A translation of this Forum Russian language newspaper article about the Elbe Link-Up on April 25, 1945 follows on pages 2-5. The Forum is printed in Brooklyn, NY for Russians in New York and across the USA. The 65th Anniversary in Torgau named "Elbefest" was celebrated on April 23-25, 2010. Cite as Zolotarev, Boris. "65th Anniversary of the Elbe Link-Up". Forum, 06-12 May 201, page 20. Brooklyn, NY. Reprinted with permission. Photos: Upper left is the famous Bill Robertson/Alexander Silwaschko 1945 linkup photo who were leaders of the patrols that met in Torgau, April 25, 1945; Under that photo is Joe Lipsius, Hq 272nd Inf Rgt on the left with Don Connelly, Hq Co 2nd Bn 271st Inf Rgt; Under Joe and Don is a WWII Torgau celebration photo; Upper right is a Link-Up reenactment; Below that photo on right is a symbolic linkup handshake taken during Elbefest with Silwaschko's granddaughter on the left, followed by Ted Polowsky,son of Kotzebue patrol member and post WWII peace activist Joe Polowsky, next is the Honorable Andrea Staude, Mayor of Torgau, then Silwaschko's daughter, Larrisa, and at the far right, Rick Robertson, son of Bill Robertson; The lower right two photos are Joe Lipsius and Don Connelly with reenactors.

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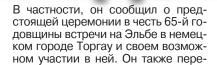
воре о военных событиях далекого 1945 года с жителем Детройта, участником встречи на Эльбе, лейтенантом Наумом Левином - командире роты 6-ой понтонно-

мостовой бригады Первого Украинского фронта, я узнал о жителе Атланты, майоре Джо Липсиусе, участнике встречи американских и советских войск на реке Эльбе в апреле 1945 года.

Газета «Форум» уже печатала материалы о жителе Детройта Науме Левине. В апреле 1945 Наум Левин наводил понтонный мост через Эльбу в Торгау, на котором встретились американцы и русские. К сожалению, на этот раз по состоянию здоровья Наум Левин не смог поехать в Торгау.

Господин Джо Липсиус - это пожилой (92 года), но очень активный американский ветеран 69-ой пехотной дивизии американской армии. В переписке с ним я рассказал ему о наших детройтских ветеранах Второй мировой войны, об активной борьбе Американского Форума русскоязычного еврейства, к которому я принадлежу, о противостоянии его тем политикам и общественным деятелям, которые хотели ли бы пересмотреть итоги Второй мировой войны. О проведенных в последнее время при участии Форума в Берлине и Риге конференции «Уроки Второй мировой войны и Холокоста», а также о запланированной на конец мая Конференции журналистов для противостояния неонацизму, неофашизму. Я рассказал ему о своем отце, который прошел в составе стрелковой дивизии 1-го Белорусского фронта путь от Львова до Сталинграда и закончил войну в 45- ом в Берлине и Потсдаме.

А от него я узнал много интересного: о его активной деятельности, мероприятиях, проводимых ветеранами 69-ой пехотной дивизии.





запечатлены счастливые 2-й лейте нант У. Робертсон и лейтенант А. С. Сильвашко на фоне надписи "Восток встречается с Западом". Эта фотография, символизирующая истори-

ческую встречу союзников на Эльбе - советского и американского лейтенантов, которые первыми пожали друг другу руки во время братания войск союзников на Эльбе. Снимок, сделанный корреспондентом журнала «Лайф», в считанные часы обошел издания всего

Встреча на Эльбе стала историческим символом. Она демонстрировала успехи антигитлеровской коалиции. Она символизировала близкий коец войны, разгром фашизма.



дал приглашение участвовать в этом событии русским ветеранам Второй мировой войны

Все, конечно, помнят "День Эльбы" в Торгау в Германии. И, конечно, знаменитую фотографию, где

Ра здравствует 1 Maя?

И, что очень важно, боевое сотрудничество Советского Союза и Соединенных Штатов Америки. Но речь идет не только о Соединенных Штатах, это - символ всей союзнической деятельности в годы войны. Это демонстрация силы всей антигитлеровской коалиции.

