

# The Truth about the KURSK

A man in a dark military uniform and cap, looking off to the side. He is wearing a dark jacket over a white shirt and tie. The background is a dramatic, fiery scene with a ship's conning tower visible on the left.

Vladimir Ustinov

A compelling insight into the story behind the tragedy,  
as told by the Russian Prosecutor General and  
never before translated into English



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## **Drama in the Ocean Depths**

Russian Prosecutor General

‘On 22 August, the President met with the relatives of the crewmen who were still on the *Kursk*. The entire country was in mourning, because by this time everyone knew that the nuclear-powered submarine crew was beyond saving. The submariners had died as heroes, and no confirmation of this was required.

The task of the prosecutorial investigation was to reveal intelligently and precisely, going into all the details, the reasons and circumstances leading to the catastrophe. This was the gist of the president’s assignment.’

Vladimir Vasilievich Ustinov

*Thursday, November 2, 2000.*

**The  Moscow Times.com**

## **Father Gets Kursk Sailor’s Last Note**

By Yevgenia Borisova

Staff Writer

The father of Dmitry Kolesnikov said Wednesday he has seen the note that was found on his son’s body in the sunken Kursk submarine and it contains no further clues about how long he and 22 other sailors stayed alive after the accident. ‘The last figure that the note contains is 12 Aug. 15:45, but what was written in the darkness later contains no times or dates,’

Roman Kolesnikov said by telephone from St. Petersburg.

*Friday, October 27, 2000.*

**The  Moscow Times.com**

## **Note Tells of 23 Sailors Who Lived**

By Sarah Karush

Staff Writer

At least 23 sailors aboard the Kursk survived the initial explosions that caused the nuclear submarine to sink and sat waiting in the dark at the bottom of the Barents Sea, according to an officer’s note revealed Thursday. The navy’s commander, Admiral Vladimir Kuroyedov read the note, which was found on the recovered body of Lieutenant Captain Dmitry Kolesnikov, at a meeting with widows of the Kursk sailors in Vidyaevovo.

*September 13, 2001*

***boston.com***  
**The Boston Globe**

## **Team nearly ready to raise Kursk sub Vessel to be lifted after bow is cut**

By Associated Press,

MOSCOW - A Dutch consortium has almost finished cutting the bow of the sunken Kursk nuclear submarine, nearly clearing the key obstacle for raising it to the surface, the group said yesterday.

‘We have completed 99 percent of the work,’ said Larissa van Seumeren, a spokeswoman for the Mammoet-Smit International, which is working to lift the Kursk on an estimated \$65 million contract with the Russian government.



Our launch left the harbor as dawn broke over the Barents Sea one cold October morning. There, several miles away, in the depths of the black leaden waters, was where the nuclear-powered submarine *Kursk* sank to its doom, taking the lives of 118 Russian submariners.

The president said the reason for the tragedy must be found, and the bodies of the dead submariners must be raised along with the vessel. The relatives of the *Kursk* crewmen and millions, tens of millions, of our country's citizens were of the same opinion.

Our boat was tossed to and fro in the high swell. The sky was leaden and absolutely impenetrable. But there, in the southeast, the sun in all its glory began to peek over the horizon, and the first ray appeared, cutting through the fog and laying a refracted golden path across the crests of the ruffled waves. It was as though the sun itself was giving us hope of revealing the truth.

And this is what this book is about—how the truth about the reasons and circumstances leading to the loss of submarine cruiser *Kursk* was ultimately revealed.

Revealing the truth is never an easy task.

