

Lee Byong Jo 

Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, Kazakhstan, Almaty,
e-mail: beong.lee@kaznu.kz

**THE LIFE AND TRAGEDY OF ANTI-JAPANESE
KOREAN INDEPENDENCE ACTIVIST
CHOI JAE-HYUNG'S FAMILY
(based on the records of surviving families members)**

In this article, the author examined the family history of the first Korean naval officer in the Red Army, Choi Pavel Petrovich and his family members, who became victims of the tragic history of the Koreans in the Far East in the modern period. To this end, I mainly used a large number of family history recollections written by Choi Pavel's surviving families and some of Choi Pavel's military service-related materials from the Russian State Naval Archives. After graduating from the Frunze Naval School in Leningrad, Choi Pavel became the first Korean officer in the navy of the Soviet Army and traveled all across the seas of the Soviet Union. However, with the death of an older brother during the Civil War and an unexpected death of the father Choi Jae Hyun in 1920, misfortunes began in the Choi family. As naval officer, Choi Pavel also died on October 17, 1938 in Kazakhstan, becoming a victim of the Soviet regime. Around the same time, most of his 10 brothers and sisters, elder and young sisters' brothers-in-law felt victims of Stalinist repression, and only a few ones managed to escape death. The tragic life story of Choi Pavel's family symbolizes one aspect in the life of Far East Koreans who became victims of the Soviet regime in the early XXth century.

Key words: Choi Jae-Hyung (Choi Pyotr Semyonovich), Choi Pavel, partisan, Stalin's suppression.

Ли Бёнг Джо

Әл-Фараби атындағы Қазақ ұлттық университеті, Қазақстан, Алматы қ.,
e-mail: beong.lee@kaznu.kz

**Жапондарға қарсы тәуелсіздік үшін жалынды күрескер Цой Дже Хён
отбасының өмірі мен трагедиясы туралы
(оның аман қалған отбасы мүшелерінің жазбаларынан)**

Автор бұл мақаласында Кеңес Қызыл Армиясы құрамындағы Теңіз флотының тұңғыш корей офицері Цой Павел Петрович және оның отбасы мүшелерінің сонау жылдардағы Қиыр Шығыстағы кеңестік корейлер тап болған ұлттық трагедияның отбасылық ащы тарихын әңгімелейді. Осыған байланысты негізінен Цой Павелдің тірі қалған отбасы мүшелері жазған отбасының тарихи естелік жазбалары мен Цой Павелдің әскери қызметіне байланысты кей материалдарды Ресейдің Әскери-теңіз флоты мемлекеттік мұрағатынан пайдаландым. Ленинградтағы Фрунзе атындағы Әскери-теңіз училищесін бітірген Цой Павел Кеңес Армиясы теңіз флотындағы тұңғыш корей офицері болды және Кеңес Одағының барлық теңіздерінде дерлік болып үлгерді. Бірақ, Азамат соғысы жылдарында үлкен ағасының және де 1920 жылы әкесі Цой Дже Хённің мезгілсіз қайтыс болуымен Цойдың отбасындағы бақытсыздықтар тізбесі басталды. Сталиндік режимнің құрбаны болған теңіз флотының офицері Павел Цой да 1938 жылы 17 қазанда Қазақстанда қаза болады. Шамамен осы дәуірде Цой Павелдің оншақты іні-сіңлілері, апа-сіңлілерінің күйеулері сталиндік қудалау-репрессияларының құрбанына айналды, тек санаулы бауырлары ғана сұрқия ажал ауызынан құтыла алды. Цой Павел отбасының трагедиялық тарихы – ХХ ғасырдың басындағы кеңестік режимнің Қиыр Шығыстағы құрбандығына айналған корейлер өмірінің рәмізі секілді.

Түйін сөздер: Цой Дже Хён (Цой Пётр Семёнович), Цой Павел, партизан, сталиндік жазалау шаралары.

Ли Бёнг Джо

Казахский национальный университет имени аль-Фараби, Казахстан, г. Алматы,
e-mail: beong.lee@kaznu.kz

**Жизнь и трагедия семьи борца антияпонского движения
за независимость Цой Дже Хёна
(на основе записей выживших членов его семьи)**

В данной статье автор рассмотрел семейную историю первого корейского офицера морского флота в составе Красной Армии Цой Павла Петровича и его членов семьи, которые стали жертвами трагической истории корейцев на Дальнем Востоке в современный период. В исследовании в основном были использованы семейно-исторические воспоминания, написанные выжившими семьями Цоя Павла, а также некоторые материалы, связанные с военной службой Цоя Павла, взятые из Российского Государственного Архива Военно-морского Флота. После окончания Фрунзенского Военно-морского училища в Ленинграде Цой Павел стал первым корейским офицером морского флота Советской Армии и объездил все моря Советского Союза. Однако, со смертью старшего брата в годы Гражданской войны и безвременной кончины отца Цой Дже Хёна в 1920 году началась череда несчастий в семье Цой. Цой Павел, будучи офицером морского флота, погиб 17 октября 1938 года в Казахстане, став жертвой сталинского режима. Примерно в этот же период 10 братьев и сестер Цой Павла, мужа старших и младших сестер пали жертвами сталинских репрессий, и только некоторым удалось избежать смерти. Трагическая история жизни семьи Цой Павла символизирует один аспект из жизни корейцев на Дальнем Востоке, ставших жертвами советского режима в начале XX-го века.

Ключевые слова: Цой ДжеХён (Цой Пётр Семёнович), Цой Павел, партизан, сталинские репрессии.

