MH17 – Drivers of the Russian June and July 2014 Buk Convoy Trucks

A bell;ngcat Investigation



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Introduction

On 13 May 2015, Bellingcat published a report about the involvement of the Russian 2nd Automobile Battalion of the 69th Separate Logistics Brigade (military unit 11385) and the 147th Automobile Battalion for Material Support (military unit 83466) in the transport of Buk unit vehicles of the 53rd Anti-Aircraft Missile Brigade in a convoy that left on 23 June 2014 from Marshala Zhukova near Kursk and arrived in Millerovo on 25 June 2014.¹ This convoy transported a Buk missile launcher with unit designation 332, previously known as 'Buk 3x2'.² Bellingcat has published multiple reports asserting that this Buk missile launcher downed Malaysian Airlines Flight 17 (MH17) on 17 July 2014.

Photographs uploaded on the Russian-language social network Vkontakte (VK) by soldierdrivers of the 2nd and 147th Automobile Battalions show trucks and trailers with the same license plates as vehicles that took part in the convoy filmed and photographed between 23 and 25 June 2014. These photos also show transport of other kinds of military equipment to the Russia-Ukraine border, including, for example, near Mityakinskaya in the Rostov Oblast. One soldier-driver named Dmitry Z. uploaded a photograph of his truck and Buk missile launcher 232 of the 53rd Anti-Aircraft Missile Brigade on 24 June 2014. Geolocation of this photograph shows it was taken near Varvarovka on R185, a road that the 23-25 June 2014 Buk convoy had taken. Additional photographs uploaded by Dmitry Z. show other possible drivers of the 23-25 June 2014 Buk convoy, one of them likely being the driver who transported Buk 332 from Marshala Zhukova to Millerovo.

The last chapter of that report describes the route and destination of the 23-25 June 2014 Buk convoy that transported Buk unit vehicles of the 2nd Battalion of the 53rd Anti-Aircraft Missile Brigade, as well as the route and destination of a 19-21 July 2014 Buk convoy that transported Buk unit vehicles of the 1st Battalion of the 53rd Anti-Aircraft Missile Brigade. The first convoy was last filmed when entering Millerovo and likely was on its way to the military base of the Millerovo military airfield, while Buk 332 was later transported to the Russia-Ukraine border near Donetsk, Russia and from there into Ukraine. The second convoy likely headed further to a military camp southwest of Kamensk-Shakhtinsky.

This new report focuses on the drivers of the June and July 2014 Buk convoy trucks and, in particular, the truck that transported Buk 332. The truck has the license plate '4267 AH 50', and its trailer has the license plate 'XP 4679 50.' This report also describes additional possible drivers of the truck(s) that could have transported Buk 332 from Millerovo to the Russia-Ukraine border. Bellingcat has discovered that trucks of the same military unit (11385) and an additional group of drivers were present in Millerovo around mid-July 2014. In September 2014, several trucks of unit 11385 were in Millerovo, again accompanied by a different group of drivers, although some of them took part in previous driver groups as well. Apart from this finding, also previously undiscovered videos are detailed of the same truck and trailer that transported Buk 332, filmed at the end of July 2014, transporting a tank, with its destination very likely the Russia-Ukraine border.

¹ http://www.bellingcat.com/news/uk-and-europe/2015/05/13/tracking-the-trailers-investigation-of-mh17-buks-russianconvoy

² <u>http://www.bellingcat.com/news/uk-and-europe/2016/05/03/the_lost_digit</u>

The names of the soldier-drivers in this report have been changed to pseudonyms to protect their identities and all faces of soldier-drivers in the photographs have been blurred for the same reason. The name of Dmitry Z. was not changed, because he already was described in our 2015 report about the involvement of the 69th Separate Logistics Brigade in transport of military equipment to the Russia-Ukraine border and the June and July 2014 Buk convoys.

An uncensored version of this report including full names and uncensored photographs has been shared with the MH17 Joint Investigation Team (JIT).

Section One: Drivers of the 23-25 June 2014 Buk convoy

As described in *Tracking the Trailers*³, the Bellingcat investigation team discovered a photograph of Buk missile launcher 232 on a trailer hauled by a KamAZ truck. This was one of the missile launchers that was part of 23-25 June 2014 Buk convoy. Not long after the photograph was discovered, Bellingcat also discovered the social media profile of the driver of this KamAZ truck, named Dmitry Z. One day later, the photo was also discovered by InformNapalm, a research collective that mainly focuses on Russian involvement in the conflict in Eastern Ukraine. Shortly after they published photographs of Dmitry Z.'s profile, including the one showing Buk 232, the profile was removed by its owner.⁴ Dmitry Z. uploaded the photograph of Buk 232 on a trailer hauled by a KamAZ truck with license plate '6902 HH 50' on 24 June 2014 at 14:22. Buk 232 is visible in the 23-25 June 2014 Buk convoy videos as well, as one video shows a truck with the same license plate.⁵ The photograph was geolocated near Varvarovka on the road R185. Dmitry Z. uploaded another photograph of a Buk missile launcher on 25 June 2014 at 10:44. Here, the Buk was being transported in the direction of Millerovo, according to a road sign that indicates a distance of five kilometers to Millerovo. Soon after, at 11:12, he uploaded a photograph of his truck standing still and with rain on his window. Matching this scene, a video of the 23-25 June 2014 Buk convoy filmed in Millerovo on 25 June 2014 at 11:31 shows the convoy parked on the side of the road while it is raining.⁶



Left: Buk missile launcher 232 on a trailer hauled by truck '6902 HH 50' near Varvarovka, 24 June 2014 (14:22). Right: Buk missile launcher 232 hauled by truck '6902 HH 50' in a video filmed near Alexeyevka, 24 June 2014.

³ <u>http://www.bellingcat.com/news/uk-and-europe/2015/05/13/tracking-the-trailers-investigation-of-mh17-buks-russian-convoy</u>

⁴ <u>http://informnapalm.org/en/the-last-haul-of-the-russian-soldier-to-mh17</u>

⁵ <u>http://bellingcat-vehicles.silk co/page/0022-Aexeyevka%3A-Buk-convoy-south-and-out-of-town</u>

⁶ http://bellingcat-vehicles.silk co/page/0024-Millerovo%3A-Buk-convoy-on-a-rainy-day

The same truck with license plate '6902 HH 50' is also visible in photographs on the website PlatesMania.com (or avto-nomer.ru). One photograph shows this truck hauling Buk missile launcher 232 in Alexeyevka on 24 June 2014, uploaded at 17:37.⁷ Since the 23-25 June 2014 Buk convoy passed Alexeyevka on 24 June 2014, this photograph of truck '6902 HH 50' hauling Buk 232 was taken when this truck was part of the June 2014 Buk convoy. The driver was very likely Dmitry Z., as he uploaded a photograph of the same truck hauling Buk 232 that same day and, as *Tracking the Trailers* describes, truck '6902 HH 50' was Dmitry's truck until the end of June 2014, as also is described again later in this section. The photograph uploaded on PlatesMania was taken in Alexeyevka on ulitsa Chapaeva,⁸ shortly after the convoy was merging in Alexeyevka in front of the Magnit supermarket.⁹ The user who uploaded the photograph also uploaded a different photograph of one of the convoy's other vehicles.¹⁰



KamAZ truck '6902 HH 50' on PlatesMania (avto-nomer.ru) hauling Buk 232 in Alexeyevka on 24 June 2014.

http://www.google.com/maps/@50.6320564,38.6562744,3a,75y,244.66h,91.02t/data=!3m6!1e1!3m4!1sHFbKJDghxi8VQdpF cLApuw!2e0!7i13312!8i6656

⁹ <u>http://bellingcat-vehicles.silk.co/page/0020-Alexeyevka%3A-Buk-convoy-turning-and-merging-1</u> <u>http://bellingcat-vehicles.silk.co/page/0021-Alexeyevka%3A-Buk-convoy-turning-and-merging-2</u>

⁷ <u>http://avto-nomer.ru/ru/nomer5949429</u> <u>http://avto-nomer.ru/ru/foto5949429</u>

¹⁰ <u>http://avto-nomer.ru/ru/nomer5949427</u>



Left: another Buk missile launcher on a trailer, 5 kilometers from Millerovo, 25 June 2014 (10:44). Right: a photograph that shows Dmitry Z.'s truck stands still, while it is raining, 25 June 2014 (11:12).

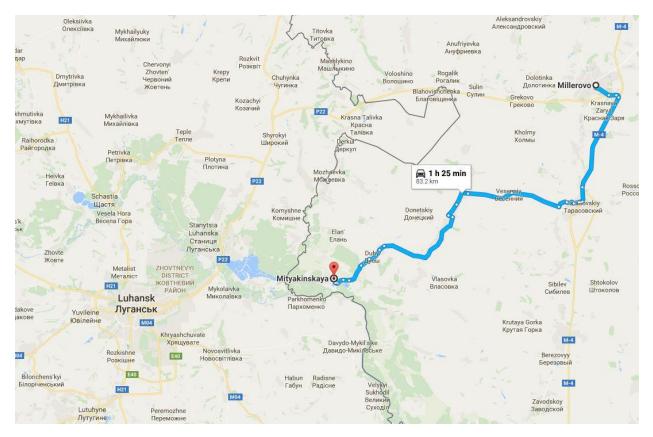
Five hours later on 25 June 2014, Dmitry uploaded a photograph of himself standing in a wheat field. It is not known where exactly this photo was taken; the landscape does not resemble the Millerovo military airfield area, but rather the wheat fields in Tarasovskiy rayon, a rural area southwest of Millerovo. Several similar photographs of wheat fields were found in photo albums of other drivers taken in the same area.



Left: Dmitry Z. standing in a wheat field, likely in the Tarasovskiy rayon, 25 June 2014 (15:03). Right: a wheat field in Tarasovskiy rayon, photographed by another driver on 19 June 2014.

Another soldier-driver of the same military transport unit as Dmitry Z. (unit 11385 or the 69th Separate Logistics Brigade) uploaded almost 400 photographs of his 2014 military service to a single photograph album online. He was not a driver in the 23-25 June 2014 Buk convoy, as photographs and wall posts of 23 June 2014 makes it clear he was driving to Kamensk-Shakhtinksy and Donetsk, Russia that day. However, photographs in this album give a very detailed description about a route he took in a convoy that transported military equipment from Millerovo to Mityakinskaya, close to the Russia-Ukraine border.

The majority of these photographs, many of them geotagged, were taken on 19 June 2014, and clarify that the route from Millerovo went via Tarasovskiy, Vesenniy, Verkhniy Mityakin, Nizhemityakin, Chebotovka and Duby to Mityakinskaya. Very likely, the Buk unit vehicles of the 2nd Battalion of the 53th Anti-Aircraft Missile Brigade that were transported in the 23-25 June 2014 Buk convoy took the same route, but then went to an area near Duby, as detailed in our report *MH17: Potential Suspects and Witnesses from the 53rd Anti-Aircraft Missile Brigade*.¹¹



Another soldier-driver's route from Millerovo to Mityakinskaya on 19 June 2014.

¹¹ <u>http://www.bellingcat.com/news/uk-and-europe/2016/02/23/53rd-report-en</u>

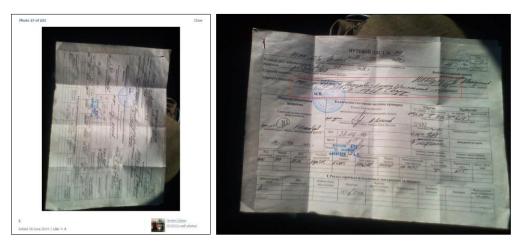
If the photograph of Dmitry Z. in a wheat field was indeed taken in the Tarasovskiy rayon and not in the area of the military base at the Millerovo military airfield, it means the 23-25 June 2014 Buk convoy did not transport all of the Buk vehicles to the Millerovo military airfield, but instead directly to areas near the Russia-Ukraine border. It is possible that the convoy first went to a location in Millerovo, from where they were transported further to the border area near Duby. In this area, a military camp is visible on September 2014 satellite imagery, with some vehicles resembling Buk missile launchers, as described in our report about the 53rd Anti-Aircraft Missile Brigade.

The photograph showing Buk 232 on a trailer hauled by a KamAZ truck also shows another Buk missile launcher on a trailer, also hauled by a KamAZ truck. In *Tracking the Trailers*, Bellingcat claims the Buk missile launcher behind Buk 232 is in fact Buk 332, as Buk 332 was likely the only Buk missile launcher in the convoy with an uncovered lamp. This claim is solidified after further examination of Dmitry's photograph and other videos and photos of Buk 332 in the 23-25 June 2014 Buk convoy. A close inspection of these materials show us that more similarities are visible between the second truck and Buk in Dmitry's photo and the truck and Buk 332 in photos and videos of the 23-25 June 2014 Buk convoy. First of all, a grey strip with a lighter color than usual under the right lamp of the truck is clearly visible in a photograph of the truck that hauled Buk 332, which also is visible in Dmitry's photograph. Secondly, the truck that hauled Buk 332 had its beacon light on the driver's side, while the majority of the trucks had the light on the passenger's side. A guardrail for missiles is folded down during transport. On Buk 332, the guardrail is folded in a slightly different way than usual, with it being positioned closer to the front compared to other Buk missile launchers in the convoy. This feature is also visible in Dmitry's photograph.



