The Falsification of Open Sources About MH17: Two Years Later.
Introduction

On July 15, 2016, the latest Bellingcat report was released. That report was an attempt to prove the Russian Federation’s involvement in the downing of airliner “Boeing 777” from the sky over eastern Ukraine on July 17, 2014. The open source information is presented as evidences. That open source information has been analyzed, and in the authors’ opinion, presents only one possible version - the Boeing was shot down by an anti-aircraft missile, launched from the Russian self-propelled mounting 9A310M1 of an air defense complex “Buk-M1”.

The analysis of Bellingcat journalistic investigation’s course shows, that from the very beginning so-called independent experts chose and coherently followed pro-Ukrainian (pro-American?) version of militiamen’s guilt for the aircraft’s crash.

In the introduction Bellingcat at once and unambiguously states: “Within hours, the world became aware of the general circumstances that led to the tragedy: a group of pro-Russian separatists shot down the passenger plane with a Buk anti-aircraft missile”. That statement actually rejects any necessity and significance in the activity of the international team’s investigation for that crush.

Onwards a scrutiny is adduced to explain the forgeries and falsifications, used by Bellingcat as so-called evidences.

The Bellingcat investigation’s methods of data processing and analysing are considered to be anything but undoubted. Most of experts find Bellingcat’s treatment for a contemplation of satellite pictures to be subjective and not used for a scientific analysis.

On this report we reveal opinions and assessments of the really independent experts of space and geospatial information, air defense’s specialists, journalists and ordinary internet users, united by the desire to expose Bellingcat’s falsifiers. Our aim is to prevent the members of that bloggers’ community to influence an objectivity of the investigation into Malaysian Boeing’s crash.

Our team (let’s contingently call it “AntiFAKE”) will consequently analyse the arguments, reflected on our contraditors’ latest report. And we’ll try to objectively evaluate those arguments.

That is not the end of the exposures to falsifications, used by Bellingcat’s sofa experts and other similar groups of fakers. To be continued.

2 http://www.rbc.ru/politics/04/06/2015/557047579a79474278ecb788
Instead of the contents:

Scrubtitising all the articles of Bellingcat before May 2016, you can find out, that the most photo and video evidences, used by so-called sofa researchers, were downloaded to the Internet in the day of crash (July 17). The exceptions are the pictures, published by the French magazine “Paris Match” (July 23 and 25) and the video, filmed at Luhansk (July 18). The authors of the most those publications are anonymous. The only exception is the video, which had been filmed at Luhansk by “Ukrainian police’s covert surveillance department” and published by Avakov (Minister of the Interior).

In few days and hours after the crash of MH17 Ukrainian officials widely publicly discussed all that data (except the photo of “Paris Match”) anonymously downloaded by someone to social nets. For example on July 17 Gerashchenko (The ministry of internal affairs) showed the photo of Buk at Torez; on July 18 Avakov (The ministry of internal affairs) showed the video of Buk at Luhansk; also on July 18 Nalivaychenko (the chief of Ukrainian security service) showed the video of Buk at Snizhne, and on July 19 Vitaliy Naida (Ukrainian security service) showed shot fragment of video frame (not the video itself) from Zugres.

Based on so-called fair evidences presented by Ukrainian politicians, throughout its so-called independent investigation Bellingcat advocated the version of US military intelligence’s official representatives about the missile launch site of Buk TEL (Transporter Erector Launcher). That version was proposed on July 22, 2014.

For two years Bellingcat specialists avoided even the minor deviations from an established course and tried to prove, that Russia sent Buk TEL to Ukraine. In the day of crash that Buk was photographed at Makiivka and also it was recorded with DVR by an onlooker in that location. Then it was transported to Snizhne, in the vicinity of that location where Buk hit Boeing MH17. Later on it was transported to Luhansk, where on July 18 Ukrainian ministry of internal affairs employee recorded with a camera that on Buk one missile was missed, then it was transported back to Russia.

Is that version probable? We’ll answer this question, successively replying several main questions:

Was there the trailer with a loaded Buk missile launcher in the vicinity of Makiivka on July 17, 2014?

Are there any evidences, that the Buk anti-aircraft missile was launched from Snizhne?

Did the trailer with a loaded Buk missile launcher drive through Luhansk on July 18, 2014?
Was there the trailer with a loaded Buk missile launcher in the vicinity of Makiivka on July 17, 2014?