Introduction

In this paper, the subject of my attention is the victims of oppression, who unjustly disappeared by Stalin's oppression policy of minority ethnic groups in the Far East and Central Asia around 1937. These included thousands of party and Soviet workers, soldiers, dissidents and intellectuals, as well as Koreans, Chinese, Polish and Germans. It can be said that it is a publicly known historical fact that a large number of Koreans suffered unlucky deaths in the process of transporting trains for forced migration. Park Boris, a renowned researcher on Korean issues in Moscow, and Bugai Nikolai, a historian and researcher on ethnic issues, write that 554 people died in the process of displacement (Pak Boris, Bugay Nikolay; Kim Kwang-han, Lee Baek-yong(transf.), 2004). It was in the 1980s that official discussions related to the forced migration of Koreans became possible in Russia, and Korean-related works began to appear in earnest. The atmosphere at that time can also be found in Leningichi, a representative newspaper of CIS Koreans society. Around the same time, works on Koreans in the CIS regions including Russia began to be published in Korea, and in the 1990s, publications on various subjects including forced migration began in earnest. Of course, work-centered works related to the victims of oppression by the Stalin regime around 1937 and other subjects (anti-Japanese soldiers, partisans, culture, art, media) were also published intermittently.

However, the amount of character-centered works related to victims of oppression by Stalin's regime is relatively smaller than that of character-oriented works on other subjects. This may be attributed to the difficulty and limitations of domestic and foreign scholars' access to data.

Justification of the choice of article and goal and objectives

The object of this study is Choi Pavel Petrovich (Цой Павел Петрович, 1900-38) the first Korean naval officer of Soviet Red Army, who despite his social status, felt an innocent victim of Stalinist repression, as well as members of his family. Choi Pavel is also the second son of Choi Jae-hyung (Choi Pyotr Semyonovic; Цой Пётр Семёнович), godfather of anti-Japanese independence movements in the Far East who was unjustly killed by the Japanese forces during the «April disaster» in 1920. Choi Pavel was chosen not only because he was the son of Choi Jae-hyung or served as the first Korean naval officer in the Soviet Army. He actively fought in Red Korean partisan movements linked to the Red Army in the Far East during the Civil war, which lasted from the end of 1910 to 1938. In October 17, 1938 Choi Pavel died in Kyzylorda, Kazakhstan becoming an innocent victim of the cruel and brutal Stalinist repression. In other words, the author considers the death of Choi Pavel as one of the representative examples of Stalin regime's oppression of intellectuals around

1937. Moreover, the death of his family members (11 brothers and sisters, including him, as well as the husbands of older and younger sisters) during the period of repression was judged to be valuable as a historical example that shows the fictional aspects of the Stalin regime's policy of suppressing minorities (viciousness, injustice, and illegality). Firstly, the author will take a look the biography of Choi Pavel, which was not fully covered in existing studies. In other words, he will study the life of Choi Pavel as a naval officer and as a Red Korean partisan until the last days of his life. Secondly, the author will consider the life history of the surviving Choi's family members. The author will explore the tragic history of Choi's family, whose fate in the early 20th century is closely linked to the 'anti-Japanese national liberation movement-partisan struggle-Stalinist repression' through micro-history research using testimonies and recollection records, and ultimately re-examine the lives of Koreans in the Far East during the modern and contemporary period.

Research methodology

The author mostly used family history books published by Choi Pavel's surviving family members and a large number of primary records from genealogy archives. These records were written by Choi Pavel's brothers and sisters, the survivors of the Stalinist repressions, precisely, by his second young sister Choi Olga Petrovna, first younger brother Choi Valentin Petrovich and the youngest sister Choi Elisaveta Petrovna. In particular, most of reminisce memoirs (about 350 pages) are handwritten and unpublished. These records reveal in detail the tragic fate of Choi Pavel's father Choi Jae-hyung, his brothers and sisters (10 people), as well as the older and younger sisters' husbands, thereby enables micro-history research into the truth of Stalin's oppression at that time. In addition the author used very little of the materials related to the Workers' and Peasants' Red Navy officer Choi Pavel that are stored in Russian State Naval Archives (РГАВМФ, Российский Государственный Архив Военно-морского Флота). Have rarely been used in previous researches on Choi Pavel these materials are of a high value. They contain contextual and official data related to Choi Pavel's naval service and his death from the late 1920s to 1938. However, in this paper the author mainly used the reminisce memoirs of Choi Pavel's surviving family members. The databases of Russian State Naval Archives will be used in the follow-up researches.

Stalin's terror and the tragedy of Choi Jae-hyung's remaining family members

The death of Choi Pavel's father Choi Jae-hyong

Choi Pavel's father, Choi Jae-hyung, is a first-generation immigrant who settled in Primorsky Krai in 1869. Born in Kyongwon, North Korea (15.08.1860), he left a significant mark in the history of Korean independence movement in the Far East around the 1910s until he was killed by the Japanese forces in 1920. Amid political fluctuations and subsequent developments on the Korean Peninsula that began in 1905 (the Protectorate Treaty between Korea and Japan concluded in 1905) Choi's father Choi Jae-hyong chose the path of an anti-Japanese fighter. However, his father Choi Jae-hyung suffered a tragic fate due to so-called "April disaster" caused by Japanese forces in April 1920. Hundreds of innocent Koreans were brutally massacred or injured in Vladivostok and Ussuriysk due to the April disaster. On the night of April 4, Japanese military police being hold with a pre-written name list stormed into Sinhanchon and arrested more than 50 Koreans and even Russian soldiers who were in charge to defend Sinhanchon. 28 Korean schools and printing house "Haninshinbo" that were located in the school were burned up, many people were imprisoned and burned alive. Korean and Russian partisans from Ussuriysk surrounding area's fought against the Japanese forces. Japanese atrocities continued until 8 a.m. Korean stores were looted. Children, women and old people were brutally beaten during the search and interrogation process. Japanese soldiers savagely slaughtered fleeing Koreans, even trapped them in buildings and burned them to death. During this brutal April tragedy, Korean patriots such as Choi Jae-hyung, Kim Yi-jik, Um Ju-pil and Hwang Kyung-seop were arrested and shot by the Japanese colonial government (Voice of Motherland, April 7,9,11,16, 1920; Russian State Historical Archive of the Far East, f.28, op.1, d.1119, p.71-73).