25 апреля 1945 года недалеко от немецкого города Торгау произошел один из переломных моментов Второй мировой войнысоветской и американской армиям удалось разгромить войска гитлеровской Германии.

И вот несколько дней назад господин Липсиус передал мне свои фотографии с места события и кратко рассказал о происходившей с 23 по 25 апреля 2010 года церемонии, посвященной 65-ой годовщине Дня Эльбы, в которой он при-

Он сообщил, что в немецком городе Торгау, на протяжении трех



прошли памятные мероприятия. В них участвовали и свидетели той исторической встречи - ветераны

когда Эмиль Ф. Реинхардт, генерал - майор, командир 69-й пехотной дивизии американской армии,

Торгау, Андреа Стод, в центре Брюс Робертсон (с бородой), сын американского лидера патроля Билла Робертсона.

Кстати, Джо Половски написал текст клятвы о вечной дружбе между американскими и советскими солдатами и всю жизнь боролся за мир. По его просьбе он был похоронен в Торгау и каждый год поминают его. Так было и в этот раз.

В памятных мероприятиях приняли участие политические деятели, а также сами участники тех событий и их дети. Среди гостей церемонии был посол США в Германии, представители правительства Федеральной земли Саксония, мэр Торгау, а также дети участников событий тех

К сожалению, все меньше остается в живых участников тех давних

Джо недавно сообщил мне и Науму Левину об уходе из жизни Александра Сильвашко.

Пришла также еще одна скорбная весть: не стало Бернарда Зафферна. Уходят из жизни участники Второй мировой войны. Вечная им память!

Как всегда на таких мероприятиях, не обошлось без немецких ультраправых, которые устроили в Торгау свою контрдемонстрацию, в которой приняли участие около 170 экстремистов. Тем не менее, это никак не помещало проведению празд-

> Илья БРОМБЕРГ, региональный представитель Американского Форума русскоязычного еврейства в

> > штате Мичиган



Второй мировой войны, в частности, американские ветераны войны Дон Коннельи (86 лет) и он сам.

25 апреля 1945 американские и советские солдаты обменялись рукопожатием и символически был запечатлен конец Второй мировой войны, было выпито крепкое немецкое пиво Heinz. A в апреле 2010 года в Торгау было инсценировано

саков, генерал - майор, командующий советской 58-й Гвардейской дивизии, обмениваются рукопожатием в немецком городе Торгау на реке Эльба.

и Джеральд Эрмэль и Владимир Ру-

На снимке, сделанном Джо, - семья Александра Сильвашко (две леди) и сын Джо Половски, активного борца за мир, и патроля Бак



Уникальное американское социально-политическое изобретение – ПЕРВОЕ МАЯ в этом году отмечает свое 120 – летие. И хотя решение об этом празднике было принято в 1889 году, первая первомайская демонстрация состоялась в Варшаве, в 1890 году. Как ни странно, но Первомай оказался удивительно живучим, вплоть до того, что до сих пор он-государственный праздник в Англии (наследие правления лейбористов- прим. авт.) и в ЮАР –бывшем государстве апартеида(!). В США Первомай - негосударственный праздник,

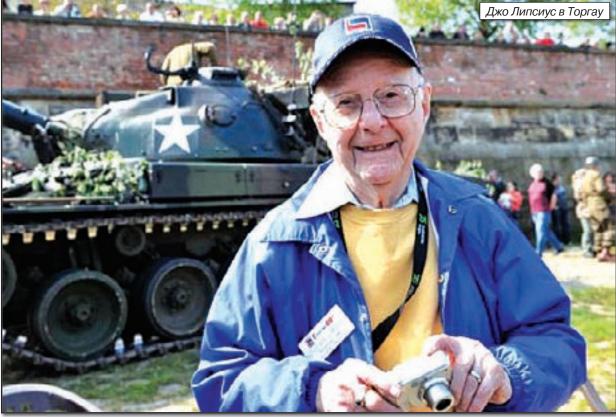
но демонстрации и митинги в защиту социальных прав рабочего класса - явление не-

