

REFERENCE CODE: AkAMH

REPOSITORY NAME:

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Guide prepared by: Sara Piasecki, Photo Archivist

TITLE: Valerii Orsoev Manuscript on “Tracking the Missing ‘Boston’”

COLLECTION NUMBER: B2013.033

OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION

Dates: circa 1995?

Extent: 7 items

Language and Scripts: The collection is in English and Russian.

Name of creator(s): Valerii Orsoev

Administrative/Biographical History:

According to the résumé included in the collection, Valerii Petrovich Orsoev was a writer for *Sovetskii sport* magazine. A Buryat by ethnicity, Orsoev was living in Irkutsk when he wrote this article on the crash of a Douglas A-20 bomber in Siberia during the World War II-era Lend Lease program. Hoping to get the article translated into English for publication by the Alaska Geographic Society, Orsoev sent the article to Mina Jacobs in Anchorage.

Scope and Content Description:

The collection consists of a Russian manuscript of an article, along with five photographs intended as illustrations. An English abstract is titled “Tracking the Missing ‘Boston’.” It reads:

I returned from the taiga with my legs still aching from the long trek. Beyond the window, the city was melting under the heat. I raised my hands to my face and breathed in the smell of smoke and mosquito repellent. Again, I sat down in the car. I really have to get these thoughts and impressions in order. Above all, I need to relate the news to my readers.

Within a day, the Irkutsk Regional Newspaper had written, “Discovery in the Taiga.” Probably forty five years ago and under obscure circumstances an Air Force plane sustained a catastrophe 28 kilometers to the southeast of Kirensk. A detachment of aviators from Kirensk has just uncovered the place of the crash and ascertained the type of plane, a light bomber, “Douglas” A-20 (later called a “Boston”).

These combat aircraft, supplied by the USA through Lend Lease during the war, were transported by Soviet pilots from Alaska across Siberia to the Front. Obviously, not all the planes arrived at their designated spots: an absence of precise navigational instruments, immense distances and bad weather all caused them trouble. To this day, the Siberian taiga continues to hide many undiscovered planes, aircraft which until now have been considered lost without a trace.

Arrangement: Not applicable

CONDITIONS GOVERNING ACCESS AND USE

Restrictions on Access: The collection is open for research use.

Physical Access: Original items in good condition.

Technical Access: No special equipment is needed to access the materials.

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Preferred Citation:

Valerii Orsoev Manuscript on "Tracking the Missing 'Boston'", Anchorage Museum, B2013.033

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Acquisition and Appraisal Information

Donated by Mina Jacobs in March 2013.

SUBJECTS

Orsoev, Valerii

Aircraft accidents—Russia—Siberia

Lend-lease operations (1941-1945)

World War, 1939-1945—Aerial operations, Soviet

A-20 (Bomber)

Douglas airplanes

Guide written: April 2, 2013