Oppression and Death of Choi Pavel's brothers and sisters

The misfortunes of Choi Pavel's family that resulted from the death of his father Choi Jae-hyung was only a prelude. Along with Stalin's regime the policy of collectivization was implemented, and the politics of fear began to grow rapidly throughout the country. The entire Soviet Union was gradually captured by the fear of arrest, imprisonment, and repression. Choi Pavel's family was no exception. Most of the family members, including Choi Pavel himself, had to experience Stalin's repressions in 1937-38.

Choi's elder brother, Choi Pyotr Petrovich, and his elder sisters' lives certainly had no connection with Stalin's oppression period as they passed away much earlier than those days. However, the author thinks it is worth mentioning that it was the beginning of the tragedy of Choi family ahead of the death of the father Choi Jae-hyung and a sad side of modern and contemporary Korean history in the Far East.

Choi Pavel's elder brother Choi Pyotr was a free-thinking person. He was expelled from the seminary in the last year for participating in the revolutionary movement in 1905. Later he served as an elementary education supervisor in Nikolayevsk-on-Amur in 1915, then joined the Tsar Army, and after completing a short-term officer training course in 1916 was dispatched to the Western Front facing toward Germany. After the Russian Revolution in 1917 he served as an Army Lieutenant, and then was elected Chairman of the Military and Solidarity Committee. After the October Revolution, he was promoted to the rank of regimental commander. Soon after Choi Pyotr was elected the Representative of the Soviet representatives of the workers, peasants and soldiers of Roslav, and after joining the Bolsheviks he was elected Head of the Soviet military division. However, when the Civil War broke out, in April 1918 Choi Pyotr's regiment was deployed to the Eastern Front, and in 1919 he died lamentably in a battle in West Siberia (Choi Valentin Petrovich, Choi Elisaveta Petrovna, 1990).

The elder sister Choi Vera (Choi Vera Petrovna) also had nothing to do with Stalin's oppression. Her husband, Kim Yakov Andreyevich, was one of the most talented students of Kazan teachers' training school supported by her father Choi Jae-Hyung. Being fluent in Korean, he once worked as a teacher, but gave up his teaching job and engaged in commercial activities. After moving to Nicholsk-Ushuris he purchased a site on Zanadvorovskaya Street and started construction projects having a great success by owning several buildings. Kim Yakov enjoyed great authority among merchants, and with his strengthened social status held the position of Chairman of the independence movement organization in 1913 until the beginning of Russian revolution. He was successful to the extent that he had close relations even with military commander Gondatti, who visited his house to greet his family (Choi Valentin Petrovich (1), 1990-94). However in 1923 the eldest sister and her husband took their son Nikolai (Ким Николай Яковлевич) and daughter Lyubov (Ким Любовь Яковлевна) and unexpectedly moved to Harbin, China. The elder

sister Vera lived with her husband and ended her life there. In 1938, her husband Kim Yakov took his daughter Lyubov and grandchild Boris (Ким Борис Макарьевич) and moved back to Karaganda, Kazakhstan. Living 10 years in Kazakhstan he died soon after the 1941-45 war (Choi Valentin Petrovich (1), 1990-94; Choi Valentin Petrovich (2), 1990; Koryo Ilbo, 1993: 10-11).

The rest of the family's lives have been thoroughly destroyed by Stalin's oppression, except his eldest brother Choi Pyotr and his elder sister Choi Vera's cases. Firstly let's have a look at his second sister, Choi Najeuda's (Цой Надежда Петровна) family. Her husband, Kang Nikolai (Кан Николай Алексеевич), served as a battalion commander of the 119th Infantry Regiment, but lately was arrested and shot in Smolensk (г. Смоленск) (Koryo Ilbo, 1993: 10-11; Choi Valentin Petrovich (2), 1990). Fortunately, Choi Najeuda avoided the Stalin's repression.

However his third elder sister, Choi Lyubov (Цой Любовь Петровна), who worked at the National Bank of Novosibirsk in 1937 was arrested in Novosibirsk and shot in 1938. Her spouses' fates were also harsh. Her first husband (Ни Алексей Александрович) who worked as a mathematics teacher at Korean teachers' training school was not able to overcome family's poverty and left behind his wife and two children moving to Moscow in 1923 where he worked at the Balakyevev Button Factory. The second husband, Namgai Yelisey Pavlovich (Намгай Елисей Павлович) was a former veteran and reserve brigade commander. He served as the head of the West Siberian Fruits Vegetable Sales Trust. Both were arrested and died (Koryo Ilbo, 1993: 10-11; Choi Valentin Petrovich, Choi Elisaveta Petrovna, 1990; Choi Valentin Petrovich (1), 1990-94; Choi Valentin Petrovich (2), 1990). The family's misfortunes following the elder brother Choi Pyotr and his father Choi Jae-Hyung continued with the racial cleanup of Stalin's madness. The fates of Choi Pavel's brothers were also harsh.