The Bellingcat latest so-called report’s distinction is uncompromising assessment of the situation at Donbass area in July 2014, frequently given by Bellingcat experts, who tried to find the evidence of Russian presence before completing that investigation.

One of that kind of assessments is the following conclusion: “With the escalation Russian involvement in the conflict with direct artillery strikes and the prioritized effort to neutralize Ukrainian air power, Russia’s decision to provide a powerful Buk-M1 anti-aircraft missile system to separatist forces is entirely logical” 3. Air defense specialists don’t consider this conclusion as indisputable, because in May – July 2014 the main striking force of Ukrainian Air Force, used against militiamen, were ground attack jets Su-25, helicopters Mi-8 and Mi-24. They hit ground targets only from the low altitude, which were at the range of shoulder launched Man Portable Air Defence Systems (MANPADS) and Air Defence Systems like “Strela-10”. In those circumstances it would be completely unwarranted to involve expensive and sophisticated Buk missile launchers, designed to hit targets at the medium and high altitudes. It's necessary to mention, that neither before the Malaysian Boeing’s tragedy, nor after that, there was not any information about the use of Buk missile launchers by militiamen. That fact impugns any availability of such powerful weapons with the forces of People’s Republic of Donetsk.

On the third page of the report Bellingcat evidently tries to confuse the readers with combining two unrelated events, allegedly confirming the relocation of Buk self-propelled missile launcher at the Eastern Ukraine4.

A message in “Donetsk is Ukraine!” group’s post of the social net “V Kontakte”

In this message the user, mentioning by Bellingcat, writes about relocation of a “Buk” missile launcher, escorted by three vehicles. Furthermore the launcher was transported in the direction towards Donetsk.

4 https://twitter.com/666_mancer/status/489668680398438400
The twit of the user @666_mancer

This twit informs about an Air Defence Systems “Strela”, escorted by 10 vehicles already in Donetsk.

The twit of the user @MOR2537

This twit informs, that the column is escorted already by “two covering vehicles”. Furthermore it moves in the opposite direction from Donetsk. If the same column is described in those posts (Bellingcat insists on that), so may be militiamen didn’t know what to do, except for moving in one direction and then returning back again.

Bellingcat experts are absolutely not embarrassed by an obvious inconsistency of facts about Air Defense Systems’ types (it’s impossible to confuse them visually) and number of escorting vehicles. So they unambiguously concluded that it was the same column.

It’s worthy of note, that the first user confidently identifies the type of the transported air missile launcher as Buk-M1. Not every ordinary civilian can distinguish one type of a military armament from another. Taking into consideration, that from 1978 “Buk” has been modernized 7 times⁵ and it’s really complicated to distinguish different types of this missile launcher; such awareness is really astonishing.

⁵https://ru.wikipedia.org/wiki/%D0%91%D1%83%D0%BA_(%D0%B7%D0%B5%D0%BD%D0%B8%D1%82%D0%BD%D1%8B%D0%B9_%D1%80%D0%B0%D0%BA%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%BD%D1%8B%D0%B9_%D0%BA%D0%BE%D0%BC%D0%BF%D0%BB%D0%B5%D0%BA%D1%81)
From the very beginning Bellingcat used incorrect sequence of arguments and now continues to confuse readers with the following statement: “The French tabloid magazine Paris Match has shared two images showing the picture, matching the previous witness account” (see page 4 of the report).

Our opponents refer to the post, which contains information about air missile launcher “Strela” covered with a canvas, but air missile launcher “Buk”, clearly covered by a camouflage net, is reflected at the image published by the French magazine. This time Bellingcat takes advantage when not all readers know the real difference between “canvas” and “camouflage net”. But the difference is really significant. A canvas is used to cover an armament in bad weather conditions, when it rains, snows, etc. But camouflage net is designed to conceal or hide the object from an enemy intelligence. The two pictures, one with a tank covered by a canvas, another one with a camouflage net are revealed to compare.
As you can see, it’s impossible to jumble them. By the way, Bellingcat informs, that the air missile launcher is covered by a camouflage net, not a canvas (see page 4 of the report). It’s an obvious discrepancy.

In the second image, various details of the Buk missile launcher are clearer, including the netting above the four mounted missiles.

