Americans. The camp commander was Lieutenant Kuzenkov.¹⁹²

¹⁸⁹ Location of Certain Soviet Transit Camps for Prisoners of War from Korea, Information Report, Central Intelligence Agency, September 2, 1952.

¹⁹⁰ American-Prisoners-of-War Held in the USSR, Information Report, Central Intelligence Agency, December 29, 1953.

¹⁹¹ Camp Sub-section No. Five for men.

¹⁹² JCSD-AMEMBASSY Moscow, 241319Z Jul 92.

Svobodnyy—In his memoirs (made available to the Russian Side in November 1999) a source quotes four people who claim to have knowledge of the June 1952 RB-29 crew and their incarceration in Svobodnyy. Excerpts from his memoirs:¹⁹³

A former fishing vessel radio operator related that the Captain of his fishing vessel told him that "not all the crew members of the American [aircraft] had, in fact, died back then (in June) and that ten of those people were now in pre-trial solitary confinement in a prison in the city of Svobodnyy, near Blagoveshchensk."

A former Dalstroy official "was not in the least surprised by [his] question. He replied at once: 'Yes, at first ten people were alive. Yes, first they were brought to Khabarovsk. But, then, of course, they were sent off to Svobodnyy...They were supposed to have been met by people from the Ministry of Defense...They were not met, though. You see, there was some screw-up in Moscow. Well, I can tell you that they were not met. What happened to them after that, I do not know. And I would advise you not to know as well...Let the leadership worry itself about it...'"

A second former Dalstroy official repeated almost word-for-word the testimony of [the first Dalstroy official] but went on to clarify: "The guys from within 'worked over' the Americans so badly that only eight were taken to Svobodnyy.

A construction official who worked extensively in the Far East and was also an advisor to a minister stated "he did learn the names of two crewmembers of that aircraft, Bush and Moore, who will forever remain in the soil of the Khabarovsk Region

Tomarigishi Sakhalin Island—A Japanese repatriate reported meeting an American lieutenant while interned on Sakhalin Island. The lieutenant traveled from Eastern Europe through the Soviet Union conducting espionage. In 1947 he was arrested on Sakhalin while preparing to use his radio transmitter.¹⁹⁴

Verkhniy—According to a Ukrainian citizen who lives in Kiev, seven American servicemen - three of them pilots whose plane had strayed into Soviet territory because of mechanical difficulties - were incarcerated in 1952, in a prison camp called "Verkhniy" in the town of Lultin in Khabarovsk Krai. The prisoners' primary contact was with a Japanese doctor named Matsuoko. During their detention, three of them were killed in a mining accident, and the four others were transferred to another camp.¹⁹⁵

¹⁹³ The Memoirs, Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office, Joint Commission Support Directorate, pp. 4-5.

¹⁹⁴ American Citizens Detained in the USSR, ZF000004W, pp. 4-23.

¹⁹⁵ JCSD-AMEMBASSY Moscow, 261301Z Feb 94.

Primorskiy Kray

Air Force Hospital 404—While training for parachute duties in 1951, a witness broke his leg and was sent to Air Force Hospital Number 404, in the small town of Staraya Sysoyovka, Primorskiy Kray, between Arsenyev and Novosysoyevka. Due to lack of space, he was given a bed on the second floor in the corridor next to a room with four American patients. One was able to walk, the second was in traction, and the third and fourth were burned. He clearly remembered the face of one of the Americans. He was blond, no younger than 25 years of age. He thought the blond person was the pilot. The witness was able to talk to and see the patients, as well as listen to their dialogue during questioning. He stated that the first patient was between 22 and 27 years of age, had light colored hair, was thin, had blue eyes, and bent over with a visible limp. His height was about six feet tall. Patient one said he was from Cleveland and had two children. The witness said the second and third patients appeared older. The second patient had dark hair, dark eyes, and a dark complexion. He was approximately five foot six inches tall. The source had no other description, other than to say that they were from San Francisco, Chicago, and Los Angeles. He could not say which patient was from which city.

There was a fifth American who the source never saw. He had already died. One day, when the source was able to get around, a hospital worker took him out to the graveyard near the hospital and showed him a grave where, the hospital orderly said, the American was buried. Not long after meeting the Americans and while still a patient in the hospital, source was led by a hospital worker to a cemetery where the fifth American was buried. He remembered the hospital cemetery was only 1 to 1.25 miles away from the hospital. Moreover, as he entered the cemetery, the ground rose in front of him. He remembered this because he was still on crutches and had some difficulty walking up an incline that ran almost the entire length of the cemetery. There was, he recalled, a wooden fence, apparently constructed to keep out farm animals. The fence formed a corner with the left side running a ways down the length of the cemetery and the end side extending to the right. The grave was freshly dug in the far left corner with about 10 to 20 yards of clear ground before reaching the fence. Further identifying the location of the grave was a steep decline to the left of the grave. The grave was fourth, from left to right, in a row of four graves side by side.¹⁹⁶ JCSD representatives made three separate trips to the region to investigate the reported sightings at hospital 404; the first was in late July 1995, the second was late October 1995, and the last was in March and April 1996. American and Russian forensics experts accompanied JCSD analysts on the second and third expeditions. These teams exhumed three graves which closely matched the source's recollections. The forensic experts determined that two sets of remains were not those of missing American servicemen based on dental charts and ethnicity. A sample of bone from the third set was taken for DNA testing which resulted in inconclusive results.