Left: Second Buk hauled by a KamAZ truck in Dmitry's photograph, Varvarovka, 24 June 2014. Right: Buk 332 hauled by KamAZ truck '4267 AH 50' near Alexeyevka, 24 June 2014. Blue rectangle: grey strip under the right lamp, orange circle: beacon light at the right side, red circle: uncovered lamp, green circle: guard rail folded in a slight different way to the front.

After 25 June 2014, Dmitry Z. drove back to Millerovo and received a transport order on 27 June 2014. This transport order makes clear that he transported military equipment from Millerovo to Kamensk-Shakhtinsky on 28 June 2014. The transport order also shows that Dmitry was in military unit 11385, the 69th Separate Logistics Brigade. On his profile, he described himself as being in the 147th Automobile Battalion for Material Support (military unit 83466), the larger unit to which the 69th Separate Logistics Brigade belongs.



Left: transport order uploaded by Dmitry Z. on 28 June 2014

Right: the order mentions a route from Millerovo to Kamensk-Shakhtinsky and back, signed on 27 June 2014.

On 29 June 2014, Dmitry uploaded a photograph of his truck, including a description 'last route on my 6902 HH'. In *Tracking the Trailers*, it's stated that this photograph was taken in Kamensk-Shakhtinsky, but further investigation shows it was actually taken in Millerovo.



A photograph taken in Millerovo of Dmitry's truck hauling a MT-LB, uploaded on 29 June 2014 (at 11:44).

In *Tracking the Trailers*, our team describes that a catenary portal is visible in the distance. Apparently, not everything is as it first appears, as crowd sourcing later revealed that the portal is in fact a gantry or portal crane.¹² The pole visible in front of the roll crane is a floodlight tower.¹³ This means the photograph was not taken near a railroad, but rather near an industrial area.



Left: gantry or portal crane visible on Dmitry's photograph in the distance behind a floodlight tower. Right: gantry crane type KK 30-32, similar to the type of crane in Dmitry's photograph.

The Bellingcat team managed to geolocate the photograph based on the gantry crane and floodlight tower to an area in the southwest of Millerovo, next to an agricultural company named Amylco.¹⁴ The position of Dmitry's photograph is near the entrance of that company, with many landmarks of the photograph visible in satellite imagery.¹⁵



Geolocation of Dmitry's photograph shows many similar landmarks, as the gantry crane (red rectangle), floodlight tower (green rectangle), an electricity pole (yellow rectangle) and poles on the side of the road (blue rectangle). Some poles near the gantry crane are both visible in Dmitry's photo as on satellite imagery (purple rectangles). Satellite imagery of 29 September 2014 shows military vehicles in this area (big red rectangle).

¹² <u>http://bellingcat.checkdesk.org/en/story/1913</u> <u>http://www.board.com.ua/m0408-1040869747-kran-kk-30-32.html</u>

¹³ http://photos.wikimapia.org/p/00/02/67/70/34_big.jpg

¹⁴ <u>http://amylco.ru/main/</u>

¹⁵ <u>http://yandex.com/maps/?ll=40.366136%2C48.907879&z=17&l=sat</u> <u>http://www.google.com/maps/place/48%C2%B054'13.1%22N+40%C2%B021'58.9%22E/@48.9064473,40.3654638,726m/</u> <u>data=!3m1!1e3!4m5!3m4!1s0x0:0x0!8m2!3d48 9036389!4d40.3663611</u>

Other publications and videos make clear that, in the summer of 2014, a temporary military area was created for the transit of military equipment.¹⁶ Two videos show the same floodlight tower visible in Dmitry's photograph and one video shows several KamAZ trucks hauling tanks coming from the transit area to drive on the same road visible in Dmitry's photograph. Also, other soldier-drivers from military unit 11385 uploaded photographs from this military transit camp southwest of Millerovo.



Left: floodlight tower visible in a video filmed in the same area southwest of Millerovo. Right: KamAZ trucks hauling tanks in the same video, coming from the transit camp, about to hit the road.



Left: photograph of the military transit camp, photographed in June 2014, uploaded in 2016. Right: photograph of the same camp, uploaded on 28 July 2014.

¹⁶ http://informnapalm.org/8240-podrazdelenye-69-j-brygady-prykrytyya-yz-byrobydzhan-v-myllerovo/ http://bellingcat-vehicles.silk.co/page/1291-Millerovo%3A-MBTs-on-trailers http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vn1-Oy9kZ2s http://twitter.com/ravelin_by/status/747800062168817664 As described in *Tracking the Trailers*, Dmitry Z. uploaded a photograph on 28 June, taken from inside his truck, showing the M4 highway and the turnoff in the direction of Kamensk-Shakhtinksy and Donetsk, Russia. Another photograph was uploaded by Dmitry on 29 June, showing him driving his truck. This photo was uploaded a minute after the one where he stands before his truck, showing that these photographs were uploaded much later than they were taken and must have been uploaded a day later, as Dmitry started his last transport of military equipment on 28 June before the end of his military service. The last photos taken during Dmitry's military service show him in a train, photograph uploaded on 30 June 2014, KamAZ trucks hauling empty trailers on a turnoff to Millerovo, photograph uploaded on 2 July 2014, and Dmitry standing in front of a base of military unit 11385, the 69th Separate Logistics Brigade, in Novosmolinskiy near Mulino. The photograph of KamAZ trucks hauling empty trailers must have been taken a few days earlier, as he returned to this base of unit 11385 on 29 or 30 June 2014.

Dmitry's photographs after 25 June 2014 do not show any other soldier-drivers and do not give any information about other possible drivers of the 23-25 June 2014 Buk convoy. For identifying other drivers or other information about the 23-25 June 2014 Buk convoy, the photographs after 25 June 2014 may first seem irrelevant, but actually do provide useful information about the last days of Dmitry's service, his last transport route, and the military transit camp in southwest Millerovo. This information gives an indication that the 23-25 June 2014 Buk convoy might have been sent to the military transit camp instead of the Millerovo military airfield, before the Buk unit vehicles were transported to the border area.

Photographs uploaded before 24 June 2014 provide much information about the group of soldier-drivers who were possibly involved in the transport of Buk unit vehicles from Marshala Zhukova (near Kursk) to Millerovo and/or further in the direction of the Russia-Ukraine border, likely near Duby in the Tarasovskiy rayon.

Photographs uploaded on 10 and 11 June 2014 show transport of military equipment in a convoy that passed Shatsk, Tambov, and Voronezh. However, these photographs also show no other soldier-drivers, but photographs uploaded between 13 and 19 June 2014 show, aside from camouflaged KamAZ trucks and trailers, soldier-drivers in a rural area, next to a well and around a camp fire.

Since two photographs of camouflaged KamAZ trucks with camouflage nets in identical states were uploaded by Dmitry, one on 13 June 2014 and the other on 18 June 2014, it is very likely that all of the photographs uploaded in between this period with soldiers show the soldier-drivers of these KamAZ trucks. Also, as will be described later in this section, a key photograph of soldier-drivers sitting around a camp fire shows camouflaged trucks in the background.

It must be noted that Bellingcat was able to save screenshots of all photographs uploaded by Dmitry between 15 May and 2 July 2014, created a list with original URLs of photographs uploaded between 19 April and 9 August 2014 that still are online at the time of writing, and archived Dmitry's profile, albums overview, contact list, and several photographs. Bellingcat provided all of this information to the MH17 Joint Investigation Team (JIT).



Left: KamAZ trucks camouflaged with nets, one truck showing partly its license ending at '02 HH 50', very likely Dmitry's truck, photograph uploaded 18 June 2014 by Dmitry.

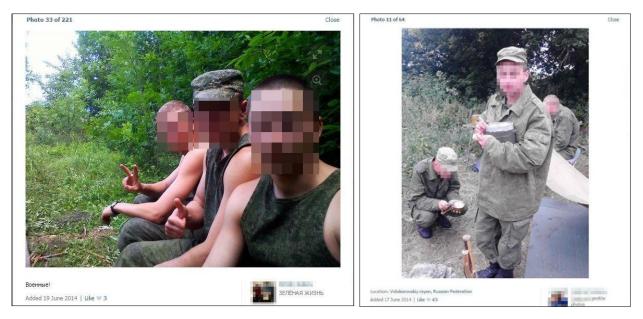
Right: the same KamAZ trucks, covered with nets exactly the same way, so at the same location, photograph uploaded 13 June 2014 by Dmitry. (the screenshot was taken at the moment Dmitry was closing/removing his profile, that resulted in the photographs still being shown, but without extra information).

In three of Dmitry's photographs with other soldier-drivers (including the camp fire photograph that will be described later in this section), two names of other soldier-drivers are tagged: Alexey R. and Emin V.

Photographs on the profiles of Alexey and Emin make it clear who is who in Dmitry's photographs. A photograph uploaded by Alexey on 24 June 2014 strongly suggests that this photograph was taken in the same rural area and with the same group of soldier-drivers as in Dmitry Z.'s 13 to 19 June 2014 photographs.

A photograph uploaded by Dmitry on 19 June 2014 does not tag any names, but again shows Emin on the left and two other soldier-drivers who were identified as Alexander B. and Vasily R. Vasily also uploaded photographs of soldier-drivers in a rural area and one of these photographs, uploaded on 17 June 2014, is geotagged in the Volokonovskiy rayon, near Belgorod and very close to the Russia-Ukraine border.¹⁷ Aside from that, Vasily also uploaded a photograph of himself in front of a KamAZ truck on 2 July 2014 and photographs taken by Dmitry, among them the photograph of Buk 232 hauled by Dmitry's truck of 24 June 2014 and one of the photographs showing camouflaged KamAZ trucks.

¹⁷ <u>http://www.google.com/maps/place/Volokonovsky+District,+Oblast+Belgorod,+Russia</u>



Left: a photo, uploaded 19 June 2014 by Dmitry Z., showing Emin V., Alexander B. and Vasily R. Right: Vasily R. and two other soldiers, uploaded on 17 June 2014, geotagged in the Volokonovskiy rayon.



Left: Alexey R. in a rural area with another soldier-driver, 24 June 2014. Right: Alexander B. and Emin V., uploaded on 23 February 2016.

The photograph that give most information about the group of drivers of the 23-25 June 2014 Buk convoy is from Dmitry's album, showing a group of nine soldier-drivers, seven of them sitting around a campfire and roasting sausages on sticks. In this photograph, several of the soldier-drivers from the previous photographs are visible again: Dmitry Z., Alexey R., Emin V. and Alexander B. From the two soldiers standing behind the group around the campfire one is impossible to identify, as his face is not visible, the other is very difficult to identify, as his face is only partly visible, but this soldier likely is Vasily R., who is also visible in previous photographs. One soldier-driver visible on the campfire photograph, sitting fourth from right, is also visible in one of Dmitry's tagged photographs. Two other soldier-drivers are only visible on this photograph, meaning not in any other photographs in Dmitry's album.



Nine soldier-drivers at a campfire, behind a camouflaged KamAZ truck, with Alexey R. (right at the front), Dmitry Z. (second from right behind Alexey R.), Emin V. (third from right behind Dmitry Z) and Alexander B. (on the left side). Behind standing on the left side possibly Vasily R, photograph uploaded by Dmitry Z. on 18 June 2014.

Only one soldier is tagged in the photograph, Alexey R., but Dmitry tagged a part of the surname of another soldier-driver. Dmitry's contact list shows only one person with a surname that resembles the tagged part, a friend named Mikhail Z. Shortly after Dmitry removed his profile, Mikhail removed his profile photo and other details from his profile. His profile photograph makes it not that clear that he is indeed the same person as on Dmitry's photographs, but an archived profile photograph and photographs in a community he follows, make it clear he is the same person as in several of Dmitry's photographs.



Left: Mikhail Z. on his now deleted VK profile photograph. Right: Mikhail Z. on an archived profile photograph.

The soldier-driver visible in the campfire photograph as second from left (to the right of Alexander B.) isn't easy to identify, as he looks down to the campfire instead of in the direction of the camera, like the other soldiers. However, this soldier-driver can be identified as Nikita M., as a photograph in his album clearly shows he is the same person as the soldier-driver sitting second from left on the campfire photograph.



Left: second soldier-driver from the left around the campfire; right: Nikita M., 19 May 2014.

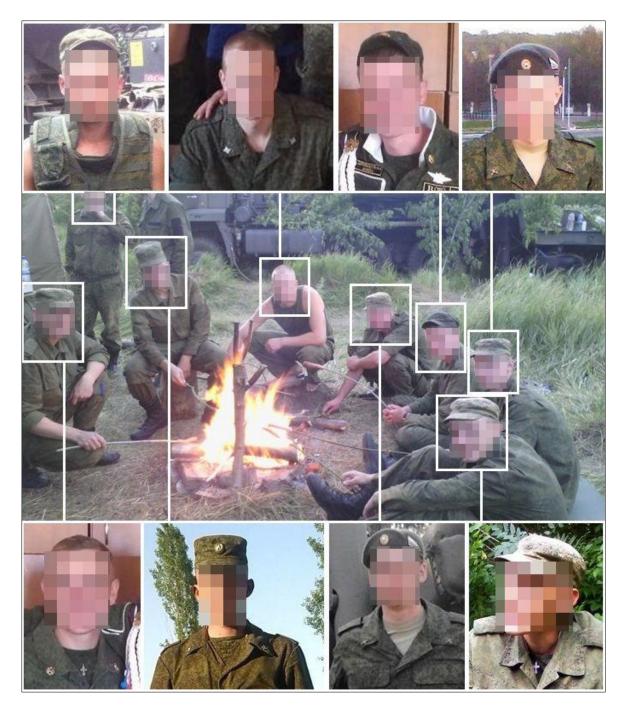
The last soldier-driver visible as third from the left on the campfire photograph could not be identified and only one other photograph was found showing the same soldier-driver.



