

THE INSIDER
Vol. 11, No. 2
February, 1992

FILE

SUBJ.

DATE

SUB-CAT

2/92

Dear Insiders,

Information gathered over the last several years shows that American soldiers, captured by communist forces during the Korean War, have been shipped through China to the Soviet Union. Most people believe that all captured POWs, who were not released, were executed by their captors. Some 8,177 Americans are missing from the Korean War, of which "944 were identified as being alive in North Korean camps, but were not returned" after the war was over. (U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT, 12/53).

On November 15, 1951, Col. James M. Hanley, Judge Advocate General of the 8th Army, accused the Chinese & Korean communists of a mass killing of 2,500 American POWs. In December, 1950, General Ridgeway, U.S. commander in Korea, sent a film to Washington showing the recovery of bodies of American prisoners, each of whom had his hands tied behind his back, having been shot in the back of the skull. Most people do not know that the murder of prisoners stopped in April, 1951, when Peiping and Moscow signed a secret order to hold Special Talent POWs alive. "The covert order stated that U.N. POWs, captured in Korea, were to be sent to Chinese camps controlled by the Soviet Military Mission in China." ("Unreported GI's in Siberia", by Zygmunt Nagorski, Jr., U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT, 5/53). The Russians and Chinese wanted U.S. POWs for interrogation in cases of special interest (officers & technicians) who might be brainwashed and persuade to cooperate with their captors. The Russians and Chinese also wanted POWs who were unwilling to talk. Starting in April, 1951, U.N. prisoners were sent to special camps scattered along the Chinese side of the Yalu River, where they were interrogated by Chinese and Russian officers who spoke perfect English.

On September 14, 1990, General Dan Graham, former Director of Defense Intelligence Agency, stated on CBN (Christian Broadcasting Network) that, "The Soviets went through the POW camps in North Korea and took out special talent U.S. POWs." The DIA (Defense Intelligence Agency) maintains that 389 U.S. POWs were seen alive by other released Americans the very day before they themselves were released.

In June, 1952, two of the special camps in China (Khabarovsk and Komsomolsk) held about 900 American, British, and Turkish POWs. Political lectures were given three (3) or four (4) times a day and attendance by all prisoners was required. Various delegations visited the camps and tried to influence the opinion of the captives. Prisoners fell victim to a screening process of daily interrogations. Cooperative POWs were selected and turned over to the Russians when it was seen that the POWs could possibly be converted to the communist faith. The Chinese then marked the POWs dead on the official POW list.

These men were then transferred, by rail in heavily guarded trains, to an M.V.D. prison at Chita, East of Lake

Baikal, near the Soviet-Chinese frontier. At the beginning of 1952, the political department of the East Siberian railroad issued a classified circular to all personnel requiring complete silence on the journeys of American POWs. The penalty for breaking this order was 23 years in prison or death.

The POWs were told that they had been declared dead and were given the choice of cooperating with their captors and sent to rest camps, or being sent to isolated slave prison camps if they refused to cooperate. (The Russians were using Chinese prison camps to try to dupe and utilize as many U.S. POWs as they could.)

Cooperative American POWs gave lectures on new American weapons, strategies, political trends, and psychological warfare. Three (3) American officers captured in Korea made good will visits to Eastern Block countries, speaking on the peaceful intentions of Russia, and the warmongering of the U.S. A captured man was merely a useful object to the Soviet Government - as a teacher or propagandist, if he was cooperative, and a slave if he was not.

This program of atrocities inflicted on captured POWs has Chinese and Russian ownership. In Russia, there are approximately 90 prison camps where slave labor is or was performed, and requests to visit these camps have been denied. In China, at Xining in Qinghai Province, there are Siberia-type slave labor camps to which access by Westerners has been denied.

In 1985, former U.S. military attache, Col. Delk Simpson of Palm Beach, Florida, told the Washington Post newspaper, "In 1955 he wrote a top secret cable to the head of Air Force intelligence detailing a Chinese railroad worker's claim that he had seen 700 soldiers being taken by train from China to Siberia that year." The transfer took place at Manchouli.

On May 9, 1991, NA STRAZHE (a Soviet military newspaper) published an interview with retired Soviet Col. Grigorii Matevosovich Dzhagarov, who was awarded the Order of the Red Banner for his actions in North Korea. "Col. Dzhagarov had been secretly dispatched to China, put on a Chinese uniform, and was actively involved in the shooting down of American aircraft, and the capture of U.S. POWs and equipment for shipment to interrogation centers under the direct management and operation of Soviet military intelligence officers." ("Our Men Among Foreigners", by Major Valeriy Amiroff, NA STRAZHE, pg. 4-5.)

Dr. Paul M. Cole, of the Rand Corporation, claims to be under contract to DOD to conduct a \$62,000 study researching the possibility that "American POWs captured in North Korea were covertly moved to the Soviet Union". In December, 1991, Dr. Cole traveled to Moscow to review secret Soviet archives looking for clues that might unlock the secret of what happened to the missing prisoners. Dr. Cole interviewed sources who claimed to have knowledge of Americans who were moved from North Korea to China for interrogation, and then transferred to the USSR during and after the Korean War.