The first younger sister Choi Sofiya's husband Shorukov Hodjehan Shorukovich (Шорукوف Ходжехан Шорукевич) served as a standing representative of All-Russian Central Executive Committee, lately as a plenipotentiary representative of the Kyrgyz Republic in the Council of Ministers of the Soviet Union, and before his arrest he was a member of the People's Commissariat in the Health Service Development. He was active in the mainstream society, but also suffered repression in early 1937 (Choi Olga Petrovna (1), 1990; Choi Valentin Petrovich (2), 1990; Russian State Naval Archives,

f.2192, op.2, d.1696, p.8). Fortunately, Choi Sofiya was able to escape the oppression. Having gone through a great struggle the second younger sister Choi Olga (Цой Ольга Петровна) also miraculously survived the oppression, but her husband did not escape the death. She was a graduate of Nikolsk-Usurisk Korean teachers' training school. Following the dream to become a teacher she worked in Korsakovka and Sinelnikovo. However her life did not go the way she wanted due to long labor and psychological aftereffect. After graduating from the Moscow Institute of Energy she worked as an engineer in Minsk, Smolensk and Roslav. In 1937 she was arrested and sentenced to 10 years in Karaganda Prison Camp (Karlag) and Norilsk Prison Camp where she was released after completing her sentence. Her husband, Sergey Kim (Ким Сергей Фёдорович) was a graduate of Nikolsk-Usurisk Korean teachers' training school and Moscow Conservatory. He actively participated in musical activities in Minsk, Smolensk, etc., and in 1938 by Stalin's conspiracy was executed (KoryoIlbo, 1993: 10-11; Choi Valentin Petrovich, Choi Elisaveta Petrovna, 1990; Choi Olga Petrovna (1), 1990; Choi Valentin Petrovich(2), 1990).

Choi Valentin, the only male survivor of Choi Pavel's family (died in 1994) managed to escape death. However he had to live through long years of surveillance, prejudice and unfair treatment by the Soviet authorities. In August 1938, Choi Valentin was arrested and imprisoned by authorities while working on the position of agricultural engineer specializing on harvest field in Kazakh People's Economics and Statistics Bureau in Almaty. During a psychological investigation that he went through until April 1940, he did not confess and was released following the decision of the People's Commissariat for Internal Affairs (NKVD). Sister Choi Olga recalled that her younger brother, Choi Valentin, had never complained about life, and that he could eventually survive because of his personality, a surprisingly calm and strong patience. Since then, he has been loyal to the Soviet authorities, working as a chief agricultural engineer at the Kazakh National Economic Registry. However, his 'past career in prison' always followed him, and even he was the executive of the Bureau of Agriculture he was the last to get an apartment from the government (KoryoIlbo, 1993: 10-11; Choi Valentin Petrovich, Choi Elisaveta Petrovna, 1990; Choi Olga Petrovna (1), 1990; Choi Valentin Petrovich(2), 1990). Third sister Choi Lyudmila (Цой Людмила Петровна)

fortunately avoided oppression and was able to survive until the end working as a zoo technician in Kirghizia.

However, Choi Pavel's misfortune did not stop there. The youngest sister Choi Elizabeth (Цой Елизавета Петровна) also had to lose her husband Ten Constantin (Тен Константин Антонович). Her husband was arrested and shot while working as a photojournalist for the «Смоленская правда» newspaper. The youngest and most loved child in the family Choi Elizabeth managed to survive working in the coldest province of northeastern Russia, Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) moving then to Almaty (Russian State Naval Archives, f.2192, op.2, d.1696, p.8). Choi's youngest brother, Choi Vikenty (Цой Викентий Петрович) also died in the face of Stalin's power. As a younger child he was born and raised in an atmosphere of love and care. His father Choi Jae-Hyung poured out his love into his son, who was so young that he slept with him in the same bed right before the father's death. Due to this circumstances or not his younger brother personality was a little bit selfish and impatient. He always wanted to be independent in everything. He barely finished school and after graduating from Leningrad (now Saint Petersburg) Institute of engineering and cinema worked in Siberia. After the summer 1937, during the period of arrest and oppression, he fled to Kyzylorda, and lately moved to Aralsk where he worked as a physics teacher. However, in the fall of 1938, he was sentenced to five years in prison for stealing a laboratory apparatus from physical laboratory. After his release he was sentenced to another three-year prison for protesting against the Head who was in charge of wages threatening him with the handgun. However he was arrested again for his involvement in the theft at a power station in Yangiyul, city in the Tashkent region of Uzbekistan. While serving his kidney disease worsened and he ended up in a hospital aged 42 (KoryoIlbo, 1993: 10-11; Choi Valentin Petrovich (2), 1990).

The unfortunate cases of suppression by the Stalin regime before and after forced migration in 1937 were not limited to the Korean people. The younger brother Choi Valentin, the only survivor of the Choi Pavel family, had kept the cruel memories of the time in his mind until the last moment. All the pain from the past was captured in his memoirs. In an interview with one of the media outlet, he reveals the painful history of his family full of the pain of those days.