Left: third soldier-driver from the left around the campfire; right: same soldier on a different photograph.

Despite the fact that several soldier-drivers of this group also have or have had photographs in their album of unit 11385's military base in Novosmolinskiy, the base of the 2nd Battalion of the 69th Separate Logistics Brigade, it's likely they spent most of their service based out of subunit 11385-2, the 1st Battalion of the 69th Separate Logistics Brigade, in Kalininets. Appendix One explains more about these subunits of unit 11385.

To sum up: from several photographs in Dmitry's album, seven soldier-drivers were identified. The campfire photograph is key because almost the whole group of soldier-drivers is visible in one shot.



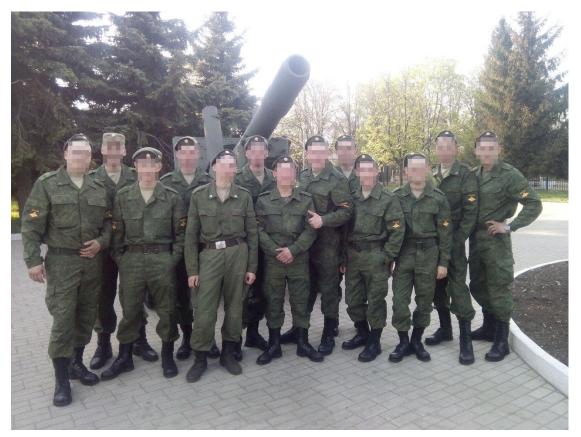
Seven soldiers identified from Dmitry's photographs, one soldier's photograph found, but not identified. Up: (likely) Vasily R., unidentified soldier, Emin V., Dmitry Z. Down: Alexander B., Nikita M., Mikhail Z., Alexey R.

Other possible drivers of the 23-25 June 2014 Buk convoy

The campfire photograph shows nine soldier-drivers, seven of them identified and one found back on another photograph without being identified. One soldier's face is not visible and two soldier-drivers are missing on the photograph (as they transported eleven Buk unit vehicles, there were eleven KamAZ truck drivers). There are a few clues as to who the missing soldier-drivers could be, but firm evidence of their involvement in the 23-25 June 2014 Buk convoy has not been found.

To identify the whole group of soldier-drivers where Dmitry Z. was serving in subunit 11385-2, some photographs in Dmitry's album are a good starting point. In early May 2014, Dmitry, while in a group of at least fourteen soldier-drivers, visited the 27th Separate Guards Motorized Rifle Brigade (unit 61899) in Moscow,¹⁸ before they assisted in Moscow's Victory Day Parade.

Two photographs in Dmitry's album show almost the whole group: each photo shows thirteen soldier-drivers, but two soldier-drivers are only in one photograph. Twelve soldier-drivers of this group were identified, all of whom are visible in one of the two photographs.



A group of thirteen soldier-drivers, from which twelve were identified, uploaded by Dmitry, 2 May 2014.

¹⁸ <u>http://voinskayachast.ru/suhoputnie-voyska/motostrelkovie/vch-61899</u> ;

http://wikimapia.org/#lang=en&lat=55.612281&lon=37.464902&z=16&m=b&search=%D0%B2%2F%D1%87%2061899

Three of these soldier-drivers were certainly drivers in the 23-25 June 2014 Buk convoy: Dmitry Z., Mikhail Z. and Alexander B. One of the other soldier-drivers uploaded a group photograph taken at the base of unit 11385-2 in Kalininets on 10 June 2014. In this photograph, some of the soldier-drivers from Dmitry's photographs are visible, including Mikhail Z. and Alexey R. Five other soldier-drivers were identified as well, but unfortunately four could not be identified.



Added 10 June 2014 | Like 🖤 14

Group of soldier-drivers on the base of unit 11385-2 in Kalininets, uploaded 10 June 2014.

However, many of the soldier-drivers from these group photographs were in different groups of drivers and took part in different convoys, several of them ended their service in June 2014 before or during the June convoy was on its way, and some of them were at the base of the military unit in the end of June 2014.

Ten soldier-drivers of these group photographs can be excluded. This means from about ten other soldier-drivers, out of which five have been identified, some possibly were drivers in the 23-25 June 2014 Buk convoy as well.

Possible drivers of the truck that hauled Buk 332 in the 23-25 June 2014 Buk convoy

In *Tracking the Trailers* the Bellingcat team described four possible drivers of truck '4267 AH 50', the truck that hauled Buk 332 in the 23-25 June 2014 Buk convoy. Three of these drivers uploaded photographs of the truck itself with license '4267 AH 50' and one person uploaded a photograph of the trailer with license 'XP 4679 50', which was hauled by this truck.

Michael Z. is one of the soldier-drivers, who uploaded a photo of truck '4267 AH 50' on Dmitry's profile on 12 December 2013, and when *Tracking the Trailers* was published, the Bellingcat team did not yet realize that Mikhail was one of the soldier-drivers on Dmitry's photographs taken between 14 and 19 June 2014, including the campfire photograph (see earlier this section).



Truck '4267 AH 50' on the left side of this photograph, uploaded by Mikhail Z. on Dmitry's profile, 12 December 2013.

The fact that Mikhail Z. uploaded a photograph of truck '4267 AH 50' on Dmitry's profile is, of course, no evidence that Mikhail was the driver of truck '4267 AH 50' in December 2013. Apart from that, it is also unclear who the person is standing on the trailer hauled by the truck next to truck '4267 AH 50'. Since Dmitry uploaded a similar photograph of the other truck and the same person on the trailer, it is possible this person is Dmitry himself.

As described earlier this section, Mikhail Z. deleted his profile photograph and other details from his profile. A post he deleted, earlier added by a colleague soldier-driver, refers to an article on the website 'Fontanka', an internet magazine from St. Petersburg,¹⁹ about transport of military equipment in the rehearsal of the parade for the 70th Anniversary of the Liberation from the Blockade. This soldier-driver also posted a photograph on his own profile on 23 December 2013, the same date as the Fontanka article was published, showing the transport of a tank on a trailer, hauled by a KamAZ truck.

The article describes how a military convoy was driving in St. Petersburg on Prospekt Nepokorennykh and turned at Prospekt Grazhdanskiy before moving out of town. The embedded video shows a part of the convoy coming from Prospekt Nepokorennykh turning left at Kushelevskaya road (but people in St. Petersburg often still call that road Prospekt Grazhdanskiy).²⁰ The quality of the video makes it difficult to discern the license plates of the trucks, but similar videos uploaded on YouTube of the same military convoy show several readable license plates,²¹ most of them ending on 'EE 43'. Nowadays, 43 is the civil region code of Kirov Oblast, but used to be the military region code for the Leningrad Military District.²² Another YouTube video shows military vehicles driving under their own power on Prospekt Nepokorennykh in the direction of the Piskaryovsky memorial area, where the parade rehearsal was held.²³

Another video, uploaded on 23 December 2013 in 1080p HD,²⁴ showing the same military convoy, shows (like the other videos) KamAZ trucks transporting military vehicles. However, in this video, trucks of the 69th Separate Logistics Brigade are visible and some of these trucks took part in the 23-25 June 2014 Buk convoy. Among these trucks include '4267 AH 50', the truck that transported Buk 332 in that convoy.

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²¹ <u>http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TPDEce8rFvo</u> <u>http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kPhFvRZIgcO</u> <u>http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HynGKVvBfaA</u>

¹⁹ http://www.fontanka.ru/2013/12/23/142/; http://archive.is/JOO9n

http://www.google.com/maps/@59.9958818,30.3812294,3a,75y,126.77h,84.23t/data=!3m6!1e1!3m4!1sulNa2PHKbmDHStm guD8Daw!2e0!7i13312!8i6656

²² <u>http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vehicle_registration_plates_of_Russia</u>; <u>http://www.autotrace.ru/info/code_voen.php</u>

²³ http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=406QyhZ3s04 http://www.google.com/maps/@59.9932491,30.427194,3a,75y,206.98h,91.24t/data=!3m6!1e1!3m4!1sSt_wjE6043jl33nqRug T2Q!2e0!7i13312!8i6656!6m1!1e1

²⁴ <u>http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CSWKnloBckM</u>



KamAZ truck '4267 AH 50', which later transported Buk 332 in the 23-25 June 2014 Buk convoy.

In this video, some of the trucks from the three other videos are visible as well, which makes it clear it is the same military convoy, filmed on 23 December 2013 in St. Petersburg. The convoy in this video is filmed on Prospekt Marshala Blyukhera, on its way out of town, after the rehearsal of the parade.²⁵

The license plates of trucks that were part of the 23-25 June 2014 Buk convoy are (apart from '4267 AH 50') '9465 AT 50', '8469 HH 50' and '6902 HH 50', the last of which being the truck of Dmitry Z. in the June 2014 Buk convoy.

Several other soldier-drivers uploaded photographs in December 2013 and January 2014 showing the transport of military vehicles. These photographs show trucks transporting military vehicles either in St. Petersburg or the nearby Pushkin airport.²⁶

Among these soldier-drivers are a few who were also drivers in the 23-25 June 2014 Buk convoy. Alexey R. uploaded photographs between 22 December 2013 and 29 January 2014 of military transport in the area of the Pushkin airport. On these photographs, trucks with the same license plates as in the St. Petersburg videos are visible, but also a truck with license '7037 HH 50', which belongs to the 69th Separate Logistics Brigade (unit 11385). There is no information regarding which truck belonged to him in unit 11385.

Vasily R. also uploaded several photographs between 21 December 2013 and 27 January 2014, the day of the 70th Anniversary of the Liberation of the Blockade, that make clear that he transported military vehicles in both the rehearsal on 23 December 2013 and the parade itself. His photographs do not make clear which truck he drove in unit 11385.

²⁵ http://www.google.com/maps/@59.9806412,30.378378,3a,75y,267.92h,90 95t/data=!3m6!1e1!3m4!1sInO_LTHykcO4g-gxcE1mtQ!2e0!7i13312!8i6656

²⁶ http://web.archive.org/web/20060617144346/http://www.russianairfields.com/airfield/Pushkin.htm http://archive.is/5y3lm; http://www.aviasalonpushkin.com; http://www.google.com/maps/place/Aerodrom+Pushkin/@59.6880331,30.3337945,4303m/data=!3m1!1e3!4m5!3m4!1s0x 469621ed97d761fb:0x42ac2b5da434248e!8m2!3d59.685!4d30.3383333

Nikita M. also uploaded photographs of the military transport at and near the Pushkin airport in December 2013 and January 2014. Photographs in his album show he was in unit 11385 at the end of December 2013 and early January 2014, but his photographs don't make clear which truck belonged to him when he served in unit 11385.

Several other soldier-drivers who were not in the 23-25 June 2014 Buk convoy, but were soldier-drivers in unit 11385, also uploaded photographs of the military vehicles at the Pushkin airport or in St. Petersburg between 25 December 2013 and 20 January 2014. These photographs show KamAZ trucks '7378 HC 50', '0886 AH 50' and '0516 HC 50', belonging to unit 11385. One soldier-driver uploaded a photograph of trucks '0870 AH 50' and '7037 HH 50.', likely taken on the military base in Kalininets of unit 11385, trucks that were also in St. Petersburg in January 2014.

The website PlatesMania.com (avto-nomer.ru)²⁷ shows several photographs of the trucks of the 69th Separate Logistics Brigade that took part in the transport of military equipment for the 70th Anniversary of the Liberation from the Blockade in St. Petersburg. In particular, trucks with license plates '8038 AT 50', '8469 HH 50', '7378 HC 50', '0870 AH 50', '4678 HE 50' and '7037 HH 50' are visible in these photographs.²⁸

The HD St. Petersburg video shows, apart from trucks '4267 AH 50', '9465 AT 50', '8469 HH 50' and '6902 HH 50', a few other trucks from the 69^{th} Separate Logistics Brigade with license plates '5062 HC 50', '0886 AH 50', '0876 AH 50', '0516 HC 50', '5945 HH 50', '5996 HH 50', '4678 HE 50', '0864 AH 50' and '9468 HH 50'.

Very likely one of these trucks was also in the 23-25 June 2014 Buk convoy, as an image in Dmitry's photo album shows. His photographs of camouflaged trucks (see earlier this section) partly show the license plate of his own truck ('6902 HH 50'), but one of the photographs also shows a license plate that begins with '50'. No photographs found in albums of soldier-drivers or videos show a license plate of a truck of the 69th Separate Logistics Brigade that begins with '50' except truck '5062 HC 50'.