Artem—A Russian stated that an acquaintance of his who lived in Artem, a northern suburb of Vladivostok, said that as a little boy in the early 1950's, he saw a column of

¹⁹⁶ JCSD-AMEMBASSY Moscow, 011207Z Jun 95.

about 100 American POWs marching near the town. When asked how he knew they were Americans, he stated that it was "well-known" (in the village.)¹⁹⁷

Vanino Bay—In 1947, a Ukrainian witness from Gribenko was moved from Lvov to the Vanino Bay Transit Prison in the Soviet Far East where he remained for about two years, 1948-49. He claimed there were numerous American prisoners awaiting movement to other prisons. He believed the Americans were from WWII. The witness described the layout of the Vanino Bay Transit Prison as consisting of 15 separate zones, each holding 5,000-7,000 prisoners, and that the Americans were housed in zone number two. All prisoners were moved to Kolyma by the ships: "*Felix Dzerzhinskiy*," "*Nagin*," "*Dyurma*," and "*Dalstroy*." Whenever these ships passed by Hokkaido, the crew put on civilian attire so the Japanese would not know they were prison ships.¹⁹⁸

Vladivostok—A CIA report dated 2 September 1952 cites the location of Soviet transit camps for Prisoners of War from Korea. The following two paragraphs have been excerpted from the report:¹⁹⁹

Since July 1951, according to new information, several transports of Korean POWs have passed through the ports of Bukhta (near Vladivostok), Okhotsk and Magadan. Each ship has contained 1,000 or more prisoners. Between the end of November 1951 and April 1952, transports of POWs were sent by rail from the Poset railway junction on the Chinese-Soviet frontier. Some were directed to Chita in Eastern Siberia and some to Molotov, European Soviet Russia, west of Ural Mountains.

Those POWs who arrived by ship in the ports of Bukhta, Okhotsk and Magadan were then transported by train, or by trucks or by motor driven barges, to Vaikaren on the Chukotsk Sea, to Ust Maisk on the river Aldan and to Yakutsk on the river Lena.

¹⁹⁷ Trip Report for TDY to Moscow and Perm, Russia, Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office, Joint Commission Support Directorate, Gulag Research Team, June 2001.

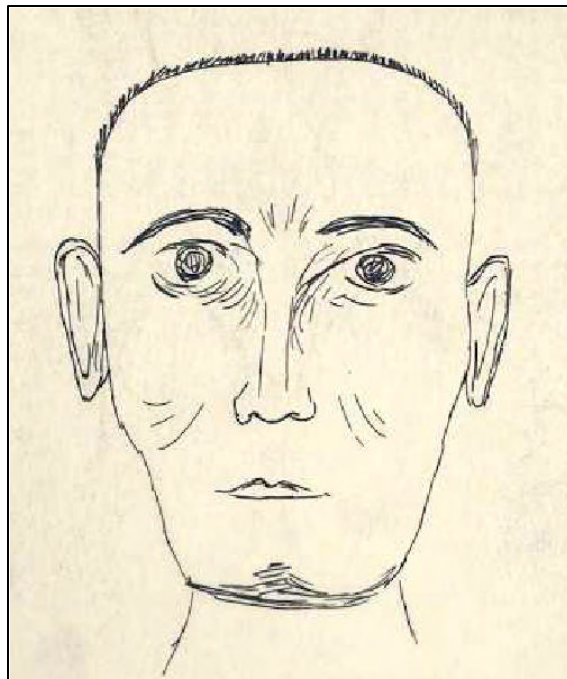
¹⁹⁸ JCSD-AMEMBASSY Moscow, 251431Z Nov 94.

¹⁹⁹ Location of Certain Soviet Transit Camps for Prisoners of War from Korea, Information Report, Central Intelligence Agency, September 2, 1952.