Two (2) sources told how the process worked. One source, who lives in Kazakhstan near Alma Ata, was at the special window at the Chinese/Russian border through which the American POWs passed. The other source was among the guards

who transported the American POWs, in closed special coach, to the debriefing/interrogation locations at closed military facilities inside the USSR. But the testimony by Soviet officers, who had their hands on American POWs, does not meet the requirement of hard physical evidence needed to back up the theory that Soviet military orders were given to secretly and covertly capture American POWs in Korea for transport to mother Russia for the purpose of extracting their military knowledge.

The American POWs, who were released after the Korean War, were questioned by U.S. military intelligence and asked about overt Soviet participation in the Korean War. One question was, "Did you see any Russians while you were in North Korea?" No released Americans reported interrogations by Soviets; therefore, it appears obvious that the Americans who were interrogated by Soviets were never released.

Nelson Demille's 1988 book, THE CHARM SCHOOL, presents the fictional theory that American POWs were taken to secret camps in the USSR and used to train Soviet spies. Many facts support this theory. A review of CIA's declassified holdings reveals a document dated May 29, 1951, entitled "Arrival of American POWs in Canton (China) and transfer of Americans to the Kremlin." A review of declassified files in the U.S. State Department's archives has unearthed documents entitled "Americans Detained in the USSR". These documents reveal that, in 1955 and 1956, the Soviets released Polish, German, Japanese and Austrian prisoners who had been held in the Gulags under Stalin's reign. These released prisoners gave the Red Cross names of American prisoners whom they had seen and talked to in the Soviet prison system. Some of these American officers and enlisted men were men who had been taken prisoner in North Korea.

On December 26, 1991, on WABC Radio, New York, G. Gordon Liddy quoted General John Singlaub as saying, "There are Russian emergents living in the U.S. who speak English very well, who were trained by former Korean and Vietnam War POWs."

On February 1, 1973, Avraham Shifrin, who was in the Soviet Gulag from June 6, 1953, until June 6, 1963, testified before the U.S. Senate about U.S.S.R. labor camps. Mr. Shifrin said, "First I must ask you to excuse my English, because I cannot speak like you. I learned my English in concentration camps and first my teachers were kidnaped American officers."

Documents discovered in the President Dwight D. Eisenhower Library in Abilene, Kansas, reveal that a "SECRET" Memorandum for the President was written on July 18, 1955, by John Foster Dulles - Subject: Americans Detained in the Soviet Union. The memo, declassified on July 30, 1991, reads, "Of greatest concern to America people are reports reaching the United States about Americans still being held in Soviet prison camps. While we appreciate the release of several Americans, others still remain in Soviet custody. On July 16, the American Embassy in Moscow gave the Foreign Office a list of eight American citizens about whose detention in the Soviet Union we have information from returned prisoners of war."

Slave #1-E-241 was an American taken captive by the Soviet M.V.D. in Germany on July 5, 1945, and held in several

Soviet Gulag camps until his released was negotiated January 6, 1955. While in the Gulag, John Noble of Munster, Pennsylvania, found out about several Americans who were also in Soviet prisons. (Articles [5] by John Noble, April 3-7, 1955, NEW YORK TIMES).

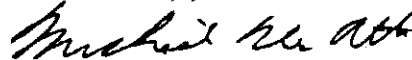
In December, 1991, Larry Naper, Director of the Office of Soviet Union Affairs, stated, "We are also working with the Department of Defense, which is currently investigating its archives on MIAs/POWs who have been taken prisoner by the Soviet Union, to produce lists of additional individuals about whom we might inquire." On January 3, 1992, AP reported that, "The Bush Administration has given several former Soviet republics the names of more than 50 Americans listed as Missing in Action from World War II and the Korean and Vietnam wars who might have been moved to the Soviet Union."

Thus, it is quite clear that information held in the secret and widely dispersed archives of the United States can provide proof that some Americans captured in Korea were covertly taken to the Soviet Union. Attention to these details by historians is overshadowed by the break up of the Soviet Union and nay-sayers who ask, "Why bring up the subject if the information is old and we can do nothing about it?" A more appropriate group of questions might be:

- 1) What happened to the Americans who were captured alive, but not released?
- 2) Where did the missing prisoners go?
- 3) How can we bring back from Russian slavery the men missing in Korea?
- 4) Why has this data been kept hidden by classification and no appropriate action taken to find these live men?

If you have any additional information on the subject of Americans captured in Korea, or wish to take on the puzzle of solving this mystery, please let me know.

Sincerely,



Michael Van Atta
P.O. Box 302
Chatham, NJ 07928
(201) 701-0238

NOTE: This information service is designed to help George Bush appointees understand that there are unsolved problems of Americans who were captured alive (POWs) and not released.