²⁷ <u>http://platesmania.com</u> ; <u>http://avto-nomer.ru</u>

²⁸ http://avto-nomer.ru/ru/nomer5924772; http://avto-nomer.ru/ru/nomer5924773 http://avto-nomer.ru/ru/nomer5924784 http://avto-nomer.ru/ru/nomer5924787 http://avto-nomer.ru/ru/nomer5924810 http://avto-nomer.ru/ru/nomer5924811



On the left, a truck with a license plate that begins with '50'; in the middle, Dmitry's truck '6902 HH 50'.

Another truck that could have been in the 23-25 June 2014 Buk convoy is the one with the license plate '0864 AH 50', as it very likely belonged to one of the soldier-drivers described in the previous subsection, who could have been a driver in the June 2014 Buk convoy as he ended his military service in early July 2014. The website PlatesMania.com (avto-nomer.ru) shows a photograph of truck '0864 AH 50', uploaded 9 May 2014 and taken in or near Moscow, where the soldier-driver is visible as the driver of that truck.²⁹



KamAZ truck '0864 AH 50', 9 May 2014, with the driver recognizable.

²⁹ <u>http://avto-nomer.ru/ru/nomer5940835</u>

However, some of the 69th Separate Logistics Brigade trucks that transported military equipment for the St. Petersburg parade in January 2014 were not part of the 23-25 June 2014 Buk convoy, as those trucks were with a different group of drivers in June 2014. These trucks are '4678 HE 50', '7378 HC 50', '8038 AT 50', '5945 HH 50' and '0516 HC 50'. Also, trucks with license plates '0886 AH 50', '7037 HH 50' and '0876 AH 50' were likely not part of the June 2014 Buk convoy. The next section will describe this group of drivers and their trucks in further detail.

Two soldier-drivers uploaded photographs of trucks parked in a vehicle yard around the time the 69th Separate Logistics Brigade took part in military equipment transport of the parade in St. Petersburg. One photograph shows four soldier-drivers standing in the vehicle yard with several parked KamAZ trucks, one of them having the license plate '0876 AH 50'.

Another soldier-driver uploaded a photograph of the same vehicle yard with parked trucks on 24 January 2014. The license plates of the trucks on the left side of the photograph are not clearly visible, but after closer examination it is clear the license plate of the second truck from the left side is '4267 AH 50' - the truck that transported Buk 332 in the 23-25 June 2014 Buk convoy. The license plate from the third truck from the left possibly is '5945 HH 50' and from the fourth truck the license plates are: '5062 HC 50', '9465 AT 50', '0886 AH 50' and '7037 HH 50'. Apart from truck '4267 AH 50', truck '9465 AT 50' and very likely '5062 HC 50' were also in the 23-25 June 2014 Buk convoy. The two soldier-drivers who uploaded the photographs were in a different group of drivers in June 2014, as will be described in the next section.



Left: four soldier-drivers (Mikhail Z. is the second from left) in a vehicle yard, uploaded 10 January 2014, a license plate of truck '0876 AH 50' is just visible through a gate on the left side of the photograph. Right: A different view to the parked KamAZ trucks, photograph uploaded 13 January 2014, with license plates '4267 AH 50', '5945 HH 50', '5062 HC 50', '9465 AT 50', '0886 AH 50' and '7037 HH 50'. The photographs of the vehicle yards with KamAZ trucks were geolocated in Pushkin, not far from Pushkin Airport, in a northwest corner of the base of the disbanded (as of 2011) military unit 42719, or 'His Imperial Majesty's Royal Guards Hussar Regiment'.³⁰ Also, the photographs of Mikhail Z. and Dmitry Z. from the beginning of this subsection were geolocated on this base, with a view to the south facing the Sophia Cathedral.³¹

It is possible that Mikhail Z. was the driver of truck '4267 AH 50' in both the transport of military equipment for the St. Petersburg 70th Anniversary of the Liberation of the Blockade and in the 23-25 June 2014 Buk convoy as well. In that case, Mikhail Z. was the driver who transported Buk 332 in the 23-25 June 2014 Buk convoy.

The trucks with license plates '5062 HC 50' and '9465 AT 50', visible on the Pushkin military base photograph, and truck '8469 HH 50', visible in the HD St. Petersburg video, were all trucks in the 23-25 June 2014 Buk convoy, and therefore Mikhail Z. could have been the driver of one these trucks as well.

Additionally, Mikhail Z. is not the sole candidate as the driver of truck '4267 AH 50' in the 23-25 June 2014 Buk convoy. It is not known which truck most drivers in this convoy drove, so Alexey R., Emin V., Vasily R., Alexander B. and Nikita M., as well as several other possible drivers from the 23-25 June 2014 Buk convoy could have been drivers of truck '4267 AH 50' in that convoy.

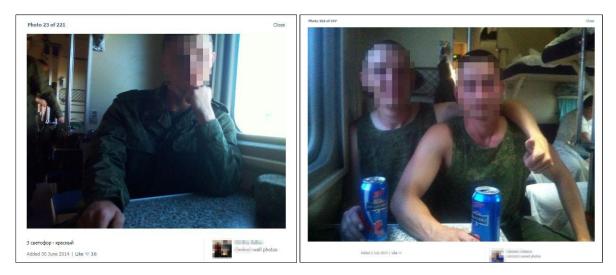
Furthermore, while it is important to identify the '4267 AH 50' truck driver from June 23-25, this person is not necessarily the same driver who transported Buk 332 further to the Russia-Ukraine border, likely in the night of 16 to 17 July 2014. Moreover, the driver who transported Buk 332 after the MH17 shootdown on or after 18 July 2014 from the border further into Russia, may yet again have been a different driver. In other words: there could be several drivers involved in the transport of Buk 332 in June and July 2014.

Some of the soldier-drivers of the 23-25 June 2014 Buk convoy returned home, travelled back to the base of unit 11385, or left Millerovo on a train. Photographs from Dmitry's album show how he travelled by train on or just before 30 June 2014 and arrived at the base of unit 11385 in Novosmolinskiy on or just before 2 July 2014. Also, a photograph in Vasily R.'s album shows himself and Alexey R., traveling by train on 2 July 2014. It is possible that all three soldier-drivers were travelling on the same train, but it is at least obvious that Dmitry Z., Vasily R. and Alexey R. all left Millerovo between 29 June and 2 July 2014. Photographs in Nikita M.'s album show that he returned to the base of unit 11385 in Novosmolinskiy on or before 14 July 2014.

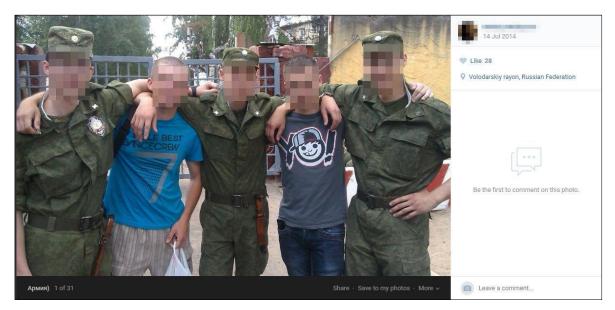
³⁰ <u>http://wikimapia.org/#lang=en&lat=59.707384&lon=30.391960&z=17&m=b</u>

http://www.google.com/maps/@59.7079019,30.3900392,3a,75y,169.55h,91.53t/data=!3m6!1e1!3m4!1slyUpUO_vOxS_pO92_ HHvC1w!2e0!7i13312!8i6656 ; http://egrinf.com/9041673 ; http://www.rusprofile.ru/id/9915742

³¹ <u>http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sophia_Cathedral; http://sobory.ru/article/?object=00456</u> <u>http://www.google.com/maps/@59.7062231,30.3931043,3a,75y,165.04h,97.17t/data=!3m6!1e1!3m4!1sNlt4TSEV1_wCISTOa</u> 2HUdg!2e0!7i13312!8i6656



Left: Dmitry Z , 30 June 2014; Right: Alexey R. and Vasily R., 2 July 2014.



Nikita M. (2nd from left) at the base of unit 11385 in Novosmolinskiy, 14 July 2014.

Photographs in Emin V.'s album show he returned back home on 4 July 2014 at the earliest, and photographs in the albums of other soldier-drivers who could have been in the 23-25 June 2014 Buk convoy show they returned home or to the base of unit 11385 in the end of June or early July 2014.

This indicates that most of the drivers of the 23-25 June 2014 Buk convoy returned back home or to the base of unit 11385 at the end of June or early July 2014. However, information on profiles and photographs of Alexander B. and Mikhail Z. don't make it completely clear when they returned back home or to the base of unit 11385. Also, profiles and photographs of two other soldier-drivers who could have been in the 23-25 June 2014 Buk convoy don't give information about their return home or to the base, but photographs of one of them make clear he still was in the army in September and October 2014. A photograph in an album of another soldier-driver was uploaded on 26 March 2014, where he writes that there are 100 days left before the end of his military service. In this photograph, we see him and other soldier-drivers with shaved heads. It is a common habit in the Russian army to shave the head 100 days before the end of the service, indicating that all soldier-drivers at this photograph had about 100 days left before the end of their service. In this photograph the following soldier-drivers are visible: Dmitry Z., Alexander B., Mikhail Z., the other soldier himself and three other soldier-drivers. With 100 days of service to go from 26 March 2014 means that the military service of these soldier-drivers all would have ended at 8 July 2014. It is possible that the photograph was likely taken a few days earlier, as Dmitry ended his service at 2 July 2014, or all of the soldiers did not all have the same remaining days left when the photo was taken.



Soldier-drivers with shaved heads, 100 days before the end of their military service, uploaded 26 March 2014, among them Dmitry Z., Alexander B. and Mikhail Z.

It is very likely that all soldier-drivers of the 23-25 June 2014 Buk convoy ended their military service in the beginning of July 2014, as it is clear that Dmitry Z., Alexander B., Mikhail Z., and also Vasily R., Alexey R. and several other soldier-drivers who could have been in the 23-25 June 2014 Buk convoy all ended their service around 2 July 2014.

It is, however, possible that one of the soldier-drivers of the group was asked to stay longer in Millerovo, to transport Buk 332 to the Russia-Ukraine border on or shortly before 16 July 2014. Since almost all of the soldier-drivers returned home or to the base of unit 11385 around 2 July 2014, only Mikhail Z., Alexander B. or the unidentified soldier-driver from Dmitry's campfire photograph group could have transported Buk 332 to the border, if we are to assume that a soldier-driver from the 69th Separate Logistics Brigade provided transport. From the other possible drivers, two of them could have been in Millerovo in mid-July 2014, but since eight soldier-drivers from the 23-25 June 2014 Buk convoy were identified, and it is not known who the other three drivers were, Buk 332 could have been transported to the border by another unknown soldier-driver from the same group of drivers. No definitive conclusion can be made regarding who was the driver of truck '4267 AH 50' in the 23-25 June 2014 Buk convoy, although Mikhail Z. is the only driver of the group of soldier-drivers who was in that convoy and uploaded a photograph of truck '4267 AH 50'.

Because of the limits of available open source information, Bellingcat also cannot make a definitive conclusion regarding if any of the same group of drivers transported Buk 332 to the Russia-Ukraine border or if the same truck with license '4267 AH 50' was used for that transport. If it was used, no information was found indicating which soldier-driver of the group drove that truck to the border. Some soldier-drivers possibly stayed longer in Millerovo, among them Mikhail Z. and Alexander B., but two other soldier-drivers who also could have been drivers in the June 2014 Buk convoy were there as well.

In Millerovo in mid-July 2014, the KamAZ truck with license '4267 AH 50' was present, along with a completely different group of soldier-drivers, as will be described in the next section.

Section Two: Drivers in Millerovo Mid-July 2014

On 12, 13 and 14 June 2014, several soldier-drivers uploaded the same or similar group photos of soldier-drivers standing in front of KamAZ trucks at the Pogonovo training field in the Khokholskiy rayon, south of Voronezh. One of the soldier-drivers uploaded several photographs to a VK community about unit 11385-2 of the same group of soldier-drivers with trucks and trailers on a field in the Khokholskiy rayon, some of them geotagged in an area where satellite imagery of 2014 shows what looks like military vehicles in a temporary military camp.³² Since these photographs were taken in the same area and with the same soldier-drivers as the other group photographs, it is clear these photographs were taken mid-June 2014 as well.



Left: group photograph with description 'Voronezh, training field Pogonovo,' 14 June 2014. Right: very similar group photograph, Khokholskiy rayon, 13 June 2014.



Left: part of the group, 12 June 2014. Right: the same group of soldiers, uploaded on 17 July 2014 (but likely taken mid-June 2014).

³² http://www.google.com/maps/@51.4914559,39.1976938,1375m/data=!3m1!1e3

Two of the trucks' license plates are visible: '8038 AT 50' and '7378 HC 50'. Between the group a part of a license plate of another truck is visible ('08'), but since the unit has trucks with license plates '0886 AH 50', '0876 AH 50', '0870 AH 50', '0897 AH 50' and '0864 AH 50', it is not clear what the license plate of the truck in the photo is. Likely it is not '0864 AH 50', since that truck belonged to a soldier-driver (see previous section) who was in another group of soldier-drivers and was not visible in the aforementioned group photographs.