Фотожурналист Аркадий Ягудаев побывал на крупнейшей первомайской демонстрации на Юнион Сквер в Манхэттене, где Коалиция в защиту прав рабочих и иммигрантов под красными флагами и лозунгами, давно нами забытыми, вывела на многочасовую акцию около 10 000 человек. В толпе было много молодежи и детей. Били барабаны, громко звучали лозунги. Народ требовал Свободы, Равенства и Братства. А что еще можно услышать на первомайской демонстрации. Правда, демонстранты еще почему-то требовали демилитаризации границы с Мексикой, немедленной иммигрант-



м. мишин







[Cite as Zolotarev, Boris. "65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Elbe Link-Up". *Forum*, 06-12 May 201, page 20. Brooklyn, NY. Reprinted with permission of the publisher by the 69<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Association Website, July 11, 2010. <a href="http://www.69th-infantry-division.com/elbeday2010/report/ElbeDay2010-Forum-Brooklyn-NY-TEL-718-434-0330">http://www.69th-infantry-division.com/elbeday2010/report/ElbeDay2010-Forum-Brooklyn-NY-TEL-718-434-0330</a> -06-12-May-2010.pdf>.]

### 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Elbe Link-Up

A Saxon town Torgau became famous 65 years ago. Just here in 25th April 1945 was the remarkable meeting of Soviet 58<sup>th</sup> Guards Division and American 69<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. "MK" (Moskovskij Komsomolets") managed to connect with a few American veterans, who took part in those historic events.

— Oct 23, 1941 I entered the army as a private – tells Joe LIPSIUS – however only in November 1944 did I leave the USA with my 69th Division. Before that I trained with various units. This was not the ordinary.

My unit reached the combat area at the German-Belgium border, mid February, 1945 when I was 27 years of age. I was a Captain commanding a Cannon Company, a small artillery gun. Actually the participants of "three patrols" are considered to be direct veterans of the Elbe meetings. Of the 91 men who met the Russians [at the Elbe], only two are known to be alive today: Harold R. Brummel and Igor N. Belousovich.

I saw my first Russians on April 26 1945. That day we had moved from a suburb of Leipzig on the 26th to guard the road area between Eilenburg and Torgau, a distance of 15-20 miles. Later, along this road high ranking US military command went to parley with the Soviet generals.

My regimental commander (commands 3,200 men) and I had gone to see what was going on in the town square of Torgau. We were very surprised, when we saw Russians on the town square who seemed to be drinking their brains out. My Colonel would not stay and we returned to our headquarters a few miles away.

- But later you communicated with Soviet soldiers. Which language did you speak?
- Both sides had translators
- —Was there any joint dinner or celebration?
- In the beginning there was not, but later there was, but only for higher echelon of officers. I didn't participate in it.
- Did Americans and Russians give each other gifts or souvenirs?
- I think swapping took place more than gifts. Russians liked our cigarettes and we liked their vodka.

#### — What was your general's attitude toward his Soviet allies?

— Our Colonel was wary of the Russians and this carried down to me. I am Jewish; my father was born in St. Petersburg and came to the USA when he was 15 years old. I knew nothing about his life there, but I don't think it was good. When my father lived in Russia anti-Semitism was the norm. That is why as children we never tried to learn about Russia. During the war the Soviets were Allies, and as far as I was concerned anti-Semitism was of no bother. Never in the American Army did I fear or worry about anti-Semitism although it did exist at times. As for my feeling about Russian soldiers, I never thought one way or another about them. They were doing their jobs.

#### — Why do you think your Colonel was wary of his Soviet Allies?

— I think many high ranking American officers like Patton, Bradley and many others, thought that the US would be fighting the Soviets before it was over. Perhaps that is why many officers stayed away from a potential enemy.

#### — Did you meet with Russian veterans after war?

— I met Russians soldiers on April 2005 during the [60<sup>th</sup>] anniversary celebrations in Torgau, and also in May of that same year in Moscow. We had good time and I liked them.

American veteran Igor BELOUSOVICHA, the participant of Elbe meeting spoke with "MK" correspondent in Russian.

— During WWI my father was battle pilot in the old Russian Army. During the Civil war he fought on the side of White Movement and later he went to the Far East. By the end of Civil war he married in Khabarovsk and the whole family crossed the Chinese border with a few thousands of Russian refugees. I was born in China. When I was one year old we moved to San Francisco. Our family spoke only in Russian, all our friends were Russians. I consider myself as a representative of the first wave of Russian Immigration.

