

WWII allies to commemorate 50th anniversary of lend-lease

by Novosti Information Agency

ANADYR — To mark the 50th anniversary of the first U.S. lend-lease convoys across the Atlantic to the Soviet Northern port of Murmansk, a large group of vessels will go on a sea voyage from Britain, Canada and the United States to the Soviet coast of the Sea of Bering in 1991.

Former British Prime Minister Mrs. Thatcher, U.S. President George Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev have voiced their readiness to be honorary commanders of the voyage.

Yet, some of the glorious pages in history of collaboration of the anti-Hitler coalition allies have remained little known to the world public.

Via Alaska and Chukotka, more than 2,000 military aircraft — Douglas and Aeracobra types — were airlifted to the Eastern front of World War II.

In Egvekinot, Chukotka, there is a memorial in honor of the Soviet and American pilots who lost their lives while trail-blazing new routes across the vast expanses of Siberia and landing on small airfields far from the battlefields.

Next summer, a group of teenagers from Anadyr, the capital of Chukotka, will bring an Aeracobra, which suffered an air crash in a tundra some 50 years ago, to Anadyr. After repairing the aircraft, they will mount it on a pedestal on the Bering Sea shore.