It is important to note that it is very likely that none of the soldier-drivers in the group photographs were in the 23-25 June 2014 Buk convoy. This can be concluded with a high degree of certainty because no soldier-driver from Dmitry's photographs, uploaded between 14 and 19 June 2014 (see Section One), is visible in these group photographs, and also because several of the soldier-drivers visible in the group photographs uploaded photographs of the transport of military equipment from Voronezh to Millerovo military airport on 17 and 18 June 2014 and from Millerovo to Mityakinskaya in the Rostov Oblast on 19 June 2014. Section One also describes the route of 19 June 2014, as clearly described by photographs from one of the group's soldier-drivers. The soldier-drivers of the 23-25 June 2014 Buk convoy were at that time camouflaging their trucks, very likely in the Volokonovskiy rayon, as described in Section One.

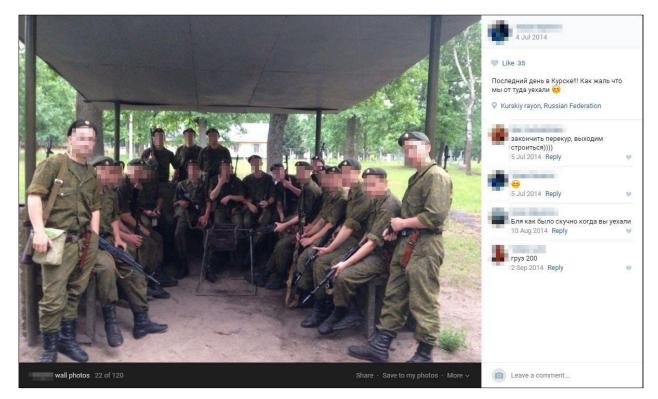
One soldier-driver, who describes himself being in unit 11385-2 since 2013, uploaded photographs of himself and other soldier-drivers in June 2015, but many of these photographs were almost certainly taken in the summer of 2014, as they show the same soldier-drivers and trucks also visible in the June 2014 group photographs. A license plate of one of the trucks, visible on the left of the photograph and not visible in the group photographs, is '0516 HC 50'.



Photograph of two soldier-drivers and trucks '0516 HC 50', '8038 AT 50 and '7378 HE 50', taken on or just before 12 June 2014, but uploaded 7 June 2015.

All but two of the soldier-drivers in the group photographs could be identified.

Before this group of soldier-drivers arrived in Voronezh in June 2014, they spent more than a month training at a military camp near Kursk, very close to the 53rd Anti-Aircraft Missile Brigade in Marshala Zhukova. Many photographs from the soldier-drivers, some of them geotagged and most of them taken in May 2014, show them at this military camp, located in the area of the disbanded (since 2010) military unit 42699, the 110th Arsenal of the Main Missile and Artillery Directorate of the Ministry of Defense.³³ One of the soldier-drivers uploaded a geotagged group photograph on 4 July 2014, but this photo was very likely taken in April or May 2014, as it shows the group at the same military area near Kursk.



Group photograph, uploaded 4 July 2014, but taken in April or May 2014 in a military camp in the area of the now-disbanded military unit 42699 near Kursk.

³³ http://sbis.ru/contragents/4611003066/461101001#msid=s1481145941243 http://docs.cntd.ru/document/908008562 http://docs.cntd.ru/document/908008562

<u>http://www.rulit.me/books/vooruzhennye-sily-sssr-posle-vtoroj-mirovoj-vojny-ot-krasnoj-armii-k-sovetskoj-read-421434-</u> 238.html ; <u>http://sudact.ru/arbitral/doc/KuFeJGzIJuxT</u>

http://wikimapia.org/#lang=en&lat=51.703869&lon=36.283808&z=16&m=b

After their arrival in Mityakinskaya on 19 June 2014, the group of drivers transported military equipment to a military camp southwest of Kamensk-Shakhtinsky on 22 June 2014, the same area the 19-21 July 2014 Buk convoy went to, and on 23 June 2014 they drove to Donetsk (Russia). On 26 June 2014 they went back to Millerovo and stayed in a military camp in the town throughout July 2014. At least a part of the group stayed in the camp in August 2014, as shown in several photographs in their albums. Several other drivers from the same unit joined the group in July 2014, as will be described later this section.

Several soldier-drivers in the group posted messages from or uploaded photographs of a small military camp in eastern Millerovo in July 2014. Some of the photographs and messages were geotagged. One soldier-driver posted a geotagged message from ulitsa Kalinina in Millerovo on 7 July 2014, and another soldier-driver uploaded two photographs of a military camp geotagged in pereulok Zarya in Millerovo on 19 and 21 July 2014.³⁴



Two photographs of a military camp, geotagged in Millerovo, uploaded 19 and 21 July 2014, showing several soldier-drivers of the group and two unknown soldiers or officers.

Another soldier-driver uploaded several photographs of the same military camp from 4 to 15 July 2014 and some on 5 February 2016, but all of them were obviously taken in 2014, as he finished his military service in 2015 and uploaded more than 200 photographs on 5 February 2016 taken during his military service, showing many different locations. He also uploaded several of these photographs to his Odnoklassniki profile on 13 September 2014.

³⁴ http://www.google.com/maps/@48.9234497,40.4191265,706m/data=!3m1!1e3 http://www.google.com/maps/@48.9246895,40.4133223,18z http://yandex.com/maps/11047/millerovo/?II=40.412346%2C48.924651&z=18

One of these photographs could be geolocated to the northwest corner of a military base in eastern Millerovo, an area that belonged to the 236th Separate Tank Repair Training Battalion, military unit 40478, which was likely disbanded in 2010, when the North Caucasus Military District became the Southern Military District. Yandex Maps satellite imagery of 24 August 2015 shows marks in the field at locations where tents were erected and Terraserver satellite imagery of 12 and 15 June 2015 show tents at that location. Unfortunately, there is no satellite imagery available for the summer of 2014.³⁵

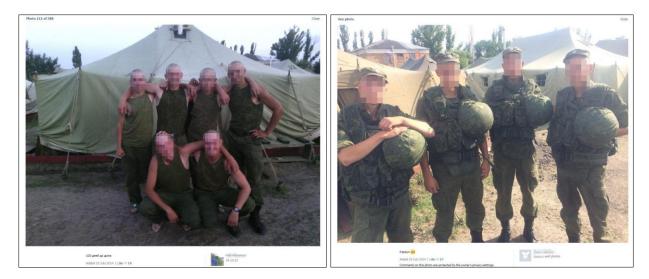


Military camp in eastern Millerovo, uploaded 13 September 2014, but taken on 11 July 2014; photograph geolocated in the northwest corner of an area that belonged to military unit 40478 before 2010.

On 15 July 2014, he uploaded several photographs of himself and several other soldierdrivers from the group. A description under the photograph makes clear they still had to serve 100 days in the army. Other soldier-drivers from the group, uploaded similar photographs on 16 July 2014.

In photographs uploaded by soldier-drivers of the group between 10 July 2014 and 16 July 2014, more soldier-drivers of the same group are visible. Several other soldier-drivers are not visible in photographs taken in July 2014 in Millerovo, likely because their military service ended before July 2014.

³⁵ http://yandex.com/maps/11047/millerovo/?II=40.415576%2C48.924403&z=19&I=sat http://www.terraserver.com/view?searchLat=48.92347&searchLng=40.41676 http://wikimapia.org/#lang=en&lat=48.923395&lon=40.419216&z=17 http://sbis.ru/contragents/6149002691; http://ok.ru/group/51873334165601; http://archive.is/O6Qyu



Left: several soldier-drivers in the military camp in eastern Millerovo, photograph uploaded 15 July 2014. Right: several soldier-drivers in the military camp in eastern Millerovo, photograph uploaded 16 July 2014.

Several soldier-drivers also uploaded photographs of themselves with trucks and trailers that were very likely parked in the same area as the military camp in eastern Millerovo. Three soldier-drivers uploaded photographs of themselves standing next to a trailer on 29 June 2014, 9 July 2014 and 16 July 2014. Another soldier-driver uploaded a photograph on 29 June 2014 of himself standing next to a KamAZ truck with the license plate '7037 HH 50' and described the truck as the one that he used for his last ride. However, on 26 December 2013, he drove a truck with license plate '5945 HH 50,' according to a photograph he uploaded, and he expected to drive the truck for the whole year of his military service, as the photograph's description makes clear. This soldier-driver very likely ended his military service at the end of June or early July 2014, as a photograph uploaded on 1 July 2014 shows him traveling by train together with another soldier-driver.



Left: soldier-driver standing on a trailer next to other trailers, uploaded 29 June 2014; right: another soldier-driver standing in front of his truck '7037 HH 50', uploaded 29 June 2014.

Since other photographs show that these soldier-drivers were in the military camp in eastern Millerovo around those dates, it is very likely the photographs of themselves next to trailers were taken in the same camp. Some photographs, uploaded by other soldier-drivers who started their military service in Millerovo in the end of June or early July 2014, were geolocated to a southern area of the same military camp.

Two soldier-drivers both traveled to Millerovo on or just before 11 July 2014, as a photograph in both of their albums shows. On 15 and 16 July 2014, they uploaded photographs of themselves with trucks and trailers parked in a southern area of the military camp in eastern Millerovo, as will be described later this section. A few photographs are very similar to the photographs that other soldier-drivers uploaded in July 2014 of themselves standing next to trailers. However, they also uploaded photographs of themselves standing in front of the trucks, and the license plates of several trucks are readable in two photographs.

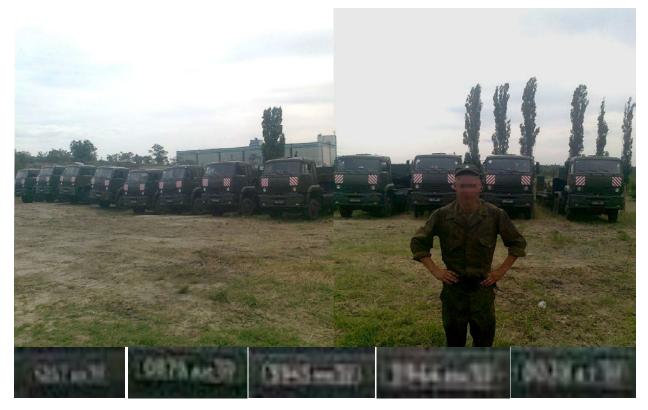


Left/middle: First soldier-driver standing next to trailers, 15 July 2014. Right: second soldier-driver next to a truck, 16 July 2014.



Left: several KamAZ trucks parked in a southern area of the military camp in eastern Millerovo, uploaded 16 July 2014; middle: second soldier-driver and more KamAZ trucks parked in the same area of the military camp in eastern Millerovo, 16 July 2014; right: first soldier-driver in front of a KamAZ truck, parked in the same area of the military camp in eastern Millerovo, 15 July 2014.

The two photographs of the second soldier-driver can be stitched together, making it clearer that the photographs show the same area and the same trucks. One truck with the license plate '0876 AH 50' is visible in both photographs: on the right side in the first photograph and on the left side in the second photograph. A small part of the building in the first photograph is also visible in the second photograph. The license plates of the first seven trucks are not readable, but the eighth truck's license plate is '4267 AH 50', the truck that transported Buk 332 in the 23-25 June 2014 Buk convoy. Other readable license plates are: '0876 AH 50', '5945 HH 50', '5944 HH 50' and '8038 AT 50'. The photographs could be geolocated to a southern area of the military camp in eastern Millerovo; the building in the lone tree behind the trucks in the first photograph are visible on Yandex satellite imagery of 2015³⁶ and Google Earth satellite imagery of 2014 and 2015.



Both 16 July 2014 photographs of the second soldier-driver stitched together, showing a southern area of the military camp in eastern Millerovo with twelve parked KamAZ trucks; the five trucks on the right side have readable license plates: '4267 AH 50', '0876 AH 50', '5945 HH 50', '5944 HH 50' and '8038 AT 50'.

³⁶ <u>http://yandex.com/maps/11047/millerovo/?ll=40.420914%2C48 922491&z=19&l=sat</u>



Geolocation of the second soldier-driver's truck photographs; the building in the background, a hill and trees behind the trucks on the photographs are visible on satellite imagery of 2014.

It should be noted that most of the buildings of the disbanded military unit 40478 were demolished in 2015 or 2016, and construction of new buildings began in 2015 or 2016, as satellite imagery of July 2016 shows.

The first soldier-driver uploaded a photograph of a KamAZ truck without a trailer and another truck on 12 July 2014. A photograph he uploaded on 20 July 2014 shows a KamAZ truck hauling a trailer with covered military equipment, very likely a Buk missile launcher. The truck in the 12 July 2014 photograph has license plate '4678 HE 50', a truck that in 2014 was driven by one of the soldier-drivers in the Kursk and Voronezh group photographs and who is visible in photographs taken on 10 July 2014 in the military camp in eastern Millerovo, as described earlier this section. The license plate of the truck in the 20 July 2014 photograph is '3388 AY 50', a truck that was also in the 23-25 June 2014 Buk convoy, as also described in *Tracking the Trailers*.



Left: KamAZ truck '4678 HE 50' on 12 July 2014; Right: KamAZ truck hauling a covered military vehicle, very likely a Buk missile launcher, with license plate '3388AY 50' on 20 July 2014.