My [69<sup>th</sup>] division captured Leipzig – that was our last battle – and then we move to the south. Our units were on the west bank of Mulde, a tributary of the Elbe River. Both we and the Soviet troops were extremely cautious. We knew if we fired on each other there would be serious problems.

We organized three patrols—to smaller ones and another bigger. Two patrols were to carry reconnaissance between the Mulde and the Elbe. The larger patrol was assigned the mission to make contact with Soviet units. As it happened all three patrols made contact with Soviet troops all within 2-3 hrs. of each other. That is why we think that any veteran of these patrols can consider himself a participant in the Elbe meeting.

Someone in headquarters wanted a Russian speaker in each patrol, so I was called and assigned to the third patrol.

In the early morning [on April 25, 1045] we crossed the Mulde in Jeeps. There was no German

resistance. Soon, from far away we saw a Russian horsemen. I was the only person that had a small camera so I shot some photos. Soon we were face to face with a number of Russians. Everything was moving quickly. No would speak to each other, but were slapping each other on the backs, smiling and exchanging small souvenirs. Our folks were interested in the red stars on the Red Army hats the soldiers wore. It never occurred to me then that this would become such a momentous event. Russian officers on horseback checked our map and advised us where to go. They probably had their mission, so they galloped off pretty quickly.

We were on our way to Elbe and in 20 minutes we reached the river. There were encountered Soviet units crossing the river. They had a big ferry boat which was drawn by steel rope. When we got to the other bank we saw a group of Soviet officers. It was the headquarters unit of 58<sup>th</sup> Guards Division, including their commander – General Rusakov. I introduced our officers to the general and asked: "How should I introduce a Russian commander to our Major?" He looked perplexed and glanced at another officer close to him. I realized that the other officer was a political instructor or "politruk". I watched the politruk nod slightly, indicating that it was allowed [for the Russian commander to address the American Major].

We spent the night in Soviet camp – we drank a lot and had terrible hangovers the next morning. Nearby there was a German camp for war prisoners, and next day we were driven there. There were French, Britons and Americans. That was a joyous meeting. Everybody were clapping hands, shouting and laughing. Liberating that prison camp was a real triumph. In evening we went back to our unit. Everything happened quickly and without fanfare.

#### — What do you remember most of all?

— A few weeks after the link-up our units stayed on opposite banks of Elbe River. My translation duties were performed mostly near bridge close to Torgau. Large groups of former Soviet prisoners of war and Soviet citizens were being driven back to the Soviet Union. By then we understood that a terrible fate awaited most of them. I knew enough about the Soviet regime and knew that life there was stern and sometimes cruel. However, at that time they seemed happy to be going home. Others, however, sat in the trucks silently with a look of gloom.

#### — Did you meet with Russian veterans after war?

— I took part in the 30<sup>th</sup> and 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations. I was in Moscow in May 2005 where I met some Russian veterans who I had seen in previous meetings.

— In January	1945 1	went to war —	- Harold	Brummel	remembers
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— I was at the German Front lines when I was 19 years old. I took part in the battle at the Rhine River and several locations east of the Rhine, including the city of Leipzig.

#### — What did you feel about the meeting of the Allies and the Red Army?

— Both sides were happy to see another friend from an ally, but there was no wild celebrating as was shown in photographs of the next day when the Generals were brought together. I think that

both sides were most pleased that the war was almost over and that soon we could be going home to our families. All the joint celebration and dinners were held the next day April 26 for the high ranking Generals. We did share a meal that was a kind of soup with the ordinary soldiers.

#### — How did you overcome the language barrier with the Soviet soldiers?

— We had both Russian and German translators. Also, we communicated with sign and body language, and used some of the German we had learned.

## — Were there any cases of combined military actions of USA and Soviet troops after Elbe day?

- Combined operations were not conducted, but I do know that a lot of caution was used to prevent the two armies from having accidental clashes.
- ...I was impressed mostly by the toughness of the Russians I met. One man was wearing a bandage on his head and still was on duty, even though he was wounded. I have not met any Russian veterans since that day in 1945. I have only strong memories of the time in the war, many days, like the meeting with the Russians, stand out in my mind as if they had happened yesterday.

Boris Zolotarev