The quote of Bellingcat report, page 4

In spite of the Bellingcat allegation, that the launcher at the image is loaded with four missiles. It’s impossible to state it unambiguously. Looking at the presented image, it’s also impossible to determine, how many missiles are covered with a camouflage net. However, it is not so important. There is another important issue... While examining the revealed pictures, it’s an evident discrepancy that the truck’s cab and the part of wiper on the windshield are precise, but the self-propelled launcher looks really blur. Herewith “Buk” is located between the truck’s cabin and the wiper’s brush, which explains, that the reason of a blur could be only the deliberate interference from outside.
So you can compare how the column of Ukrainian Buks looks like. That video was recorded at the village Karlovka in March 2014. Unlike the cover page’s image of French tabloid magazine “Paris Match”, that picture is realistic, because the trailer is in the movement. Thus the shapes of both the launcher and the truck look blur.

It is noteworthy that the anonymous “Paris Match” journalist’s verbal statement is the only confirmation of taking picture with white trailer hauling Buk on July 17, 2014. There are no any other evidences.

Further a real detective story starts… Reference to the satellite picture of Makiivka, published on June 22, 2016, Bellingcat desperately tries to confirm the authenticity of DVR video, recently revealed to the Internet. That video allegedly proves the presence of Buk and vehicles of escort in this area. The purpose of it is really far-reaching – to prove that DVR video (which date and time cannot be identified) recorded the actual transportation of the Buk missile launcher via Makiivka. It is noteworthy that both those important evidences for Boeing crash investigation (proving the guilt of militiamen) were published coincidentally almost at the same time, just shortly before announcing preliminary results of a criminal investigation.

6http://m.censor.net.ua/video_news/274823/ukraina_zaschischaet_donetsk_ot_napadeniya_rossii_zenitnoraketnye_kompleksy_buk_zanimayut_pozitsii_fotovide
From the very beginning everything seems strange in this story. Let's start with the fact, that there is no information about any images of Makilivka taken on July 17, 2014, in the catalogue of American company Digital Globe (commercial provider of satellite pictures, including for Google Earth)!

Any Internet user can check that fact on the official website of Digital Globe.

As you see, on July 17, 2014, satellites only took photographs of two areas: Luhansk city and the border with Russian Federation.
The information of DG website with indicating the ID numbers of Luhansk oblast’s images, which were taken on July 17, 2014.

While searching the information, we used the criteria with minimal limitations, which permitted maximum wide range of materials’ selection from the all possible satellites in any photographing and weather conditions.

The search request of satellite images on July 17, 2014

At the picture below you can see the following response to the search request for the satellite images of Makiivka area on July 17, 2014: “No images meet your filter criteria”.

The information of DG website with indicating the ID numbers of Luhansk oblast’s images, which were taken on July 17, 2014.
But what about the satellite image with the catalogue number 105041001104D000, which Bellingcat allegedly bought from Google and which can not be seen with the use of a standard search?

Surprisingly, there is this image! The alternative search using the identification number indicated the picture of Makiivka, allegedly taken by the satellite GeoEye1 on July 17, 2014.

But due to that fact, there are additional questions. The satellite images’ catalogue Digital Globe automatically receives the pictures, immediately after the primary ground processing. At the same time the detailed data about images is being published and the pictures obtain identification numbers. It’s necessary to mention, that there is no requirement of any people involvement in that process. It takes no more than 24 hours from the moment of shooting until the publishing of images. Due to the commercial profit, the company is not interested in hiding any information. So why there is no data about the mysterious picture number 105041001104D000 in the Digital Globe catalogue of satellite images at the official website?

It can be explained only by the binding hide of the definite image, i.e. removal from a commercial turnover. Previously there were similar cases, when the satellite images’ information excluded from a public access and could not be found by a standard search. But it happened rather rare and due to the requirements of American secret services, when US military installations were filmed or for preventing a disclosure of the confidential information from Washington, DC.
Generally there are more questions, than answers about those images:

First of all, why was the image of Makiivka of July 17, 2014, hidden and not included (until now) to the Digital Globe public catalogue, though other pictures of the south-eastern Ukraine (including Makiivka), taken in July 2014, are present and can be found by a search?

Secondly, why was the image (significantly important for the investigation of MH17 crash) presented only two years after shooting, just on the eve of finalizing the international team’s investigation?

Thirdly, how did Bellingcat find out that secret image of Makiivka, which cannot be found with a standard search and its identification number can not be known in advance?

The conclusion of our investigation indicated, that the answer for the third question was not complicated at all. Bellingcat used the image provided by intelligence analytic companies “Stratfor” and “All Source Analysis”, well-known by its close ties with US secret services, which control both Google and Digital Globe.