Since the two aforementioned soldier-drivers were in the military camp in eastern Millerovo on 15 and 16 July 2016, and they traveled by train to Millerovo on or before 11 July 2014, it is very likely that the 12 July 2014 photograph of truck '4678 HE 50' was taken in the same area of the military camp. Moreover, because another soldier-driver was in that camp on 10 July 2014 and truck '4678 HE 50' belonged to him in 2014, it is almost certain that the 12 July 2014 photograph of truck '4678 HE 50' was taken in a southern area of the military camp in eastern Millerovo. The 20 July 2014 photograph of the truck with the license plate '3388 AY 50', hauling a military vehicle that is very likely a Buk missile launcher, is parked in a very similar area, and comparing the two photographs closely makes clear that it is the same area, as one tree is visible on both photographs.



Left: photograph of truck '4678 HE 50', 12 July 2014, and a tree on the left side (marked in red square). Right: photograph of truck '3388 AY 50' hauling a covered military vehicle , very likely a Buk missile launcher, 20 July 2014, and the same tree on the left side of the photograph (marked in red square).

In our previous report, *Tracking the Trailers*, the 20 July 2014 photograph of truck '3388 AY 50', hauling a military vehicle that resembles a Buk missile launcher, was also described and compared to a screenshot of a video of the 19-21 July 2014 Buk convoy. However, a comparison of two screenshots of another video, filmed in Olkhovatka on 20 July 2014 around 13:00,³⁷ the same date as the photograph, makes it even clearer that the covered military vehicle hauled by truck '3388 AY 50' is a Buk missile launcher. However, the truck with license plate '3388 AY 50' had trailer 'XP 3286 50', which was not visible in the 19-21 July 2014 Buk convoy, but only in the 23-25 June 2014 Buk convoy, an indication the Buk missile launcher belonged to the 2nd Battalion of the 53rd Anti-Aircraft Missile Brigade.



Comparison between a Buk missile launcher and a covered military vehicle from the 19-21 July 2014 Buk convoy.

It should be noted that videos of the 19-21 July 2014 convoy of 19 and 20 July 2014 show two uncovered Buk missile launchers, with unit designation numbers 121 and 122,³⁸ while a 21 July 2014 video of the same convoy driving through Kamensk-Shakhtinsky shows at least three uncovered Buk missile launchers, including Buk 112,³⁹ which was very likely covered on 19 and 20 July 2014. However, this is not certain, as videos of 19 and 20 July 2014 do not show a complete Buk system of eleven Buk unit vehicles, and the maximum number of Buk vehicles visible in one video is ten. It is not clear why most of the Buk unit vehicles of the 19-21 July 2014 were covered except two and later three Buk missile launchers. The fact that one of the 1st Battalion Buk missile launchers of the 19-21 July 2014 Buk likely had its tarp removed on 20 or 21 July 2014, and the fact that a Buk missile launcher, likely of the 2nd Battalion, was photographed covered with a tarp on 20 July 2014 raises questions.

One might wonder why a Buk missile launcher of the 2nd Battalion was transported to the military camp in eastern Millerovo and covered with a tarp on or just before 20 July 2014, especially considering that Buk 332, which was transported in the 2nd Battalion Buk convoy of 23-25 June 2014, downed MH17 a few days earlier on 17 July 2014.

³⁷ http://bellingcat-vehicles.silk.co/page/0210-Olkhovatka%3A-Buk-convoy-on-the-side-of-the-road

³⁸ http://bellingcat-vehicles.silk.co/page/0201-Fedoseevka%3A-Buk-convoy-on-P189-road-2 http://bellingcat-vehicles.silk.co/page/0203-Stary-Oskol%3A-Buk-convoy-filmed-from-a-passing-car http://bellingcat-vehicles.silk.co/page/0204-Stary-Oskol%3A-Buk-convoy-in-the-center-before-traffic-light

³⁹ http://bellingcat-vehicles.silk co/page/0213-Kamensk-Shakhtisnky%3A-Buk-convoy-driving-to-the-border

Photographs of two other soldier-drivers show the exact location of the aforementioned first soldier-driver's truck photographs. One soldier-driver, who arrived at the military camp in eastern Millerovo in July or August 2014, uploaded a photograph of himself next to a trailer on 1 September 2014 showing a similar area as the aforementioned first soldier-driver's 12 and 20 July 2014 photographs, including a similar green pole. This photograph was geolocated to almost the same location as the aforementioned soldier-driver's 15 and 16 July 2014 truck photographs, but facing the west. A building, two trees, and a plant visible in the photograph are also visible in Yandex satellite imagery of 2015.⁴⁰



Left: a soldier-driver in the Millerovo military camp, 1 September 2014; right: satellite imagery of the location showing the same building (orange square), trees (green and purple squares) and plant (blue square).

Another soldier-driver uploaded a photograph of himself next to trailers on 9 July 2014, which was almost certainly taken at the same location. Comparing this photograph to the aforementioned first soldier-driver's 12 July 2014 photograph showing truck '4678 HE 50' makes it clear that these photographs were taken at the same location, as they show the same trees in the background. With this information, the aforementioned first soldier-driver's 12 and 20 July 2014 photographs could be precisely geolocated to the same location as the photographs of the other two soldier-drivers in satellite imagery.

⁴⁰ <u>http://yandex.com/maps/11047/millerovo/?ll=40.419631%2C48.922402&z=19&l=sat</u>



Left: a soldier-driver next to trailers in the military camp in eastern Millerovo, 9 July 2014. Right: the aforementioned first soldier-driver's 12 July 2014 photograph of truck '4678 HE 50' with the same trees in the background (in red and green rectangles)



Geolocations of the aforementioned first soldier-driver's 12 July 2014 truck '4678 HE 50' photograph (red view lines) and 20 July 2014 truck '3388 AY 50', hauling what is very likely a covered Buk missile launcher (blue view lines). The tree visible on both photographs is also visible on Yandex maps satellite imagery and Google Earth satellite imagery (the tree, that very likely is the same tree as in the photographs is marked by a green circle). Parts of buildings and vegetation behind the trucks visible on both photographs also match the satellite imagery.

The photographs of soldier-drivers in the Voronezh group photographs provide a great deal of information about the trucks and trailers that belong to this group of drivers in 2014. As described earlier in this section, trucks '8038 AT 50', '7378 HC 50', '7037 HH 50', '4678 HE 50', '5945 HH 40' and '0516 HC 50' belonged to this group of drivers in 2014, but other photographs show more trucks that also very likely belonged to this group of drivers in 2014, as described in the previous section. Photographs uploaded by soldier-drivers of the group between December 2013 and June 2014 show themselves in front of trucks '0876 AH 50', '7082 HC 50' and '0516 HC 50'.

On 21 October 2014, another soldier-driver uploaded two photographs that show trucks '0897 AH 50', '5945 HH 50', '8038 AT 50' and '9465 AT 50' parked on the base of unit 11385 in Novosmolinskiy. However, truck '9465 AT 50' did not belong to this group of drivers, as it was part of the 23-25 June 2014 Buk convoy, as described in Section One, and truck '0897 AH 50' very likely belonged to a soldier-driver who was in a different group and arrived later in the summer of 2014 in Millerovo.

Two soldier-drivers uploaded photographs of trailer 'XP 4682 50' which were taken during transport in May and June 2014. Another soldier-driver uploaded photographs of himself and another soldier-driver with trailers 'XP 4671 50' and 'XP 4684 50' in March 2014. It is noteworthy that trailers 'XP 4671 50' and 'XP 4682 50' were in the 19-21 July 2014 Buk convoy.⁴¹ This is an indication that at least some soldier-drivers of the group that was in Millerovo in July 2014 were drivers in the July 2014 Buk convoy. A closer look at one of the July 2014 Buk convoy videos clearly shows the license plates of the trailers, as the convoy was filmed from behind from a car. We can see that the license plates of the last two trucks are very likely '4678 HE 50' (with trailer 'XP 4681 50') and '5945 HH 50' (with trailer 'XP 4682 50'),⁴² two trucks that were both in Millerovo in mid-July 2014, as they are visible on the aforementioned first soldier-driver's 12 July 2014 and the aforementioned second soldier-driver's 16 July 2014 photographs.

Since '4678 HE 50' was another soldier driver's truck in 2014, and he was in Millerovo in mid-July 2014, it is possible that he was one of the drivers in the July 2014 Buk convoy. Truck '5945 HH 50' belonged to another soldier-driver of the same group in 2014, but he ended his military service in early July 2014 and made his last ride with truck '7037 HH 50', as described earlier this section. The video also shows unidentified soldiers and officers standing next to the trucks and one driver sitting in the last truck with the license plate '5945 HH 50' and trailer 'XP 4682 50'. The driver visible in the video is possibly another soldier-driver who was also involved in the transport of military equipment in the end of July 2014 and uploaded a photograph of truck '4267 AH 50' (the truck that hauled Buk 332 in the June 2014 Buk convoy), as was described in *Tracking the Trailers* and will also be described in the next section as well.

⁴¹ http://bellingcat-vehicles.silk.co/page/XP-4671-50 http://bellingcat-vehicles.silk.co/page/XP-4682-50

⁴² http://bellingcat-vehicles.silk.co/page/0201-Fedoseevka%3A-Buk-convoy-on-P189-road-2



Left: truck '4678 HE 50' ('4' and '78' visible); right: truck '5945 HH 50' ('945' visible). Both screenshots from a video of the 19-21 July 2014 Buk convoy filmed in Fedoseevka.



Left: soldiers standing next a trucks ; right: two soldiers/officer standing next to truck '5945 HH 50'. Both screenshots from the same video of the 19-21 July 2014 Buk convoy.

Although it is possible that some of the soldier-drivers in the Voronezh group photographs in Millerovo in mid-July 2014 were also drivers in the 19-21 July 2014 Buk convoy, there is no evidence to support this theory. None of these soldier-drivers uploaded photographs of the July 2014 Buk convoy.

Several soldier-drivers in the Voronezh group photographs ended their military service at the end of June 2014 or early July 2014, thus were obviously not drivers in the July 2014 Buk convoy. Three soldier-drivers uploaded photographs that show them traveling by train, likely going back home after their military service ended, at the end of June or early July 2014. Another soldier-driver uploaded 100 photos on 17 July 2014 to a VK community about unit 11385-2. He likely did this after the end of his military service, so he likely was not in Millerovo mid-July 2014. Four other soldier-drivers are not visible in any of the photographs taken in Millerovo in mid-July 2014, but that doesn't necessarily mean they were not there. Photographs in their own albums do not make it clear when they started or ended their military service.

However, eleven soldier-drivers visible in the Voronezh group photographs were certainly in the military camp in eastern Millerovo in mid-July 2014. There is no direct evidence that any of these soldier-drivers were drivers in the 19-21 July 2014 Buk convoy, although it is likely that some of them were, such as Nikolay M., who was the driver of truck '4678 HE 50' in 2014. It is, however, likely that these soldier-drivers did see the 19-21 July 2014 Buk convoy arrive in the military camp in eastern Millerovo, if it made a stop at that location, and they very likely noticed truck '3388 AY 50' hauling a covered Buk missile launcher, like the aforementioned first soldier-driver, who took a photograph of it. It is also likely that they know who the drivers of the July 2014 Buk convoy were.

It should be noted again that the truck that hauled Buk 332 in the 23-25 June 2014 convoy, truck '4267 AH 50', was in the military camp in eastern Millerovo in mid-July 2014. It is possible that this truck or one of the other trucks that was in Millerovo in mid-July 2014 transported Buk 332 to the Russia-Ukraine border, as Buk 332 was in Millerovo or a nearby location in the Rostov Oblast from 25 June 2014 until 16 July. If one of the trucks that was parked in the military camp in eastern Millerovo was used for the transport of Buk 332 to the Russia-Ukraine border on 16 July 2014, it is likely that the soldier-drivers who were in that camp in mid-July 2014 know the driver, who transported Buk 332 to the Russia-Ukraine border.

Section Three: Sightings of the Buk convoy trucks and trailers after mid-July 2014

Our previous report, *Tracking the Trailers*, describes photographs that were uploaded at the end of July 2014 of truck '4267 AH 50' and trailer 'XP 4679 50', which hauled Buk 332 in the 23-25 June 2014 Buk convoy. A soldier-driver uploaded a photograph on 26 July 2014 of himself standing next to trailer 'XP 4679 50' on a road leading to the M4 highway near Boguchar.⁴³ A photograph found in the album of another soldier-driver shows a photograph of truck '7378 HC 50' on the same road near Boguchar.⁴⁴ That truck belonged to the soldier-drivers of the Voronezh group photographs (see previous section), and was parked in the military camp in east Millerovo in mid-July 2014. One of the drivers on the photo was identified as a colleague soldier-driver of the aforementioned soldier-driver. The photograph was uploaded on 26 August 2014, but after comparing the shadows of the two trucks and trailers, photographed at the same time of day.



Left: A soldier-driver and trailer 'XP 4679 50' on a road near Boguchar, uploaded 26 July 2014 Right: a colleague soldier-driver., an unidentified soldier-driver and truck '7378 HC 50', on the same road, and same time of the day.

As was also described in *Tracking the Trailers*, a photograph of truck '4267 AH 50' was uploaded on 28 July 2014 by another soldier-driver who was likely involved in the 19-21 July 2014 Buk convoy (see previous section) and other transports of military equipment in the summer of 2014.