Table – List of sisters’ spouses who were shot

Name	Position and Activities
Kang Nikolay Alexeevich (second elder sister’s husband)	lieutenant, Civil War veteran, battalion commander of the 119th Infantry Regiment
Ni Alexey Alexandrovich (third elder sister’s husband (first husband))	Engineer of Balakiryev But- ton Factory in Moscow
Namgay Yelisey Pavlovich(third elder sister’s husband (second husband))	Civil War veteran, reserve brigade commander, head of the West Siberian Fruits Vegetable Sales Trust
Shorukov Hodjehan Shoru- kovich (first younger sister’s husband)	member of the People’s Commissariat in the Health Service Development in Kyrgyz Prepublic
Kim Sergey Petrovich(second younger sister’s husband)	
Ten Konstantin Antonovich	Photojournalist for the «Smo- lenskaya Pravda» newspaper

(Choi Valentin Petrovich, Choi Elisaveta Petrovna, 1990)

“It is very difficult for me to escape from memories. Because the price of what to say was cruel.... It was the period of weeding out of everything. Among all the family members only my sisters Olya, Liza, Mila, Sonya, and I were able to survive the oppression.... I was also arrested and questioned in a conveyor way. In other words, I was constantly questioning from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and from 9 p.m. to 7 a.m. in the morning. Even between 6 p.m. and 9 p.m., even sleeping was not allowed.... During the working in newspaper we were always watched. I have not acknowledged anything, any betrayal of my country, nor signed any documents. But a lot of people were tortured and broken.... Perhaps my firm belief in innocence saved me. In fact according to Article 58, paragraph 1 of the Soviet Criminal Code, I had to be shot at the time....” (KoryoIlbo, 1993: 10-11).

The mental trauma of those who survived the threshold of death is not easily cured. Choi Valentin was released from jail but had to live through mental trauma to the end, sometimes feeling like he was still in a big prison. Despite all the pain he went through he lived his best to the end to restore the reinstatement and honor of the family members who suffered unfair deaths. He believed it was his duty as a survivor and that he was doing his best before history.

Anti-Japanese partisan-The death of naval officer Choi Pavel Petrovich

Choi Pavel’s anti-Japanese activity as a partisan

Detailed references on Choi’s activities as a partisan and a naval officer are rarely found in existing publications. In this text Choi Pavel’s life and activities was based on unpublished surviving family members’ memoirs, and only a fraction of the data was taken from the Russian National Naval Archives.

Since school days Choi Pavel knew that his father Choi Jae-Hyung was one of the leaders of the Korean National Liberation movement in the Far East. ‘They say children are mirrors of their parents’. Choi Pavel’s life was alike his dad’s, Choi Jae- Hyung, who was involved in anti-Japanese movement in the Far East. Choi Pavel decided early on to follow in his father’s footsteps. It was already beginning with his days at Vladivostok’s commercial school before moving on to Nikolsk-Ushurisk. He already started working with young students and workers of railway transport at Nikolsk-Ushurisk Station in the summer 1918, publishing the newspaper “The voice of students” («Голос учащихся») under the editorial name of Yanov Mik (Янов Мик), and working as a secret reporter for the newspaper “Red flag” («Красное Знамя») as an anti-Japanese activist (Choi Olga Petrovna (1), 1990; Choi Olga Petrovna(2), 1990). In September 1919 Choi Pavel had already joined the Korean partisan movement and began to participate in the battles against the Japanese military and White Army (Choi Valentin Petrovich (1), 1990-94).

In March 1920, the Red Partisan squad entered Nikolsk-Ushurisk and the Primorsky Krai was dominated by them. At that time, Choi Pavel participated in the formation of the Komsomol (formerly The All-Union Leninist Young Communist League, Всесоюзный Ленинский Коммунистический Союз Молодёжи), worked as a clerk at a newspaper “Inception” (“Начало”) published by Revolutionary Headquarters (Революционный штаб) of the Nikolsk-Ushurisk district (Russian State Naval Archives, f.2192, op.2, d.1696, p.8a, 11a); Choi Sofia Petrovna, Choi Olga Petrovna, 1961). As a result he began to get deeper into the partisan organization. At that time, Choi’s family had no father, so they were suffering from terrible poverty and hunger. Since Choi Pavel’s father was killed in a violent attack, his mother has tried several times to keep Choi at home. However all her efforts were in vain (KoryoIlbo, 1993: 10-11). No one, nothing, could break Choi’s firm will to fight against

Japan. Choi Pavel has always been considered a fair and wonderful young man in the eyes of the people around him. He always protected the weak, and was afraid of nothing. He has been nicknamed "Scandal-Maker" since his days at Vladivostok School of Commerce (Choi Olga Petrovna (1), 1990). He was a very righteous young man who was always interested in what was going on around him and who couldn't stand injustice. This "scandal-maker" nature of Choi Pavel perhaps was one of the main reasons he later became a victim of interrogations process of Stalin's suppression.

After the April 1920 tragedy, Choi Pavel entered the Red partisan squad under the command of Chefchenko Grigory (Шевченко Григорий) in Anuchino. In a squad a 20-year-old Choi Pavel was entrusted with a heavy post called Chief of Staff. The April agreement between the Provisional PrimorskyKray Government and the Japanese Interference Force forced the Primorsky Revolutionary Army Forces to stay out 30 versta. Around this time, the Korean partisan squad was gathered in the Anuchino area. Among them were partisans from Korean peninsula who participated in Korea's Fight for Freedom in 1908. Thanks to the participation of the Korean partisans in the Chefchenko unit, the scale of Partisan squad has grown significantly. It led to the formation of large Korean partisan organizations that were entrusted to the young partisan Choi Pavel. Young partisan leader Choi Pavel has won the trust of partisan fellows because they all knew about Choi's father Choi Jae-Hyung's tremendous anti-Japanese struggle. Many people were already acknowledging Choi's underground activities and struggle experiences. In 1920-21 Korean partisans under the command of Choi Pavel, Ilyuhov and others fought a fierce battle in Grodelova and Varvarovka suburbs against the Japanese military and the White Army led by Copeleev (Choi Valentin Petrovich (2), 1990; Choi Sofia Petrovna, Choi Olga Petrovna, 1961). Choi Pavel revived the trust of his fellows through his bravery, resonance and honesty in partisan activities.