It’s noticeable, that the chairman of the global intelligence company “Stratford” (usually called by American journalist as “The Shadow CIA”) George Friedman did not hide US attitude towards north Atlantic allies and he stated, that USA did not care about NATO, the alliance’s members will
be informed when to fight, in that moment America was just preparing a war and finally advised them not to interfere.\textsuperscript{7}

It’s necessary to mention, that US government and its spy agencies have a long experience of secret operations with the aim to discredit different governments or social movements, which didn’t share American view. To prove how such operations can end, it’s enough to remember the experience of disinformation, lies and frauds for getting a support of Iraq war.\textsuperscript{8} As the saying goes, no need to add any comments to that.

Even if you suggest, that Bellingcat investigation is really independent, you can accept to consider the following act as strange: on July 17, 2014 the satellite took just one single picture of Makivka, it was at the right time in the right place, in an ideal weather conditions and finally took the very high quality picture of the moving column of vehicles, when nobody knew the time and the route in advance. It looks like, in an ambush the satellite waited for the truck hauling a Buk. Obviously the chances of such coincidence were very low, except for it was thoroughly planned direction or falsification.

When there is no other evidences, such magic image, suddenly found two years after the crash, can be considered as a serious prove of the Bellingcat version. But is it really true? Let’s attentively analyze this image.

According to the Bellingcat version, the column of three vehicles, escorting white truck with a loaded Buk are allegedly depicted at the satellite image. It’s noticeable, that previously hapless investigators used as an evidence the message of a social net “V Kontakte” group “Donetsk is Ukraine!”, where it was an information about ten vehicles (see page 3 of the report). According to the sofa experts’ version, it is definitely the same column, escorting air missile launcher Buk. Scrutinizing the Bellingcat experts’ evidences of the report, especially timing, you can find out, that at 09:00 am on July 17, 2014, the column hauling Buk consisted of three escort vehicles, but around 10:00 am already ten and at 11:08 am three again.

\textsuperscript{7} http://www.compromat.ru/page_35538.htm
\textsuperscript{8} http://mixednews.ru/archives/37259
On June 22, 2016, Google published satellite imagery from Digital Globe of the area captured on July 17th 2014, showing the truck moving through Makievka close to the location shown in the video. Based on information from Digital Globe, the satellite image was captured at 11:08 am local time.

Bellingcat presents the UAZ vehicle in the convoy as a prove of pro-Ukrainian user’s information in the post of social net “V Kontakte” group “Donetsk is Ukraine!” (see page 5 of the report). They didn’t doubt, that in that post the camouflage UAZ was mentioned, but in the Bellingcat report the vehicle was described as khaki colored. Also the makes of minibuses (allegedly escorting a column) do not coincide – “Hyundai” and “Volkswagen”.

Nevertheless Bellingcat obstinately proves its own version and intentionally does not recognize the difference of colors. Camouflage is spotting, masking color, used for decreasing a visibility and making silhouettes blurry, but khaki is monochromatic color, from dirty yellow to greenish-brown. Definitely these are descriptions of different vehicles.

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9 https://ru.wikipedia.org/wiki/%D0%9A%D0%B0%D1%83%D1%84%D0%BB%D1%8F%D0%B6
The directions of vehicles' movement. According to the Bellingcat version, they drive in one column

Furthermore, if attentively observe the picture, revealed by Bellingcat as an important evidence of Buk’s presence in Makiivka, it’s easy to find, that two from three escort vehicles are on the opposite traffic lane. Bellingcat’s suggestion, that they are blocking the road is not convincing: firstly due to the absence of any vehicles at the opposite direction, so there is no need to block the road, secondly, the shadows of those vehicles definitely indicate the direction of movement, i.e. an opposite direction from the truck.

Thus there is more plausible version that those two cars drove towards an opposite direction from the truck, so they were not an escort of the truck, hauling Buk, as sofa experts try to present those two vehicles. And the bad quality of the image does not permit to surely identify them as a minibus and UAZ, in spite of Bellingcat insisting. An image of the truck does not permit to insist, that this trailer is hauling precisely a Buk.