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http://www.google.com/maps/@49.925361,40.5162272,3a,60y,86.47h,88.52t/data=!3m6!1e1!3m4!1sjj1NBBev0Ar3Cdu7ked BPA!2e0!7i13312!8i6656

http://www.google.com/maps/@49.925361,40.5162272,3a,15y,263.53h,87.8t/data=!3m6!1e1!3m4!1sjj1NBBev0Ar3Cdu7kedB PA!2e0!7i13312!8i6656



A photograph of truck '4267 AH 50', location unknown, uploaded by another soldier-driver on 28 July 2014.

Three videos, two of them uploaded on Instagram on 28 July 2014,⁴⁵ the third on YouTube on 21 August 2014,⁴⁶ show all the same transport of military equipment, very likely filmed on 28 July 2014. One of the videos shows truck '4267 AH 50', the truck that hauled Buk 332 in the June 2014 Buk convoy and another video. The video shows the convoy from behind while the person filming the video drives passes the convoy, showing trailer 'XP 4679 50', which hauled Buk 332 in the June 2014 Buk convoy. After closer examination of the videos, it is clear that the tank transported by truck '4267 AH 50' in the first video is the same as the tank transported on trailer 'XP 4679 50' in the third video, which means that truck '4267 AH 50' in these videos hauled trailer 'XP 4679 50', just as in the June 2014 Buk convoy.



Left: truck '4267 AH 50' hauling a tank, video uploaded on Instagram on 28 July 2014. Right: trailer 'XP 4679 50' hauling the same tank, video uploaded on YouTube on 21 August 2014.

⁴⁵ http://www.instagram.com/p/q_OTypgnXS; http://archive.is/uq9i3 http://www.instagram.com/p/q_d9GPrJFO; http://archive.is/pwzjW

⁴⁶ <u>http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8UtqUVwFH9k</u>

The 28 July 2014 Instagram videos were both geolocated on the M4 highway, the first one near Oktyabrskiy, just after Kamensk-Shakhtinky, and the second near Krasnyy, in the area of Rostov-on-Don.⁴⁷ The 21 August 2014 YouTube video was geolocated to a road north of Rostov-on-Don in the Myasnikovskiy rayon.⁴⁸ The photograph of the most recently referenced soldier-driver very likely shows the same tank transported by truck '4267 AH 50' and trailer 'XP 4679 50'. It must also be noted that the T-72b tank visible in the videos, transported by truck '4267 AH 50' and trailer 'XP 4679 50', is almost certainly the same tank in an August 2014 photograph taken to the south of Luhansk in Ukraine.⁴⁹

Aside from truck '4267 AH 50' and trailer 'XP 4679 50', one of the videos also shows other trucks with readable license plates: '0148 AY 50', '7378 HC 50' and '7066 AO 50'. The same video also shows other trailers with readable license plates: 'XP 4683 50', 'XP 0030 50', 'XP 4676 50', 'XP 4720 50', 'XP 0037 50', 'XP 4674 50', 'XP 4722 50' and 'XP 4669 50'. By comparing the tanks visible in the videos, it is possible to match the license plates of trucks with the license plates of the trailers they haul. Truck '0148 AY 50' is connected to trailer 'XP 0030 50', truck '7378 HC 50' to trailer 'XP 4676 50' and truck '7066 AO 50' to trailer 'XP 0037 50'. Several of the trailers are also visible in the 23-25 June and/or 19-21 July 2014 Buk convoy videos: trailer 'XP 0030 50' was part of the June and July 2014 Buk convoy and trailers 'XP 0037 50', 'XP 4722 50' and 'XP 4683 50' were part of the July 2014 Buk convoy. Since it is likely that all of the trucks that took part in the June and July 2014 Buk convoys hauled the same trailers during the summer of 2014, a likely conclusion is that truck '0148 AY 50' took part in both the June and July 2014 Buk convoys and truck '7066 AO 50' took part in the July 2014 Buk convoy. The previous section already made clear that truck '7378 HC 50' was not part of the June 2014 Buk convoy, as it was in a different area in the end of June 2014, but it is also almost certain this truck was not in the July 2014 Buk convoy either, as the trailer, with license 'XP 4676 50', it was connected to later in July 2014 did not take part in the July 2014 Buk convoy.

A video uploaded on Instagram on 28 July 2014 shows that truck '8038 AT 50' was connected to trailer 'XP 4674 50' and photographs taken near Shakhty, uploaded on 28 July 2014 to a VK profile, show trailers 'XP 0030 50, 'XP 0037 50' and 'XP 4669 50'.⁵⁰

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http://www.google.com/maps/@48.2655959,40.2937282,3a,70.7y,315.44h,81.84t/data=!3m6!1e1!3m4!1sLemUH3NewgOkQ ZOS8LScwQ!2e0!7i13312!8i6656!5m1!1e4

http://www.google.com/maps/@47.3867364,39.9122714,3a,72.4y,325.56h,81.73t/data=!3m6!1e1!3m4!1skh1VuMzSr1LqTKR Cxq9UAw!2e0!7i13312!8i6656!5m1!1e4

http://www.google.com/maps/place/47%C2%B019'54.6%22N+39%C2%B035'37.8%22E/@47.3295824,39.5807701,2482m /data=!3m1!1e3!4m5!3m4!1s0x0:0x0!8m2!3d47.3318333!4d39.5938333!5m1!1e4

http://yandex.com/maps/?ll=39.591003%2C47.328662&z=16&l=sat

⁴⁹ http://twitter.com/el_roosevelt/status/625995357047144448 http://codename-it.livejournal.com/687756.html; http://archive.is/95uAp

⁵⁰ <u>http://www.instagram.com/p/q-9IW1ECRF</u>; <u>http://archive.is/0BMFv</u> <u>http://archive.is/YGbhU</u>; <u>http://archive.is/Ll2hB</u>; <u>http://archive.is/VQVkb</u>; <u>http://archive.is/p836d</u>

The most recently referenced soldier-driver also uploaded two photographs on 28 July 2014 taken from inside his truck, one of them on the M4 highway near Loktev, just before Millerovo, in the direction of Rostov-on-Don.⁵¹ A close examination of those photographs makes it clear that the tank hauled on the truck and trailer in front of the photographer is the same tank that was hauled by truck '8038 AT 50' and trailer 'XP 4674 50' in the videos. Since truck '4267 AH 50' with trailer 'XP 4679 50' was driving behind truck '8038 AT 50' with trailer 'XP 4674 50', it is almost certain that he was the driver of truck '4267 AH 50' with trailer 'XP 4679 50' during the transport of tanks near Millerovo and further in the direction of Rostov-on-Don on 28 July 2014.



Left: transport of a tank near Loktev in the area of Millerovo, uploaded on 28 July 2014. Right: transport of the same tank, location unknown, uploaded on 28 July 2014.



The same tank visible in the 21 August 2014 video, hauled by truck '8038 AT 50' on trailer 'XP 4679 50', that was in front of truck '4267 AH 50' with trailer 'XP 4679 50' in that video.

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http://www.google.com/maps/@48.9709056,40.4513258,3a,75y,189.02h,89.96t/data=!3m6!1e1!3m4!1sa_nzIK6j2YcVevgDL BIIkA!2e0!7i13312!8i6656

The most recently referenced soldier-driver moved from military unit 11385-5, or the 299th Separate Road Commandant Battalion in Frolishchi,⁵² to unit 11385 in Novosmolinskiy in June or early July 2014, as photographs of early June 2014 show him in unit 11385-5 and photographs of early July 2014 show him in unit 11385. It should be noted that aside from soldiers of unit 11385-5, he is connected to many of the soldier-drivers of the Voronezh group photos, especially to the soldier-drivers who were in Millerovo in mid-July 2014.

Another soldier-driver in his contact list uploaded two group photographs with KamAZ trucks on 3 September 2014, taken and geotagged in Millerovo. Although the geotags mention 'artilleriyskaya ulitsa' (Artilleryskaya Street) as location, it is obvious that these photographs were taken in the military camp in eastern Millerovo, at the same location as where two previously referenced soldier-driver's 15 and 16 July 2014 photographs of KamAZ trucks were taken.



Group photographs with KamAZ trucks, taken in Millerovo, uploaded on 3 September 2014.

A photograph found in the album of another soldier-driver shows several KamAZ trucks, including trucks with license plates '7037 HH 50', '7378 HC 50' and '4267 AH 50'. With comparison to the first group photograph, it is clear that the photographs show the same trucks. The group photograph show trucks with license plates '0897 AH 50' and '5944 HH 50', but a closer examination shows that one truck with the driver's side door open is also visible in the other photograph, the truck with license plate '4267 AH 50', which transported Buk 332 in the June 2014 Buk convoy.

⁵² <u>http://archive.li/zPyOO</u> (page 7)

http://wikimapia.org/#lang=en&lat=56.409687&lon=42.638251&z=17&m=b

Along with the open door, there are several other similarities between the two photographs. Truck '4267 AH 50' from a photograph showing multiple trucks has a round beacon light on the passenger's side and a square beacon light on the driver's side, just like the truck with the open door in the group photograph. Truck '5944 HH 50' in the group photograph has no beacon lights, just like the truck on the passenger's side of truck '4267 AH 50' in the trucks photograph, and the truck with license '0897 AH 50' in the group photograph has one square beacon light, just like the truck to the left of the truck without beacon lights in the photograph showing multiple trucks. Electricity cables above the trucks are visible in both photographs, and even a bird sitting on one of the cables in the group photograph is seen flying away in the photograph showing multiple trucks. It is obvious that the photograph showing multiple trucks not only shows exactly the same vehicles, but was taken shortly after the group photograph.



KamAZ trucks visible in a photograph, taken in a military camp in eastern Millerovo, likely in late August or early September 2014. Three license plates are readable: '4267 AH 50', '7378 HC 50' and '7037 HH 50'.

The group photographs show, aside from the uploader himself, other soldier-drivers (some of whom were previously mentioned in this report) who arrived in Millerovo in August or September 2014, including Vasily R., a driver in the 23-25 June 2014 Buk convoy.

Some of these soldier-drivers uploaded the same or similar group photos, though some obscure the license plates of the trucks.

As described in *Tracking the Trailers*, some soldier-drivers uploaded photographs in October and November 2014 of trucks that were visible in the June and July 2014 Buk convoys. One soldier-driver uploaded several photographs of truck '4267 AH 50' on 15 October 2014 and another soldier-driver uploaded photographs of trucks '8469 HH 50' and '4678 HE 50' on 27 November 2014. The photographs show the truck parked in front of a concrete building of about six floors, painted yellow and orange. This is the main building of unit 11385 in Novosmolinskiy, as satellite imagery and a Panoramio photograph geotagged to that location make clear.⁵³ Trucks '4267 AH 50' and '8469 HH 50' were both in the June 2014 Buk convoy, and truck '4678 HE 50' was in the July 2014 Buk convoy.



Left: Truck '4267 AH 50', uploaded on 15 October 2014. Right: Trucks '8469 HH 50' and '4678 HE 50', uploaded on 27 November 2014.

However, it is not likely that these two soldier-drivers were in Millerovo in July 2014, since they are not visible in any of the Voronezh group photographs, but since both of them started their military service before July 2014, this cannot be said with absolute certainty.

⁵³ <u>http://yandex.com/maps/?ll=43.051773%2C56.282293&z=19&l=sat</u> <u>http://www.panoramio.com/photo/70923972</u>; <u>http://archive.is/ls7yx</u>

Conclusions

- The 69th Separate Logistics Brigade (unit 11385) was involved in transporting Buk unit vehicles to several areas along the Ukraine-Russia border in the 23-25 June and 19-21 July 2014 Buk convoys. Soldier-drivers of the 1st Automobile Battalion of this unit (subunit 11385-2), located in Kalininets, were drivers of the trucks in the 23-25 June 2014 Buk convoy. A different group of soldier-drivers from the same subunit was possibly involved in the 19-21 July 2014 Buk convoy. The involvement of the 2nd Automobile Battalion of this unit (subunit 11385-3), located in Novosmolinskiy, is not clear, as several soldier-drivers of the 1st Automobile Battalion (subunit 11385-2) were also photographed at the base of the 2nd Automobile Battalion in 2014. Also, several trucks of unit 11385 were photographed at the military bases of both subunits.
- Soldier-driver Dmitry Z. transported Buk missile launcher 232 in the 23-25 June 2014 Buk convoy. Other soldier-drivers who were almost certainly involved in the transport of Buk unit vehicles in the 23-25 June 2014 Buk convoy are: Vasily R., Emin V., Mikhail Z., Alexander B., Nikita M. and Alexey R. A group photograph shows another unidentified soldier-driver who was almost certainly involved in the transport of Buk unit vehicles in the 23-25 June 2014 Buk convoy.
- Other group photographs identified additional soldier-drivers who might have been involved in the transport of Buk unit vehicles in the 23-25 June 2014 Buk convoy.
- No definitive conclusion can be made as to the driver of truck '4267 AH 50' in the 23-25 June 2014 Buk convoy, which transported Buk 332. A few soldier-drivers uploaded photographs where truck '4267 AH 50' is visible, among them Mikhail Z., who almost certainly was a driver in the 23-25 June 2014 Buk convoy.
- No conclusion can be made regarding which truck transported Buk 332 to the Russia-Ukraine border, very likely in the night of 16 to 17 July 2014, or which driver was involved. Almost all of the soldier-drivers who were involved in the June 2014 Buk convoy officially ended their military service in the end of June or early July 2014, although the social network profiles of Mikhail Z., Alexander B. and two other soldierdrivers do not clarify when they returned home after military service.
- A different group of soldier-drivers from unit 11385-2 was in a military camp in eastern Millerovo in July 2014. This group of drivers, unlike the group of drivers of the 23-25 June 2014 Buk convoy, was involved in the transport of military equipment from Voronezh to Mityaskanskaya on 19 June 2014, before their arrival in Millerovo. It's possible that some of these drivers were involved in the 19-21 July 2014 Buk convoy, as a few soldier-drivers of this group were drivers of trucks in the July 2014 Buk convoy.