Partisan activity was the most dangerous activities that cost somebody's life. Once, Choi Pavel was taken prisoner by the White Army. He was captured by soldiers from the White Army who were spying on the rear. Choi Pavel was sentenced to death by White Army military authorities and imprisoned, awaiting death. However, he decided to escape using an iron needle attached to the heel of the American boots he wore. In the evening he was watched over by White Army guards and later taken to shooting site. However he was able to use his iron needle

to overpower the guard and return safely crossing the lake (Choi Valentin Petrovich (1), 1990-94). After hearing the news of Choi's escape, her mother went to see him overcoming 150 versta through the snowy roads. She returned home only 10 days after spending just one night with her son Choi. For a woman who had already lost her big son on the battlefield and her husband, the pillar of the family, Choi Pavel was like the rest of the world in her heart.

Choi also received watches and revolt pistol from the leaders of the Red Army for his active participation in the Civil war. However everything was not as smooth as it seemed at first. In February 1921, under the order of the Central Committee of the Far Eastern Republic Choi Pavel's unit arrived in Svobodny (г.Свободный), Amur Province from the Spasskiy district (Спасский район) of Primorye. Here his unit was reorganized with other units into a Special Sakhalin Partisan Corps (Особо-Сахалинский партизанский отряд). Choi Pavel was promoted to the Chief of the unit. However, in June 1921 the Special Sakhalin Partisan Corps refused to accept the new command of the Soviet authorities. This led to the disarmament of the Sakhalin Special Partisan corps, and 80 commanders, including Choi Pavel, were arrested for inciting disobedience and transferred to a prison in Irkutsk (House of Detention). The pain he went through was the Alexeyevsk/Free City Incident (1921) knowing as the greatest tragedy of so-called Overseas Korean Independence Movement History. In November 1922 by decision of The Communist International (Comintern) Choi Pavel cleared of all the charges and fortunately was released from prison. Soon after his release in December 1922 Choi Pavel came to Cheetah, where he served until August 1923 as the labor union leader in the Nerchinsky District under the direction of the Korean section of the Far Eastern Regional Committee (Russian State Naval Archives, f.2192, op.2, d.1696, p.9; Choi Sofia Petrovna, Choi Olga Petrovna, 1961); Choi Valentin Petrovich (1), 1990-94).

After the establishment of the Soviet system in 1922 the Far East gradually found peace. However the Far East was too small to young ChoiPavel who was full of passion and dreams. In 1923 he was sent to Moscow by the Far Eastern Regional Committee. Since August 1923 he started working at the Central Executive Committee of the Korean Alliance (ЦИК Союза корейцев) in Moscow. There, he was in charge of setting up the Korean youths from the Far East on educational institutions, evening schools (рабфак), and party schools (Choi Sofia Petrovna, Choi Olga Petrovna, 1961). During that time Choi

Pavel gained more experience, got to know more things and also developed much bigger dream than it was before.

The Birth of the first Korean Naval Officer

At the end of 1923, Choi Pavel finally got a chance to fulfill his dream. On February 8, 1924, Choi Pavel entered the special courses at the Frunze Naval Military Academy on instructions from The Revolutionary Military Council. On October 5, 1926, a graduate of the Naval Academy Choi Pavel was granted executive status at the Workers' and Peasants' Red Fleet, and in November got an appointed as an orderly officer (вахтенный командир) on the Amur fleet's capital ship "Sverdlov". Later, during the period from November 1927 to October 1928, he completed an Improvement Courses for command personnel as an artillery division student and from October 1928 served on as the chief of the Caspian Fleet's Artillery Division. He also served as an artillery lieutenant in the Caspian fleet's staff from May 1931 and from November 1933 he worked as a senior artillery lieutenant in the Baltic Fleet's capital ship "Marat" (Choi Valentin Petrovich (1), 1990-94; Choi Sofia Petrovna, Choi Olga Petrovna, 1961). That's how Choi's big dreams come true.

The table above is the school authorities' "Assessment study on the job-related preliminary knowledge" that was imposed on Choi Pavel before his graduating from the Naval Military Academy. It shows that Choi Pavel graduated from a military school with excellent grades and gained proper abilities as a competent reserve naval officer. While studying at a military school, he traveled around the world, got acquainted with the literature of various nations, having the pride for being the first Korean naval officer. During 1924-1925, Choi participated in naval events held in Norway and Sweden. In 1934 he took a capital ship "Marat" and has come to Poland harbor Gdynia (Choi Valentin Petrovich (1), 1990-94). He resembled his father Choi Jae-Hyung, who back in the days spent his young time as a sailor, looking around the world and planning for the bright future, dreaming of great aspirations.

Choi Pavel was recognized as a soldier. He has won several awards for exemplary charging activities and political abilities, for his work in enhancing the capability of naval bombardment. As an example in 1929 he received a gold watch at a naval gunfire competition and in 1930 he received a revolver as a prize. Choi Pavel was also recognized for his political ability, precisely as a member of the Communist Party. In 1927 he became a candidate for membership in the Communist Party of the USSR,

and in May 1932 he was finally officially nominated to the Communist Party of the Soviet Union by the Caspian Flotilla Party Committee (Choi Valentin Petrovich (1), 1990-94). By that time it was the golden period of Choi Pavel's life.

