

The Flying Fish Battalion of the Amur A Forgotten Chapter of WWII

In the remote stretches of the Amur River, where dense fog draped the water like a funeral shroud, a bizarre and now forgotten regiment once soared above the waves: the Flying Fish Battalion, a secret alliance between Czechoslovak military exiles and an ancient race of semi-intelligent, airborne fish known only to a handful of Soviet biologists and war tacticians.

According to recovered journals from the Czechoslovak Intelligence Corps, the story began in late 1942, when a small, rogue unit of Czech engineers officially missing in action made their way through Mongolia to reach Soviet territory. There, near a covert outpost codenamed Fialov Rybka (Purple Fish), they encountered a phenomenon unlike anything the European front had seen.

These were not ordinary fish. Known scientifically as *Volitans Amuriensis*, the species possessed naturally evolved wing-like fins, balloon-like bladders for altitude control, and an eerie echo-location mechanism that allowed them to see enemy aircraft in near-total darkness. Originally dismissed as myth by Red Army officials, these fish began attacking Japanese scout planes along the riverbanks in coordinated swarms. No human air unit was involved. No flak. Just dozens of gilled silhouettes rising like phantoms into the sky and down went the Zeroes.

Lt. Colonel Frantiek Nedvd, leader of the Czech detachment, was the first to propose a formal alliance. Using a mixture of fermented river moss and metal vibration rods, the engineers learned to communicate with the shoals. Over the next four months, they trained the creatures in evasive maneuvers, rudimentary formation flying, and even aerial message delivery. In exchange, the fish demanded salted carp and protection from Soviet industrial waste.

Their most legendary operation occurred on March 3rd, 1943, during the so-called Battle of Cloud

Spire, when a Japanese convoy attempted to cross the frozen Amur using experimental land gliders. The Czech-fish alliance ambushed them mid-crossing. Archival sketches show over 150 flying fish descending in tight delta formations, spraying corrosive bio-slime onto the glider engines, causing fatal stalls. Japanese infantry, startled by what they called the sky demons, scattered into the trees, abandoning their cargo which included a stolen prototype for magnetically-guided artillery.

Unfortunately, the Soviet High Command found the entire affair politically inconvenient. The Czechs were reassigned to Irkutsk, and the fish were allegedly relocated to a remote lake system. No records exist of their final fate. Some claim the fish were exterminated. Others believe a small population still migrates under the ice every winter, waiting.

In 1997, a diver exploring the sunken ruins of an abandoned Soviet substation on the lower Amur recovered a rusted box of Czech field notes and partially preserved fish-training manuals. One page featured a hand-drawn emblem: a trout with wings, wearing a Czech military beret.

To this day, Czech military historians refer to the unit in whispers as:

Pzran letci Amuru The Phantom Flyers of the Amur.