

Epilogue

Zuka, along with his father, mother and brother Matthew, evacuated to China when the Nationalist Army was defeated in Siberia, two years after his regiment crushed Trotsky's Red Lions. The family settled in Tsingtao. Later, he worked his way to the United States where he attended the University of California at Berkeley. There he excelled in chemistry and creative writing.



On August 10, 1930, at the age of thirty, Zuka married ***Claudia Talaiev***. She was born on May 15, 1909 somewhere in the Imperial Russian Empire, perhaps in Harbin. She was the daughter of Harlomphy and Caludia Talaiev and had a sister by the name of Gala. Claudia's family left Russia during the revolution and she came to the United States to study.

Claudia graduated from the University of the Pacific where she trained as a teacher. Zuka graduated in June of 1934. The young family, which now included daughter Catherine, returned to China. Son Peter was born in Tsingtao on December 22nd, 1934. Zuka became a consulting chemical engineer and traveled extensively throughout the Orient. He developed a unique process involving a catalyst for cracking petroleum and was invited to Italy to share his research. Zuka left Italy at the outbreak of World War 11, purchasing the last ticket on the last ship returning to China. His brother Matthew, wounded in the Russian Revolution, never completely recovered and did not marry. He died of pneumonia in Tsingtao in 1941.



Peter and Catherine Belov



The children with their Belov grandparents.

World events always impacted Zuka's life and his years in China were no exception. During World War 11 he was sought by the Japanese for his expertise as a chemical engineer. He refused to cooperate and consequently, his family spent the last few months of World War 11 in a Japanese prison camp. They were freed when the war ended.



Serge P. Belov in China

In May of 1949 the family left China when Mao Tse-Tung came to power. Communism had destroyed the life Zuka had known in Russia; once again, it decimated much of what he had accumulated during his China years. The family relocated in Australia. His aged parents, now Chinese citizens, remained in Tsingtao.

Claudia died of cancer in Brisbane on October 14, 1951 at the age of fifty-one. Several of her grand children inherited her large beautiful eyes. Daughter Catherine, a U.S. citizen, enlisted in the U.S. Air Force. Zuka followed her to the States where he found employment with Standard Slag Company of Gabbs, Nevada. While living in Gabbs he joined the Free Masons and participated in the Bugle and Drum Corps.

In September 1967, Zuka retired to Sandy, Utah to live near his three young grandsons. He lived in the Cottonwood Meadow's trailer park at 7943 Brady Circle for ten years. He died at Cottonwood Hospital on June 30, 1977 at the age of seventy-seven from pneumonia and anemia.

Serge P. Belov is buried in Wasatch Lawn Memorial Park at 33rd East on Highland Drive in Salt Lake City. Three stories, one about an experience in China; another describing his life shortly after arriving in the U.S., and a third, in which Zuka shares a secret about the infamous Rasputin, conclude this family history.