Table – Assessment study on the job-related preliminary knowledge of Naval Military School graduate Choi PavelPetrovich

The Workers' and Peasants' Red Army, Frunze Naval Military Academy	
Preliminary assessment study on the job-related knowledge issued by the Council on Education of Naval Military Schools in 1926	
Full name	Choi Pavel Petrovich
Date of birth	November 25, 1900
Preliminary knowledge/work experience before entering the naval school	two-stage (process) school (школа II ступени)
General and special courses	special courses, 3 years
Sailing experience before entering the naval school	After entering naval cadet position – 2
Preliminary knowledge in the position of secondary helm	Satisfied
Preliminary knowledge in the position of naval commander	Good
Preliminary knowledge in the position of submarine mine torpedo	Good
Preliminary politics knowledge	Excellent
Preliminary rank knowledge	Good
Preliminary knowledge in the position of officer on duty	Satisfied
Physical training	Satisfied
Most interested specialized knowledge	Position at bat
Personality	Active
Full-time position upon graduation	
September 7, 1926, №1810	
Signer: Temporary Principal of Naval Military School Kurkov, Education Council President and Schools Chancellor Isaak Lurie, School Director Danilov, Rank Director Sorokin (И.Сорокин), Council of Education clerk signature	

(Russian State Naval Archives, f.2192, op.5, d.4290, p.5)

Stalin's oppression and Choi Pavel's fatal death

However by the mid-1930s black clouds was hanging over Korean's head in the Far East. The great wave of arrests, party expulsions, execution

had begun everywhere in society. All Koreans at Leningrad International School were imprisoned. It even affected Choi Pavel. Choi Pavel, who was serving in Kronshtadt (a military port in Finland) on the capital ship "Marat", was named the first target of oppression on the flotilla. In the spring of 1935 Choi Pavel was arrested by The People's Commissariat for Internal Affairs (NKVD) with the rank of second lieutenant. Then, in the same year he was expelled from the party on the pretext of deceiving his father's social status, precisely his origin. During December 1935 to December 1937 for 3 days Choi Pavel underwent tedious investigations by the authorities. As a result in December 1936 he was fired from the Workers' and Peasants' Red Fleet (Choi Valentin Petrovich (1), 1990-94). The reason why the Soviet authorities restrained in relation to Pavel is explained by the fact that they were aware of Pavel's father who fought against Japanese army in the Far East and contributed to the development of the community.

His younger brother Choi Valentin had submitted a letter of inquiry to the headquarters of the capital ship "Marat" at the time asking for Choi's safety. However he didn't get any answers (Choi Valentin Petrovich (2), 1990). The arrest of Choi Pavel was the beginning of the first Stalin crackdown on Choi's family members since the death of his father Choi Jae-Hyung and the beginning of the family tragedy. A closed trial was held in the city, and most of Lenin's closest aides were also being tried, and most of those on trial were shot. Closed trials were held in the city, and the closest aids of Lenin were brought to trial. Most of the people in the process were shot.

After his release around April 1937, Choi Pavel was discharged and classified as a reserve force. However he made an effort to reinstate in the fleet in Moscow. He was expecting support from his military colleagues in Moscow who once promised him to cooperate with his return. However the response from the agencies who were about to help him with his return was that 'Choi Pavel cannot live in Moscow.' After many twists and turns, in December 1937 Choi Pavel was sent to the State Shipping Corporation in the Aral Sea and appointed to a position responsible for harbor. After his release Choi returned home for a short time and spent time with his mother. Mother was in seventh heaven over her son's return. It was the first and the last time all Choi's family spent together 'under one roof.' Choi Pavel stayed just before the New Year with his family, and later left for the State Shipping Corporation in the Aral Sea at the order of the

authorities (Choi Valentin Petrovich (2), 1990). The whole family knew it was the end of Choi's ordeal, and they were also eager to do so. Everyone in the family believed that this would put an end to Choi Paul's suffering, and they really wanted him to go there.

However it lasted just for a while. The following year, in June 1938, Choi Pavel was arrested again by authorities. The criminal law applied to him was Article 58.1a of the Criminal Code RSFSR. He was shot on October 17, 1938 in Kyzylorda, Kazakhstan. However, around the same time, his younger brother Choi Valentin was arrested and investigated in the internal prison of the Ministry of internal Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan (Kssr) on Dzerzhunskaya Street. There were six people in the prison cell where Choi Valentin was located, including two workers from the Aral Sea State Shipping company. Choi Valentin was able to hear about the death of his brother Choi Pavel through them. From them he learned about the death of his brother Choi Pavel. He learned that his brother Choi Pavel was severely insulted and assaulted during the interrogation. Choi Pavel couldn't resist the insult and picked up the chair and hit the inspector. On the third day after being tortured for it, he was sent to Kyzylorda. Later it became known that his other colleagues continued to be interrogated in Almaty prison until November, but Choi Pavel was shot on October 17 (Choi Valentin Petrovich (2), 1990). In history, assumptions do not make sense, but I wonder what would have happened if Choi had not admitted his mistakes to the end and endured to the end. It is as if his younger brother Choi Valentin had endured the interrogation calmly and patiently to the end and survived being released. However nobody could know what would have happened. It was a time of madness when the blade of Stalin's oppression was being wielded like mad. It was a time of madness when the blade of Stalin's oppression was being wielded desperately.

