

Achievement Document of Military Archives Cooperation Between the
People's Republic of China and the United States of America
[Original English Title in the Chinese]

October 2008 – April 2009

Chinese People's Liberation Army Archives Department
[Seal]

Chinese People's Liberation Army Archives Department

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[Note: The page numbers on the right hand side of this Contents list differ from the original Chinese text because the accompanying pictures in the Chinese text do not appear in the translated version, thus reducing the size of the document by nine pages. The page numbering in the translation starts with the title page.]

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I. General Overview

Based on the Memorandum of Arrangement Between the Ministry of National Defense, People's Republic of China and the Department of Defense, United States of America to Develop Military Archival Cooperation to Search for Information Relating to U.S. Military Personnel Missing in Action Before, During, and After the Korean War and the Memorandum of Arrangement on Developing Military Archival Cooperation Between the People's Liberation Army Archives Department and the United States Department of Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office on Information Relating to U.S. Military Personnel Missing in Action Before, During and After the Korean War, the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Archives Department and the U.S. Department of Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office have had smooth communication and good cooperation regarding the search for information relating to U.S. military personnel missing in action before, during, and after the Korean War.

From October 2008 to April 2009, the PLA Archives Department, based on relevant leads supplied by the U.S. side in (Tab A) of the Memorandum of Agreement for Target Areas of Required Search, began a general investigation of several million military files from the Korean War period stored in the archives. Up to this time, approximately one tenth of the work has been completed. Over 100 files have been discovered with leads to U.S. military personnel missing in action. In addition, the PLA Archives Department sent personnel to Raoping, Guangdong to conduct an investigation into and verification of a case. Results have been attained by searching the archives based on leads and by verifying leads based on the archives. Generally speaking, a certain degree of progress has been made in search and verification work.

II. Regarding Searches

A. Search Process

Under the leadership of the Office of the PLA General Staff Department (GSD) and the Foreign Affairs Office of the Ministry of National Defense (MND) of the People's Republic of China (PRC), the PLA Archives Department has launched a comprehensive search and study of leads in files regarding the whereabouts of missing U.S. military personnel before, during, and after the Korean War. It has also established a China-U.S. Military Archival Cooperation and Exchange office and an archival research team. In accordance with the categories of information listed in (Tab A) of the Memorandum of Agreement for Target Areas of Required Search provided by the U.S. Department of Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office, close to 200,000 pages of relevant files have been consulted and analyzed in categories that include intelligence reports, situation bulletins, duty logs, and statistical reports.

B. Number of Pages in Document

This semiannual work report submitted to the U.S. Department of Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office by the PLA Archives Department has a total of 15 pages; three

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pages are extracts of military archival information, ten pages of records of on-site interviews and investigations, and two pages of other information.

C. Number of Days Worked

The China-U.S. Military Archival Cooperation and Exchange Office and the archival research team of the PLA Archives Department, along with related collection, sorting, preservation and use departments have expended a total of 2,800 workdays/persons carrying out archival collection, sorting, consulting and analyzing, and on-site investigations.

D. Number of Participants in the Work

The PLA Archives Department has assigned six archive professionals and hired four military archival research experts to form a research team. The China-U.S. Military Archival Cooperation and Exchange Office and the departments of archive collection, sorting, preservation and use have a total of eight people specializing in work related to China-U.S. military archival cooperation. The PLA Archives Department has no less than 20 people participating in this work.

III. Extracts of Archival Information

After six months of work, the PLA Archives Department has found some archival information in archives of the Korean War period that correspond to the categories listed in (Tab A) of the Memorandum of Agreement for Target Areas of Required Search. The following are extracts of these.

A. B-29 "Superfortress" That Went Down in Raoping, Guangdong

On November 5, 1950 a B-29 "Superfortress" crashed in Raoping, Guangdong. There are two reports confirming this incident.