Scrubnizing the picture, it becomes obvious, that the shadow of a truck, firstly, does not correspond to a shape of missile launcher loaded on the platform and, secondly, unlike all other shadows, indicates absolutely different direction, north-east. For that area and declared time of shooting (11:08 am July 17, 2014) the azimuth of the sun is 136,18 degrees, the height of the sun is 57,23 degrees. Thus the direction of shadows should be north-west.
That fact allows to state, that there are obvious signs of intentional input from outside to the satellite image, presented by Bellingcat.

DVR video also does not prove that a white trailer with the loaded Buk drove through Makiivka on July 17, 2014. Quite the contrary. It substantiates that the trailer was not at Makiivka in the day of Boeing’s crash.

But let’s review it in course... Let’s assume that the trailer drove through Makiivka. Its route passed by the petrol station “Parallel”, located at Avtotransportnaya street, building 52. But it did not happen on July 17, the trailer drove several days earlier!

The evidence of that is a DVR video showing the column of militia’s combat vehicles. That video was recorded by journalists of «HOT News» in the background of that petrol station at Avtotransportnaya street. The persons, who recorded that video, downloaded it to YouTube on July 15, 2014. Based on that fact, it’s possible to insist that the video was filmed at least two days prior the DVR record, according to Bellingcat.

The screenshot of a video recorded in front of the petrol station “Parallel” July 15, 2014

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10 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fJ5z64D3TA0
11 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AvwH0T2WCN0
The scrutiny of both videos indicated, that they were recorded at the same place, but only from different angles.

In the video dated July 15, it’s possible to observe that prior the column of combat vehicles an asphalt surface of road was not damaged. The column left distinctive caterpillars’ dents on the road. Herewith the DVR video, which was filmed allegedly two days later shows no signs of damages made by heavy vehicles. If to avoid the version that from July 15 to 17, 2014 an asphalt surface was changed on that patch of road, the conclusion is obvious – the DVR video was recorded before July 15, 2014.
By the way, according to the image, presented by Bellingcat, at 11:08 am on July 17, 2014, in Makiivka the weather was shiny, what allowed the satellite’s camera to take good quality picture of area. The same weather is also at the images of DVR. But according to the Internet information of the Ukrainian meteorological service, the sky above Makiivka was cloudy in that time.\footnote{http://meteo.ua/archive/315/makeevka/2014-7-17}

The information of Ukrainian meteorological service on July 17, 2014

It means, that it was impossible to receive such a quality image (without clouds). Hence it was taken most probably in another time. Definitely not in the time, Bellingcat insists on.

So our group’s information can lead to the following conclusions (disappointing for Bellingcat):

Social net messages about transportation of air missile launcher loaded on a trailer from Makiivka to Donetsk and back, also the similar information, Bellingcat referencing as allegedly reliable, can not be
considered as trustworthy and all of them are not the evidences that on July 17, 2014 air missile launcher Buk passed through Makiivka.

The origin of the satellite image presented as an important evidence of air missile launcher Buk’s presence in Makiivka, is doubtful. The obvious signs of falsifications of that image do not permit to consider it as an evidence for a movement of the column with missile launcher Buk via Makiivka, recorded by DVR.

DVR video was recorded prior July 15, 2014. It does not prove the presence of a trailer with a loaded Buk in the day of Boeing crash at Makiivka.

Thus all Bellingcat statements that Boeing was downed by the air missile launcher Buk, which was transported on a white trailer, are groundless. The statement of E. Higgins that the group managed to track the route of air missile launcher, which hit Boeing, can be considered as simple, but qualitatively prepared FAKE.
The Buk-M1 anti-aircraft missile launched from Snizhne

During conducting the investigation Bellingcat completely rejects the Rene Descartes’s words of “question everything” and does not allow any variations from the version released by US Intelligence on July, 22 2014, that the cause of the Malaysian plane tragedy is the missile launched from Snizhne, which was under militant’s control.

Bellingcat referred to four facts considered as the key evidence:
- Photographs of white smoke trail, which were taken several seconds after the MH117 crash;
- Visible fire damage the field of wheat, appeared between July, 16 2014 and July, 20 2014;
- Record, according to the representatives of the Security Service of Ukraine, made on July, 17;

However having analyzed the so-called evidence Bellingcat drew a conclusion that all these evidences individually are not convincing. But together they could significantly reinforce that the missile was launched from the Snizhne.