Kamchatka Peninsula

Petropavlovsk—A German internee, who was interned in a penal camp about 40 miles northwest of Petropavlovsk from March 1946 until March 1947, reported meeting one American citizen who was from Fredericksburg, Virginia. The American, who went by the name of Johnny, was born in 1903 or 1909. After completing a law degree, Johnny was commissioned in the U.S. Air Force. His wife was American, and he had two children. In the course of his Air Force career, he received training in an intelligence school, from which he graduated as an ‘agent’ fluent in the Russian language. In 1941, before the German invasion of Russia, Johnny reportedly parachuted into Russian territory near Moscow. The German did not know the mission of his American friend, who was finally captured by Soviet police and sentenced to 25 years at hard labor for espionage and desertion in accordance with Article 58 of the Soviet legal code.

Before he arrived in Petropavlovsk, he had passed through the penal camps in Karaganda, Tayshet, and Irkutsk. The German reported that Johnny was wearing a U.S. pilot’s uniform of dark color with brown leather trimmings and fur lining. The American also wore a gold ring of dark yellow color with a polygonal diamond, one-half inch in diameter, protruding an inch above the setting, with smaller diamonds on the sides. Johnny wore the ring on the left hand ring finger. Later, for fear that the Russians would take the ring away; he sewed the ring into his pants. In his upper left jaw he wore two gold teeth instead of the eyetooth and the one following to the rear. Somewhere in the



right and left jaws he wore a set of golden teeth, which were forcibly removed by the Russian camp dentists. The German described the American as about five feet, ten inches tall, slim, sportsman-like figure; he had full black hair, thick-black eyebrows, brown eyes, dimple in the middle of his slightly jutting chin, long straight pointed nose, and wrinkled hollow cheeks. Above is a drawing by the German of the American named Johnny.²⁰⁰

²⁰⁰ American National in Penal Camp near Petropavlovsk, E-53-12631-B, 7050 AISW (USAFE), December 16, 1953, Winger Reports, ODI, RG 341, NACP.

Kazakhstan

Churba Nura—A CIA source reported in 1956 the presence of two American citizens in the “Camp of the Sands” [Note: this is Peshchanlag, one of the Special Camp Systems] between November 1954 and September 1955. One of the Americans named Derry was sent to Hungary.²⁰¹

Karabas—A German returnee stated that she met an American named Joe Miller in June or July 1948. Miller claimed to have been a US Army Air Force bombardier shot down in 1945 over Berlin. He was detained in a German POW camp near Berlin, which was liberated by the Soviets. The Soviets transported him to the Soviet Union and convicted him of espionage. Prior to Karabas he had worked for six months mining coal in Karaganda. He was described as being from Chicago, 25-28 years old, five feet seven inches, 130 pounds with black hair and dark eyes.²⁰²

Karabas—In 1948 source met an American major in a camp in Karabas. The major was described as approximately 45 years old. Around six feet tall, broad-shouldered, square jawed, with blue eyes and slightly graying dark blond hair. He spoke German well. Soviet forces had captured the major in 1947 while driving along the East and West German border near Friendland.²⁰³

Karaganda Camp No. 4718/19—A German returnee who was interned in a prisoner of war camp from February 1947 to May 1950 reported meeting two U.S. citizens. Both Americans were reportedly members of the occupation forces, spoke accented but fluent German and claimed their parents were born in Germany. In late 1945, they crossed into the Eastern Zone of Germany to visit relatives, were arrested, and transported to the Buchenwald Camp. Following a conviction for espionage, they were transferred to Karaganda, USSR. The source described them as follows:

One American had the first name “Pit”. He was born in the United States. His parents were from Schleswig-Holstein, Germany. He wore a U.S. Army khaki uniform without insignia. He was approximately 18-20 years old. He was five feet seven inches tall, Brunette hair, sharp pale slim face, and had a strong slender build.

The next American had the first name “Tom”. He was born in United States. His parents were from the Rhine region of Germany. He wore a U.S. Army khaki uniform without insignia. He was five feet three inches tall, fair hair, blue eyes, round pale face, and had a strong build. Tom worked in the camp hospital and was known as a good surgeon.

²⁰¹ American Prisoners in Churba Nura, Information Report, Central Intelligence Agency, November 2, 1956.

²⁰² American Citizens Detained in the USSR, ZF000004W, p. 4-7.

²⁰³ American Citizens Detained in the USSR, ZF000004W, p. 4-50.

Pit escaped in the winter of 1947. He was captured and returned to camp two days later, badly beaten. Both men were continuously interrogated. In the winter of 1948 (probably February) they were transferred to an unknown location. Source later heard they were taken to a forced labor camp in Siberia.²⁰⁴

Karaganda—An Austrian returnee reported he met four U.S. airmen in 1948 at a labor camp in Karaganda. One airman was named William, another was named John. All four were in good physical condition in 1948.²⁰⁵

²⁰⁴ U.S. Nationals in PW Camp in Karaganda, 58-B-3331 A, 7050 AISW (USAFE), April 8, 1954, Wringer Reports, ODI, RG 341, NACP.