1. On November 18, 1950 a report submitted by the South China Bureau [sic] regarding a U.S. aircraft going down in the Fushan area stated: On November 5th of that year, a B-29 "Superfortress" aircraft suddenly caught fire while flying over Raoping, Guangdong and went down in the Fushan area. All 15 persons on board were killed, four of the bodies were comparatively intact and the initial assessment was that they were Americans. There were seven cannons, over 1,000 shells, and other articles on board the aircraft.

2. On November 21, 1950 a report submitted by a certain unit [of the PLA] regarding an American aircraft that crashed and burned on a mountain top near the Raoping area stated: It is verified by relevant departments of Raoping County that at 11 p.m. on November 5th of that year, a U.S. B-29 "Superfortress" was flying due east from the west over Chaoan, Guangdong. As it flew over the Wuhuali mountain area near Guikeng Village in the Fushan region of Raoping County, for reasons unknown, the aircraft caught fire. The aircraft dropped an illumination shell and descended into the Shuangshanyan mountain range. Due to the large size of the aircraft

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fuselage and the undulating hills, the area could not accommodate the aircraft and it exploded on the second peak destroying most of the fuselage. The nose and tail fell into a low area and the engines and wings were scattered over the second peak. All 15 persons on board (including one female) were killed; the remains of four bodies were comparatively intact and judged to be Americans. The local villagers buried the bodies. A check of the site revealed that the weapons and articles scattered around consisted of seven cannons, 1,107 shells, one parachute, one submachine gun, 14 detonators, one American revolver, one set of credentials in English, an airplane repair kit, a round meter with three needles [*san zhen yuan biao*, 三针圆表], one piece of burlap, 40 various sized electrical devices, eight spoons, one propeller, a breathing apparatus [*qi huo qi* 气活器], one Parker pen and one pencil.

B. F9F Aircraft Shot Down in North Korean Territory

On March 4, 1953 a report by a certain [PLA] unit regarding a U.S. aircraft shot down by anti-aircraft fire stated: At 6:35 hours on February 28 of that year, a F9F aircraft was shot down by anti-aircraft fire near the Wenchuan [transliteration] area north of Wonsan in North Korea. The pilot was not known to have bailed out and the aircraft was destroyed by fire.

C. P4M-1 Naval Patrol Bomber Shot Down in China's East China Sea

On August 23, 1956 a report by a certain unit regarding the shooting down of a U.S. aircraft stated: At 23:17 hours on August 22nd of that year, at 121°58 East Longitude, 32°30 North Latitude an American P4M-1 naval patrol bomber was discovered flying from north to south. At 23:54 hours and 10 seconds it entered Chinese territorial waters at 122°30 East Longitude, 31°20 North Latitude (100 km east of Shanghai) and changed course by 200 degrees flying directly towards Dinghai and Zhoushan Islands. At 00:13 hours and 30 seconds on August 23rd it had flown to a point at 122°15 East Longitude, 30°37 North Latitude above Xiachuanshan Island, it then changed course 145 degrees and flew towards the southeast.

At 23:59 hours on the 22nd a certain Air Force unit received orders to send up a Mig-17, which found the U.S. aircraft over the Qushan area and launched a first attack at 00:17 hours and 9 seconds from a distance of 500-600 meters from the U.S. aircraft. At 00:17 hours and 52 seconds it launched a second attack and the U.S. aircraft returned fire. A third attack was launched and the U.S. aircraft caught fire and fell into the ocean at 00:20 hours and 22 seconds 15 km southeast of Qushan.

IV. On-site Verification of the Whereabouts of Missing American Personnel Based on Military Archives

Of the three above-mentioned cases, there is obviously no possibility of finding remains in the last two cases. Based on the current conditions, our department focused on conducting an on-site investigation of the case in which the B-29 "Superfortress" went down in Raoping, Guangdong.

A. On-site Investigation

From June 23 to July 3, 2008, the PLA Archives Department, on the basis of relevant information stored in the military archives, sent a work team to Raoping County and Chaoan County, Chaozhou Municipality, Guangdong Province to investigate and verify the whereabouts of the B-29 aircraft crash and the remains of the personnel killed.

