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Headline: Status of Quest for U.S. MIA's Updated

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Subslug: [Vladimir Abarinov article: ``Investigation: Prisoners of  
 War Have Own Archipelago. U.S. Prisoners in Former USSR  
 Still Not Martyrology'']

## FULL TEXT OF ARTICLE:

1. [Vladimir Abarinov article: ``Investigation: Prisoners of War Have Own Archipelago. U.S. Prisoners in Former USSR Still Not Martyrology'']
2. [Text] The search for U.S. servicemen who disappeared on USSR territory in various circumstances has been stepped recently. We would remind you that NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA first addressed this problem last August. Since then there has been virtually no progress. However, available information and experience of similar searches gives us every reason to expect success.
3. For starters I must repeat some figures, since those doing the rounds in our press are imprecise and do not differentiate between prisoners of war [POW's] and those missing in action [MIA's] and are often rounded up- presumably, for the writer's convenience.
4. During the Korean war the United States lost 8,177 MIA's and 954 people who it is known for certain were captured and did not return home alive or dead. After the war in Indochina the Americans were missing 2,273 men, of whom 1,678 disappeared in Vietnam, while none of the 500 or more airmen brought down over Laos were repatriated.
5. Air crews downed near the Soviet borders-there were 86 of them in the fifties and sixties-form a separate category of MIA's. Moreover, in most cases the entire crew disappeared.
6. A considerable proportion of the prisoners dating back to the Korean and Vietnam wars were evidently never held on USSR territory-the exception being people of some operational interest. Americans ``liberated'' by the Red Army from Nazi jails in the Balkans, in Poland, and East Germany (and incidentally from Japanese jails in Manchuria) are another matter. Some 20,000 of them failed to return home.
7. Last, officers abducted by the Soviet special services in Berlin,

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Vienna, and certain other points in the Soviet occupied zone during the early postwar years form a special group of MIA's. There are 18 such people in my file.

8. So, where should we look for them?

9. The countless references to the Gulag are totally incorrect: This is quite a justifiable euphemism for U.S. journalists, but for national journalists it is a true indication of incompetence. There were never any POW's in the Gulag—they were dealt with by another main commissariat of the NKVD-MGB [People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs—Ministry of State Security], namely the Main Directorate for POW and Internee Affairs, which had its own camps. People convicted of espionage and other real or imaginary crimes are another matter. They not only could have but should have ended up in the Gulag (which was until recently called the GUITU, now the GUID [expansions unknown]).

10. They dealt in the same way with people who did not agree to be recruited or to cooperate in other ways and also with those whose services were no longer needed. The story of Stanislaw Swianewicz is typical; he escaped execution in the Katyn forest in 1940 at the last moment owing to a request from the USSR NKVD Main Directorate for State Security. Sitting in the inner Lubyanka jail, he wrote a treatise on the economy of the Third Reich (Professor Swianewicz was an unsurpassed specialist in this field), after which he was convicted and sent to a camp. These people were often kept in special jails as a "special contingent"—for example, before being exchanged for Rulof Abel, Francis Gary Powers served time in Vladimir jail. What is more, a foreigner could be under investigation for as long as they liked. Prominent Wehrmacht and SS officers captured at the end of the war were only sentenced in 1951–1952. Throughout these six or seven years they were kept in the Lubyanka jail, often in solitary confinement, both before and after sentencing. The same thing happened if there were any special circumstances: That happened, for instance, to Raoul Wallenberg's cellmates and fellow defendants.

11. There are known cases of prisoners (under investigation) being summoned from their cell "with their things" and disappearing without trace. That was the fate that befell Brigade General Leopold Okulice, commander of the Krajowa Army, who was sentenced to 10 years in the camps in June 1945 by the military collegium of the Supreme Court. Okulice's personal prison file was declassified recently, revealing that he died as a result of a failed surgical operation.

12. There were cases of a prisoner liable to repatriation not returning home either. That was the fate of Lieutenant General Reiner Stigel, one of the butchers during the Warsaw uprising. Sentenced to

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25 years in jail and then amnestied, he did not reach the fatherland: The last document in his file is a burial certificate from one of the transit camps. You only have to destroy this last document, and the disappearance of the repatriant would be shrouded in mystery forever.

13. Quite often on his release a prisoner would remain under open surveillance, have his movements restricted, and be given a Russian name. The example of the former Greek Communist Party General Secretary Nikos Zakhariadis, who lived in Surgut under the name Nikolay Nikolayevich Nikolayev and committed suicide in 1979, is not entirely typical: His party colleagues knew of his situation. More often a prisoner did not have an opportunity to make himself known and, when the opportunity did arise, he was already as a rule totally assimilated, had a family, and could not even imagine returning. The author knows of several people like that, including people who are currently prospering—admittedly not Americans.

14. Last, a prisoner might have been executed under Article 58 of the RSFSR Criminal Code (usually charged with espionage or terrorism) or under the decree of 19 April 1943 if the accused were Wehrmacht servicemen or an "accomplice" of the occupiers. I have already written about this hitherto secret act, which has presumably lost its legal validity, that made provision for death by hanging. As far as I am aware, the Belgian national Yermak Lukyanov [name as transliterated] was executed under the draconian decree in May 1984.