²⁰⁵ American Citizens Detained in the USSR, ZF000004W, pp. 4-29.

Ukraine

Lvov MVD Transit Prison—Some time prior to December 14, 1953 source met an American identified as Colonel Gordon. He was described as being approximately 48 years old, five feet five inches tall with dark hair. In 1948 or 1949, while serving in the Counter Intelligence Corps in Vienna, Soviet soldiers arrested him in the Soviet Sector. He was transferred to another prison prior to the source's departure.²⁰⁶

Lvov Transit Camp—In June 1949 source met an American sergeant. Source described him as being approximately 27 years old, tall with fair hair. The alleged American had been arrested when he had attempted to enter the Soviet Grand Hotel while intoxicated.²⁰⁷

²⁰⁶ American Citizens Detained in the USSR, ZF000004W, pp. 4-43.

²⁰⁷ Alleged US Citizens Imprisoned in the USSR; HQ USFA, AC of S, G2 (SSB/CIB) APO 168, NY NY; July 15, 1955.

Byelorussia and Germany

Orsha—In 1958 Mr. John Noble stated that inscribed on a cell wall in the transit prison in Orsha, Byelorussia, (where he was imprisoned prior to his confinement at Krasnaya Presnya) was the name Roberts, Robertson, or Robins followed by a date in mid-August 1950 and “Maj., U.S.A.”²⁰⁸

A German returnee stated he met an American, 2nd Lt. Richard Robertson, in the dispensary in Orsha. Robertson was dying of tuberculosis. Source described Robertson as being 26-28 years old, six feet two inches, emaciated, with brown hair and blue eyes. Robertson’s father was supposedly a Colonel Robertson stationed with the U.S. Army in Frankfurt Am Mein. Source learned that Robertson supposedly died in Orsha in late February or early March 1950.²⁰⁹

A second returnee stated that in 1950 source met an American named Harry Robertson on a prisoner transport train from Berlin-Lichtenfelde to Orsha. Source heard from other prisoners that Robertson was a U.S. Army Air Force pilot who had flown in the Berlin airlift and was arrested in Potsdam in 1949. Robertson was approximately 25 years old, emaciated and too weak to walk unaided. Robertson was removed from the train in Orsha and was supposedly going to the hospital.²¹⁰

A third German returnee stated that in late August 1950 he met a Lt. Robinson, U.S. Army, in a prison in Potsdam, Germany. Robinson claimed to work for an American intelligence agency and was stationed in West Germany. His father was a colonel in the U.S. Army stationed at Frankfurt Am Mein and was connected with the Allied Control Commission. The East German Police arrested Robinson in East Berlin in 1949. Robinson spoke fluent German and Russian. His mother was of Czechoslovakian descent. He was described as 30 years old, five feet ten inches to six feet tall, emaciated, one hundred and five to a hundred and ten pounds, with dark blond or light brown hair and blue eyes. Source later saw Robinson in Orsha in 1950. Robinson was very ill when source last saw him. He told source he had weighed one hundred and ninety-five pounds prior to imprisonment.²¹¹

²⁰⁸ John Noble, *I Was a Slave in Russia*, (Broadview, Illinois: Cicero Bible Press, 1964), p. 73.

²⁰⁹ Robinson, Lt. RE: US Citizens Being Held in the GDR, VIII-23189, 66th CIC Group, November 1, 1955.

²¹⁰ Overt Intelligence Report, No. 970018, February 13, 1957.

²¹¹ Soviet Apprehension of U.S. Personnel, D-30477, AEUC-GI, HQ 66th CIG USAE, November 1, 1955.

A fourth German returnee reported that in July 1950 an American, Henry Robinson, arrived at the Bautzen labor camp. Robinson claimed to have worked for the Allied Control Commission in Frankfurt Am Mein, where he lived with his wife at Eschenheimer Strasse 583. Robinson claimed to have been kidnapped by two men who picked him up in 1949 at Berlin-Tempelhof Airport and transported him to the Soviet Sector. Robinson was in Bautzen for one month. It was rumored the Soviets sent him to a prison in the USSR.²¹²

A fifth returnee stated that while imprisoned in Sachsenhausen, Germany between mid-1947 and October 1949 he knew a U.S. national named Robinson who claimed to be a Counter Intelligence Corps operative. He claimed the Soviets arrested him in Roz, Germany while on a mission. Source described Robinson as being 27–29 years old, tall, and well built. He spoke German with a strong American accent. Robinson was transferred from Sachsenhausen to the USSR in October 1949.²¹³

²¹² Robinson, Lt. RE: US Citizens Being Held in the GDR, VIII-23189, 66th CIC Group, November 1, 1955.

²¹³ *ibid.*