Furthermore, sofa experts did not ask a question that how to explain the situation that only one person photographed the smoke missile trail in 6 minutes after missile launch. Could it be that nobody saw smoke column from the ground to the cloud and did not take photo of it for 6 minutes in noontime in the industrial area? Also, it should be mentioned, that the photographer took a photo of it at a distance of 13 km (the distance between the location of report in Torez and the alleged location of missile launch in the territory between the villages Pervomaysky and Red October). Let’s imagine. How many witnesses were on such a huge area? Nowadays everybody has mobile phones with camera or smartphones, car dash cameras and so on. Reporters, journalists, observers and thousands military and intelligence men from both sides were there. Remember, the Chelyabinsk meteor in February 2013. The meteor was seen streaking through the early morning sky in the Chelyabinsk region of Russia for several seconds. As a result, over 930 video recordings were taken by citizens, which you can watch on YouTube. In that case, people really had no time to take out a mobile phone with a camera and take pictures. But dozens of records are there! It was possible to make a great number photographs of Buk missile for six minutes, if, of course, it was.

The first evidence in the Bellingcat report is the photograph taken by Pavel Aleynikov. According to him the photo was taken literally several minutes after the aircraft crash. Paradoxically that exactly three hours after the downing of MH17 the sensational photograph was posted on Twitter not by Aleynikov, who had taken it, but by Vladimir Djukov (@wowihay). This is unprecedented case for creative people, who do not like to share its authorship)
You can see the contrail allegedly from missile. Nobody has convincingly and officially proved that it was the result of Buk missile launcher. However the authenticity of this photograph, launch place and data are questioned.
Let’s turn to investigation of Dutch blogger Max van der Verff who visited the place in the city of Torez, where only the photo was taken. As a result, he conducted his own investigation. He drew an unmistakable conclusion that this photo is fabrication! He wrote: “There is ideally blue sky on the photo published three hours after the MH17 tragedy”. Users of social networks have immediately questioned the authenticity of the image posted on the Internet, because there were cloudy over Snizhne at the moment of taking photograph. But at imagery people saw clear blue sky without any clouds. To prove that it is necessary to use information on the open Ukrainian website meteo.ua, containing the forecast over Snizhne on 17 July 2014.

Information of the Ukrainian meteorological service on 17 July 2014

Overcast over the area of Grabovo on 17 July 2014

The presence of clouds in the area of catastrophe "are confirmed by data evaluation of the meteorological conditions, which were presented by Netherlands in the technical report on the collapse of the Malaysian plane.

Four months later December 22 2014 Dutch TV channel RTL presented another picture from the area of the crash. Its author (P. Aleynikov) says that it was made almost at the same moment as the only image published at that time.

Summary of the weather information

The weather forecast indicated that the weather over the eastern part of Ukraine included thunderstorms. The actual weather was consistent with the forecast.

14 [Link](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6taSdNNAGis)
15 [Link](http://echo.msk.ru/files/2383070.pdf)
It is suspicious that in the picture that was made at the same time the sky is cloudy and has a totally different.

Another significant digression is the first photo of smoke in crash place taken by Aleynikov, but published V. Djukov. Djukov published it several minutes after the catastrophe.

Bellingcat writes in a report: “Two research organizations, FOX-IT and NIDF, verified the smoke photograph’s authenticity. But two other organizations, NEO and TuDelft (Delft University of Technology), examined
the photograph of white smoke trail and determined the location of the launch site”. But news agency RTL News wrote, that the organization did not found any indications of processing or manipulation in the photograph.

Dutch blogger verified this information: “I wonder, why RTL News did not publish any reports. I (M. Verff) addressed FOX-IT and NIDF with a request to sent me these documents”. Both organizations said “no” and advised me to contact with RTL News. Of course, I understood that this was the only accurate response of organizations, which should protect interests of their clients. Then I was in contact with RTL News several times and asked them to show me the reports. News Channel denied my request. Why? RTL I had never published any pictures in reports. Why?” These questions remain unanswered.

M. Verff thinks that “Not being able to find out whether the picture is forged not mean to be sure that the image has not been tampered”. He conducted investigation of imageries and drew conclusion.

The image 3

The image 3 was published 15 minutes after plane crash and its authenticity was not questioned. Thousands of people sew dark smoke trail in the sky. Many people made photographs and videos that were posted in social networks.