15. The idea that U.S. pilots could have fought in Korea and Vietnam under assumed names, as was the practice in our country, must be considered groundless. U.S. Army Field Regulation FM 21-76 ("Survival, Avoidance of Capture, and Escape from Jail") in the chapter "Conduct Under Interrogation" recommends that a prisoner give his true name, rank, number, and date of birth. That was how the surviving crew members from the RB-47 aircraft downed over the Barents Sea 1 July 1960 behaved. Their story could serve as a model of what did happen or might have happened to U.S. pilots brought down near Soviet borders.

16. Second pilot Bruce Olsted and navigator John Makkoun [surnames as transliterated] spent almost seven months in Lubyanka. The interrogation indicates that investigator Colonel Pankratov prepared the trial on the basis of the Powers trial. The pilots were freed right after John Kennedy's inauguration as a "goodwill gesture" but only because no confessions were extracted from them. So Americans most likely gave their real names, although prisoners were nearly always given different names in jails and camps.

17. There is another specific difficulty. People of German, Japanese, and Italian descent served in the U.S. Army. It is quite

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possible that these people could have gone to a camp on the basis of 'national allegiance,' especially since the Soviet Union never committed itself to complying with the Hague and Geneva conventions whereby military uniform is the crucial indication of citizenship.

18. In short, the practice of Soviet punitive organs illustrates that anything could have happened to prisoners. Yet there is nothing fantastic about the hope of finding Americans alive or at least traces of them.

19. The reports of Americans in Soviet camps and jails are specific enough to be able to start checking them out. There was a camp somewhere in Belarus in 1945 for black soldiers-nearby inhabitants would hardly have forgotten such an exotic detail. Colonel Gordon, arrested in Vienna in 1949, was seen in Lvov transit jail in 1953. An unnamed lieutenant and NCO [noncommissioned officer], participants in the Korean war, were seen at a phosphorus mine near Yakutsk (Camp No. 307) in 1960. Lieutenant Warren Sanderson was seen at Inte, and Pilot Joe Miller was seen at Karabas in March 1947-he had been brought down over Berlin in 1945. Colonel Jackson, arrested in Berlin, was seen in Dubrovlag (the report is dated mid-1953). The crew of a B-29 brought down over the Sea of Japan 13 July 1952 (13 men) were kept in Khabarovsk POW Camp No. 21 (October 1951), while one of the members of a crew brought down there 6 November 1951 was seen in a military hospital north of Magadan (1954). This pilot served 25 years for espionage. In both cases the reports have come from repatriated Japanese.

20. Dzhezkazgan, Magnitogorsk, Perm, Norilsk, Novosibirsk, Omsk, Pechora, Potma, Tayshet, Verkhneuralsk, Vladivostok, Vologda, Vrangal Island, Yavas, the renowned Vladimir Jail OD-1/st-2 [expansion unknown]-familiar names. Sometimes an American is cited by name, often not, but in these cases minimal additional information is given, for instance: date and place of capture, rank, category of troops. The most detailed information concerns the Vorkuta camps: Mine No. 40-William Bizet [surname as transliterated] from Korea, a lieutenant or NCO convicted under Article 58; Camp No. 6-Major Robert Shvarts [surname as transliterated], abducted in Kassel in 1949; Convalescent Camp-crew of a U.S. Navy Privateer aircraft brought down over the Baltic 8 April 1950 (10 men); Colonel Davison, abducted in Vienna in 1946, is also there.

21. Dmitriy Volkogonov has recently provided documentary confirmation once again that U.S. World War II prisoners were kept in Tambov's 'Rada' (No. 188) POW camp. The colonel general was clearly hasty in declaring his discovery a sensation: In this case it is a question of Americans who served in the German Army (there were at least 108 such people in the Tambov camp, according to 'special'

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archive figures).

22. I must particularly point out that documents concerning POW's and MIA's are still secret in the United States or have been only partially declassified. That is why in a number of cases we do not know the names of the Americans concerned or the source of the information- this information is carefully obliterated when the documents are declassified.

23. There is a great deal of shady business regarding the problem of POW's and MIA's. At one time NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA reported on a photograph that had caused a sensation in the West. It showed three U.S. pilots brought down over North Vietnam and Laos in 1966, 1969, and 1970. The photograph was dated May 1990. I remember a Pentagon spokesman saying that the photograph was a montage. The journal from which the falsifiers (''Cambodian opportunists'') cut the pictures-SOVETSKIY SOYUZ No. 1, 1990-was even named, and it was indicated that it had even been taken out of the Soviet Embassy library in Phnom Penh. It is hard to believe that the mother and the wives of the MIA's did not recognize their close relatives, but that is not the point: This journal is lying in front of me and there is nothing resembling the Cambodian photograph in it.

24. Late last year a KOMMERSANT report that one of the pilots brought down over Vietnam was still living in Kazakhstan caused a great deal of ballyhoo. The reporter for some reason decided not to disclose the pilot's name, however he gave the date that he was captured, from which it is easy to elucidate that he is Navy Lt. James Kelly Patterson, born 14 July 1940, who lived in Long Beach, California, before the war. I have something to say about Patterson. Patterson was a navigator in the crew under the command of Captain Eugene MacDaniel, now the prosperous founder and president of the U.S. Rehabilitation Institute, who spent six years in a Vietnamese jail. He said in an interview last year that he had once received a telephone call from the National Security Council asking him to stop making public statements about MIA's.

25. It is no wonder that the search has as yet had insignificant results.

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