Through interviews of eyewitnesses and persons knowledgeable about the incident, on-site investigation of scattered aircraft remnants and burial locations of the dead, and the organization of some excavations, the leads indicated in the files stored in the archives were basically verified.

With the support of locally stationed troops, the local government, and the local people, the work team interviewed 19 people knowledgeable about the incident, and conducted multiple inspections of the aircraft crash site, the area where remains were scattered, and a specific burial site containing the intact remains of a body according to the recollection of an eyewitness. The PLA Archives Department coordinated with the local government, troops, public security, civil affairs, health and epidemic prevention, and other departments to organize over 50 army reserves to conduct partial excavation of the area within 100 square meters of the site identified by 73 year old eyewitness Lin Zhengping. Although this on-site inspection did not find any remains of missing personnel, we believe if investment is increased and the necessary technical means are adopted in the next phase, that there is a high probability of finding some remains of missing personnel.

B. Extracts of Talks with Eyewitnesses

On June 23rd, the work team interviewed the following three eyewitnesses to the incident, Xu Yueshu, Xu Zhenliang, and Lin Zhengping. The interviews took place at Shangshe Village, Fubin Township, Raoping County and at Jiaoshuikeng Village, Fenghuang Township, Chaoan County, Guangdong Province.

Senior citizen Xu Yueshu recalled: "In early November 1950 a plane went down on the opposite mountain top. Many people went there to see it and I followed along. There were 15 or 16 people on the plane, including women and children, all burned to death. After the plane crashed everything burned down. Only scattered pieces of the fuselage were left on the mountain top. The remains of the bodies were buried by people from Jiaoshuikeng Village, Fenghuang Township, Chaoan County."

Senior citizen Xu Zhenliang recalled: "In November 1950 a plane went down nearby. There were many people out working in the fields. Someone started to go up the mountain to the crash site and everybody followed suit. I was cutting rice at the time and when I saw people leaving, I went along too. We saw some things that fell from the plane after it exploded:

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scattered pieces of the fuselage and shell casings, a glass door, guns, cannons, cannon shells, a brass basin, iron drums, and so forth."

Senior citizen Lin Zhengping recalled: "I was a 13 year old child at the time. The adults went to the mountain to bury the remains of the dead and I went along. The body parts were strewn over the ground. I clearly remember there was a fairly intact body buried on the spot on a mountain ridge."

C. Some Photographs of Work

1. June 24, 2008, the work team interviewed an eyewitness to the incident, senior citizen Xu Zhenliang (right)
2. June 26, 2008, the PLA Archives Department special work team talked with the following people at Jiaoshuikeng Village, Fenghuang Township, Chaoan County [*Chao* missing in Chinese text] who were knowledgeable about the incident, Lin Kongchi, Lin Xing, and Lin Bushi.
3. July 2, 2008, the PLA Archives Department special work [team] [character for team missing in Chinese text] with cooperation from the local people conducted on-site investigation and partial excavation at the crash-site of the U.S. aircraft.
4. Resident of Jiaoshuikeng Village, Fenghuang Township, Chaoan County, Guangdong Province senior citizen Lin, an eyewitness of the incident, identified the burial site of a complete set of bodily remains.
5. Investigation personnel conduct a limited search and partial excavation of the site identified by an eyewitness to the incident.
6. Investigation personnel summarize the situation.
7. A brass basin from the plane preserved by a villager in Jiaoshuikeng Village.
8. An iron drum from the plane crash preserved by a villager in Jiaoshuikeng Village.

V. Suggestions for Work and Key Points

The Chinese side proposes that a PLA Military Archival Cooperation Delegation visit the United States in July or later to hold the annual technical meeting with the U.S. side. The main topics will be:

- A. Report on the detailed situation of investigation work, and review and appraisal of the fruits of cooperation during the last six months.

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B. Issues related to cooperation for the next year.

C. Issues of confidentiality and limits on the use of military archives.

VI. Confidentiality Agreement

Without agreement on both sides, the content of this report may not be revealed to third parties.