- Two other soldier-drivers of unit 11385, who arrived on or just before 11 July 2014 in the same military camp in eastern Millerovo, uploaded photographs between 12 and 20 July 2014 of trucks of unit 11385-2 that were parked in a southern area of the military camp in eastern Millerovo. Two of these trucks were in the 19-21 July 2014 Buk convoy. Two other trucks were in the 23-25 June 2014 Buk convoy, one of them truck '4267 AH 50', the truck that transported Buk 332. A photograph uploaded on 20 July 2014 of another truck that was in the 23-25 June 2014 Buk convoy with license '3388 AY 50' shows a tarped Buk missile launcher, possibly from the 2nd Battalion of the 53rd Anti-Aircraft Missile Brigade.
- The soldier-drivers of unit 11385 who were in the military camp in July 2014 possibly know the identity of the driver of the truck that transported Buk 332 to the Ukraine-Russia border, as one of the trucks of unit 11385 that was parked in the military camp in eastern Millerovo was likely used for this transport.
- Videos of a military convoy that transported tanks in the direction of Rostov-on-Don on 28 July 2014 show several trucks and trailers that were in the 23-25 June 2014 and/or 19-21 July 2014 Buk convoys. In the convoy of 28 July 2014, truck '4267 AH 50', the truck that transported Buk 332 in the 23-25 June 2014 Buk convoy, hauls a trailer with the license plate 'XP 4679 50', just as in the 23-25 June 2014 Buk convoy. In case the other trucks visible in the 28 July 2014 convoy hauled the same trailers as in the 23-25 June and 19-21 July 2014 Buk convoys, a few license plates of trucks that were in the June and July 2014 Buk convoys that were previously unknown have now been discovered.
- Photographs on the profile of a soldier-driver make clear that he was the driver of truck '4267 AH 50' in the 28 July 2014 military transport convoy.
- In September 2014, trucks of unit 11385 were again present at the same location in a southern area of the military camp in eastern Millerovo, among these vehicles is again truck '4267 AH 50'.
- In October and November 2014, several trucks of unit 11385 that were in the June and July 2014 Buk convoys were photographed at the military base of the 2nd Automobile Battalion (subunit 11385-3) of the 69th Separate Logistics Brigade. Among these vehicles is again truck '4267 AH 50'.

Appendix One: The 69th Separate Logistics Brigade (military unit 11385)

The 69th Separate Logistics Brigade (military unit 11385) is headquartered in Dzherzhinsk, Russia, where it moved to in February 2015.⁵⁴ Until 2010, the unit was named the '34th Regiment of Material Supply' and was located in Erino in the Moscow Oblast. Then, the unit moved to Alabino, Balashikha, and Mulino. In 2010, the unit became part of the 20th Guards Army of the Western Military District, the same army and district as the 53rd Anti-Aircraft Missile Brigade.⁵⁵

In 2014, unit 11385 consisted of nine battalions and three other subunits, most of them separate military units before the reorganization of the unit and the formation of the Western Military District in 2010:⁵⁶

- 484th Separate Automobile Battalion (unit 11385-2), Kalininets (previously, military unit 73410, located in Erino, Moscow Oblast). Internally this battalion is named '1st battalion of unit 11385'.⁵⁷
- 372nd Separate Automobile Battalion (unit 11385-3), Novosmolinskiy (previously, military unit 42585). Internally this battalion is named '2nd battalion of unit 11385'.
- 14th Separate Automobile Battalion (unit 11385-4), Novosmolinskiy (previously, military unit 34137), where it moved to in 2010 (before it was located in Voronezh and Kursk).
- 299th Separate Road Commandant Battalion (unit 11385-5), Frolishchi (previously, military unit 71382).
- 462nd Separate Bridge Battalion (unit 11385-6), Kashira in Moscow Oblast (previously, military unit 36194).
- 1454th Separate Pipeline Battalion (unit 11385-7), Mulino (previously, military unit 72483).
- 81st Separate Repair and Recovery Battalion (unit 11385-8), Tambov (previously, military unit 21992).
- 74th Separate Arms Repair Battalion (unit 11385-9), Kaluga (previously, military unit 21986).
- 224th Separate Refueling Car Company, Nizhny Novgorod (previously, military unit 35254).
- 37th Field Mobile Bakery, Novosmolinskiy.
- 12th Separate Water Supply Car Company, Tsentralnyy in the Nizhny Novgorod Oblast (previously, military unit 84427).

⁵⁴ <u>http://archive.is/32IAi</u> <u>http://wikimapia.org/#lang=en&lat=56.244965&lon=43.483458&z=17&m=b</u>

⁵⁵ <u>http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/20th_Guards_Army</u>

⁵⁶ <u>http://archive.li/zPyOO</u>; <u>http://archive.is/cOQxP</u>

⁵⁷ <u>http://ok.ru/group/51755555550043</u>

Additional information about unit 11385 shows several names of its commanders:⁵⁸

- Colonel Evgeny Gennadyevich Razumikhin Commander of the 69th Separate Logistics Brigade (unit 11385)
- Colonel Roman Alexandrovich Danilin Commander of the 69th Separate Logistics Brigade (unit 11385)
- Igor Yevgenyevich (surname unknown) Deputy Commander of the 69th Separate Logistics Brigade (unit 11385)
- Semyon Alekseyevich (surname unknown) Acting Deputy Commander for Personnel of the 69th Separate Logistics Brigade (unit 11385)
- Lieutenant Colonel Vladimir Yuryevich Yakovlev Commander of the 1454th Separate Pipeline Battalion of the 69th Separate Logistics Brigade (unit 11385-7)
- Major Aleksey Mikhaylovich Sedlachek Chief of staff of the 1454th Separate Pipeline Battalion of the 69th Separate Logistics Brigade (unit 11385-7)
- Major Anatoliy Viktorovich Baikov Deputy Commander of the 1454th Separate Pipeline Battalion of the 69th Separate Logistics Brigade (unit 11385-7)
- Colonel Aleksey Alekseyevich Zaitsev Commander of the 462nd Separate Bridge Battalion of the 69th Separate Logistics Brigade (unit 11385-6)

It is not clear who the commander of the 69th Separate Logistics Brigade (unit 11385) was in July 2014, as the declaration of gratitude from the Republic of Crimea (see third line of the first footnote) for providing drinking water between May and October 2014 mentions two commanders. News articles show that Colonel Evgeny Gennadyevich Razumikhin was the commander of unit 11385 in 2013 and May 2014 and that Colonel Roman Alexandrovich Danilin was the commander of unit 11385 in 2015 and 2016.⁵⁹

More information about subunit 11385-2 shows that this unit became military unit 85084 (100th Regiment) in 2015.⁶⁰ When subunit 11385-2 was still military unit 73410, the commander was Colonel S. Eryomenko. In 2012, this unit became a subunit of military unit 11385, the 69th Separate Logistics Brigade, and its commander was then Lieutenant Colonel Evgeny Aleksandrovich Baglaev. After Baglaev, the commander was Lieutenant Colonel B.N. (possibly Boris Nikolaevich) Guryanov, but it is unclear when Guryanov took over from Baglaev, though additional information indicates that Baglaev was still commander of subunit 11385-2 in May and June 2014.

⁵⁸ http://voinskaya-chast.ru/vooruzhennye-cily/cuxoputnye-vojska/specialnye/voinskaya-chast-11385-6-brigada-materialnotexnicheskogo-obespecheniya.html; http://archive.is/8M5kb http://rk.gov.ru/rus/file/pub/pub_234750.pdf; http://archive.is/s05Wf http://11385.ru/4.html; http://archive.is/mJmoZ

⁵⁹ http://www.radiorus.ru/brand/episode/id/57067/episode_id/919434; http://archive.is/w4F6D http://www.vesti.ru/doc.html?id=1552412; http://archive.is/azkJm http://xn--80aaieclwj1abarg.xn--p1ai/node/5340; http://archive.is/fOpf/ http://www.dumadzr.ru/index.php?id_page=19&id_news=1728; http://archive.is/9ZD3K

⁶⁰ <u>http://vk.com/topic-92375281_31708346</u>; <u>http://archive.is/xZFmH</u> <u>http://vk.com/club92375281</u>; <u>http://archive.is/C2I9r</u> http://mamasoldata.mybb.ru/viewtopic.php?id=1996&p=36#p1435751; http://archive.is/fBg50

Appendix Two: License plates of the trucks and trailers in the 2014 Buk convoys.

Most of the license plates of the trucks and trailers of the 23-25 June 2014 Buk convoy are visible in videos and a few photographs.⁶¹ Section Three describes that truck '5062 HC 50' was very likely in the June 2014 Buk convoy as well, but it is not clear if it was connected to trailer 'XP 8232/7 50' or 'XP 4678 50'. Section Five makes clear that trailer 'XP 0030 50', which was in both the June and July 2014 Buk convoys, was connected to truck '0149 AY 50' at the end of July 2014 and therefore was also very likely in both 2014 Buk convoys. All the license plates of the trailers in the 19-21 July 2014 Buk convoy are visible in videos, but only a few license plates of trucks are visible.⁶² Trailer 'XP 0037 50' of the July 2014 Buk convoy was connected to truck '7066 AO 50' in the end of July, as described in Section Five, so it is very likely that truck '7066 AO 50' was also in the July 2014 Buk convoy. Photographs in albums of soldier-drivers make it clear that trailer 'XP 4671 50' was very likely connected to truck '7082 HC 50' or '0886 AH 50' in March 2014, so likely also in July 2014. The Kamensk-Shakhtinksy video of the July 2014 Buk convoy shows two license plates of trucks: '2946 AT 50' and '29xx AT 50' ('xx' are not readable numbers), but it is not known to which trailers these trucks were connected in the July 2014 Buk convoy. Both convoys have eleven trucks and eleven trailers, the June convoy a complete Buk system, the July convoy missing one Buk unit vehicle, but transporting BTR 993 instead.

	<u> </u>		<u> </u>		
License plate truck	License plate trailer	<u>Buk</u>	License plate truck	License plate trailer	<u>Buk</u>
4267 AH 50 6902 HH 50 9465 AT 50 8469 HH 50 9230 AT 50 0149 AY 50	XP 4679 50 XP 4675 50 XP 4686 50 XP 4672 50 XP 4809 50 XP 0030 50	332 232 231 x23 TEL* 212	4678 HE 50 5945 HH 50 3387 AY 50 9230 AT 50 0149 AY 50 7066 AO 50	XP 4681 50 XP 4682 50 XP 8235 50 XP 4809 50 XP 0030 50 XP 0037 50	tarped tarped tarped tarped tarped tarped
3387 AY 50	XP 8235 50	201	7082 HC 50 / 0886 AH 50	XP 4671 50	BTR 993
3388 AY 50 3389 AY 50 5062 HC 50? 5062 HC 50?	XP 8236 50 XP 8238 50 XP 8232/7 50 XP 4678 50	221 200 223 211	? ? ? [2946 AT 50 [29xx AT 50	XP 4683 50 XP 4720 50 XP 4722 50 XP 4718 50 ? ?	tarped 122 tarped 121 112] tarped]
*TEL alagn a TEL without wait designation					

19-21 July 2014 Buk Convoy

An overview of license plates of trucks and trailers of these convoys is as follows:

* TEL clean, a TEL without unit designation.

23-25 June 2014 Buk Convoy

⁶¹ http://bellingcat-vehicles.silk.co/page/0004-Stary-Oskol%3A-Buk-convoy-rides-into-town http://bellingcat-vehicles.silk.co/page/0005-Stary-Oskol-Buk-convoy-from-a-passing-car http://bellingcat-vehicles.silk.co/page/0012-Stary-Oskol%3A-Buk-3x2-on-a-trailer http://bellingcat-vehicles.silk.co/page/0019-Raskhovets%3A-Buk-convoy-on-the-highway http://bellingcat-vehicles.silk.co/page/0022-Aexeyevka%3A-Buk-convoy-south-and-out-of-town http://bellingcat-vehicles.silk.co/page/0025-Alexeyevka%3A-Buk-convoy-photographed-on-a-highway

⁶² http://bellingcat-vehicles.silk.co/page/0201-Fedoseevka%3A-Buk-convoy-on-P189-road-2 http://bellingcat-vehicles.silk.co/page/0203-Stary-Oskol%3A-Buk-convoy-filmed-from-a-passing-car http://bellingcat-vehicles.silk.co/page/0213-Kamensk-Shakhtisnky%3A-Buk-convoy-driving-to-the-border

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