Results and discussion

Now they are all disappearing into history. Although rehabilitation and restoration of honor have been achieved after the death, nothing can replace the indescribable grief and pain in the hearts of the survivors of the Choi Pavel family. However, it is only the work of finding the facts and historical meanings of the past through the historian's brush tip to comfort them, and it seems that it is the duty that we who live today must bear. The work of finding the historical footsteps of the Choi Pavel

family needs to be continued. In this paper, I mainly used the first-order raw materials of the large amount of family history recollections produced by Choi Pavel's surviving families. As such, the materials used are not less subjective than objectivity or formality in terms of time, cause, and surrounding circumstances. There is a need to illuminate the family history from the side. Therefore, in the follow-up study will be focused on the Choi Pavel problem through other sources. This is original data produced by the Naval Administration of the Red Army in the past. In addition, these original materials contain Choi Pavel's partisan and naval service status from the late 1920s to 1938, and his journey to death.

Conclusion

As mentioned above, we had a look at the vivid tragic family history of Choi Pavel and his family members during the period from 1900 till mid-1930s, focusing on the memoirs written by surviving family members of Choi Jae-hyung, an anti-Japanese patriot.

Around the time of forced migration in the 1900s and till late 1930s, Korean communities in Chinese Manchuria and the Far East had to experience the turbulent modern and contemporary history. Choi Pavel's family in the early XX century was also at the center of "anti-Japanese movement – partisan forces – Stalin's oppression" historical periods. Cases in which the majority of such a large family were caught up in the maelstrom of history and died, or managed to survive interrogation and torture suffering a mental trauma in a days ahead until the end is rarely encountered in Far East Korean's history.

The modern and contemporary period of East Asia, including Manchuria and the Far East, is marked by war and domination, struggle and oppression. In the center of East Asia's modern and contemporary history was Japanese imperialism. Japanese manic idea to take over the continent and desire to colonize the country has shaken the fate of not only the countries concerned but also the people living in the region, including Koreans. After forming the Anglo-Japanese Alliance (1903) and the victory over the Russia in the Russo-Japanese War (1904-05), Japan gained the right to colonize the Korean Peninsula. Dark clouds appeared over the fates of East Asian people, including those who lived in Manchuria and the Far East. When the Russian Revolution broke out in 1917, it carried more than 60,000 troops on the pretext of protecting its citizens, and the endless ambition and aggressiveness of the Japanese colonists who entered Vladivostok Port in Russia, could only be stopped through an atomic bomb in August 1945. The death of Choi's father Choi Jae-hyung and his older brother Choi Pyotr, was also caused by the Japanese government's insanity ambition. Who can appease a revengeful spirit of many Koreans in the Far East who died from the torture and massacre instead? Only a few Choi Pavel's sisters managed to survive among all his siblings and Choi Valentin is the only male survivor. Until the last breath he lived in a state of mental distress unable to escape from the painful memories of the past. Choi's fourth younger sister, Choi Elisaveta, whom he met in Almaty, Kazakhstan in the past, was clearly recalling her past memories despite her old age. Throughout her life she felt hatred over Japan's atrocities inflicted on her father Choi Jae-hyung and Stalin's madness, which devastated the life of all her family.

References

- In Korean Slobodka // Voice of Motherland. 1920. April 7.
 Inspection of Korean Slobodka; A message from Koreans// Voice of Motherland. 1920. April 9.
 In Korean Slobodka // Voice of Motherland. 1920. April 11.
 To the arrest of Koreans// Voice of Motherland. 1920. April 16.
 Excerpts from the report of April case (April 4-6,1920) investigation committee to autonomous council of Far Eastern interim government// Russian State Historical Archive of the Far East. f.28. op.1. d.1119. p.71-73.
 Choi Valentin Petrovich. (1990). Choi Elisaveta Petrovna, [Short biography of Choi Pyotr Semyonovich- Jae-hyung.
 Choi Valentin Petrovich (1). (1990). What I remember and learned about my father, 1990-94.
 Choi Valentin Petrovich (2). (1990). Shortly about me and my family.
 Choi Valentin Petrovich. (1992). The Cronology of the life of Tsoi Pyotr Semyonovich- Jae-hyung, 1860-1920.
 Dead and alive// Koryollbo. 1993. April 17. Saturday. p.10-11.
 Choi Olga Petrovna (1). (1990). My life.
 Choi Olga Petrovna (2). (1990). Letter from Choi Olga Petrovna to Elizaveta Yakovlevna-Dear Elisaveta Yakovlevna!
 Self-introduction letter of Choi Sun-hak, commander of an artillery battery of "Marat" capital ship of red flag Baltic fleet written on March 5, 1935 (Russian State Naval Archives). f.2192. op.2. d.1696. p.8-8a, 9-9a.

Self-introduction letter of Choi Sun-hak written on April 10, 1937 in Leningrad. Russian State Naval Archives. f.2192. op.2. d.1696. p.11-11a,12.

Assessment study on the job-related preliminary knowledge of Naval Military School graduate Choi Pavel Petrovich. Russian State Naval Archives. f.2192. op.5. d.4290. p.5.

Choi Sofia Petrovna, Choi Olga Petrovna. (1961). Biography of Choi ShenHak-Pavel Petrovich.

Genealogy of the descendants of Choi P.S. (1990).

Choi V.V. (2000). CHhoi Jae-Hyong-choi Petr Semenovich. Almaty.

Choi V.V. (2001), Choi Jae-Hyong-choi Petr Semenovich (supplement). Almaty.

Pak Boris, Bugay Nikolay; Kim Kwang-han, Lee Baek-yong (transf.), (2004). 140 years in Russia. Seoul: The spirit of the age.

Kim Syn Hwa. (1965). Essays on the history of Soviet Koreans. Alma-Ata: Nauka.