The image 2

- Nobody but Pavel Aleynikov took photograph of contrail;
- It's been 10 months and on the Internet and does not add any videos to which this trail would be visible;
- Despite it was cloudy, but visibility is excellent. From 40,000 people living there it was possible to find other eyewitnesses of contrail, but in fact there is no other witnesses;

- Most part of photographs and videos were made from crash site in Grabovo. They were taken from different places, however there was no missile trails.
Let’s leave these facts
a) It is possible that the image 2 is real and is not fake, thus it shows another event in another day. People who claim that they can prove the authenticity of photo made on July, 17 2014 do not know what they say;
b) It is possible that interested persons, for example – the specialists of the Ukraininan Security Service, edited the image;

The image 1
We know that cables shown on the picture, which was posted on 22 December 2014, do not exist and did not exist. (M. Verff verified it. He climbed on the roof of the building, where the photo allegedly was taken);

The next chain of events can explain why was necessary to draw unreal cables:
- The author of image 2 after it publication was strongly criticized in social networks due to the mismatch of weather conditions on photo with real conditions on July, 17 2014;
- It is expected that the official investigation could demand the explanations, it was decided that it is necessary to take another one photo which could explain the presence of the image 2;
- The image 1 was edited with Photoshop. The cute clouds. White trace is located slightly left in comparison with the image 2. That was expected in high winds.

Overlay the zoomed image on top of the unzoomed image:

- Does everything match or not? Falsifiers faced with an unexpected problem. They had plenty of time in order to edit the image 1, but it should be stressed that it is very difficult to secretly insert one image into another;
- Solution: the image was done blurred in order to hide the results of falsification. The cables were put in the image for reliability. Thus, the camera of Aleynikov allegedly auto-focused on (non-existent) cables”.

In addition to the investigations of the Dutch blogger there are many materials and evidence in the Internet, mentioned in the Bellingcat report about the unreliability of Aleynikov’s photos. Including testimony of P. Aleynikov who gave interviews to various media outlets (Business Insider, RTL News, Meduza and Daily Mail. During different interviews the author of photos always confused in his testimony of how he came to make these exclusive images, as well as the chronology of the events of that day and the moment of the catastrophe.

Summing all this information, it simply to make conclusion that the photographer P. Aleynikov is a hostage of circumstance. In fact more reliable version of the origin of these photos sounds different.

![The photograph of Aleynikov’s tripod, with which he took his photographs](image.jpg)

P. Aleynikov positioned himself as a professional photographer. Let us assume that he has high-quality photographic equipment with all the accessories (tripod, removable lenses etc.). He went to the roof of the apartment building where he lived, and made photographs of neighborhoods. Thus, it is possible to say that, he calibrated his equipment
and trained his photography skills in such manner. At the same time he collected all these photos. We return to it later.

The experts in photography conducted the necessary investigations of two imageries of white smoke trail. They made conclusion that these photos were made with using tripod. It means that the third published photo was made by using raised bar on the standard height of tripod, the second one was made by using lowered.

In addition, it was conducted the analysis of Aleynilov's statement about his actions at the moment of the plane catastrophe, as a result of it his actions did not match with his words 16.

Based on this information it is possible to make a conclusion that P. Aleynikov really photographed smoke trail from the Boeing crash site, because the image of the picture may be confirmed by other eyewitnesses' photos. At the same time, he sent this photo to V. Djukov, because he was not being able to post photos on social networks.

Then Aleynikov did not know that civilian plane was shoot down (interview in Daily Mail): "My camera was near the window. I took it and ran up the stairs to the roof to make photo. I shot the first photo, but saw that the electric cables were right in the middle, that I zoomed and took a second one. Then I turn to side (to the North) and saw the blue smoke trace. I decided that it was missile struck the gas station. I climbed to the other part of roof to shoot photo from that place. It took me three minutes. Then I made the third image. I had no idea that my third image captured the smoke after plane crash. So it was a reason why I made a few photos. If I had known exactly what had happened, of course, I would have taken more photographs. But I knew about it only in two hours after the tragedy 17.

Bellingcat confirmed the Aleynikov's words which he said in six month after catastrophe. The metadata of photos show that the first image of white smoke was taken on general background, the second one appears to be a zoomed in version of the previous image, and the third photo showed the crash site.

Any psychologist tells you that any person head strange sounds tries to find the source of sound. Thus when I heard loud sound of clap I run to the roof. Any person paid his attention to the black smoke of plane crash place, but a few people noticed smoke column of contrail on cloudy sky. Thus it exactly explains that the third photo was published at first.

Then there are several reasonable questions, why the second image (number two is in accordance with the metadata) was made in three hours after the plane crash:

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1. The image of contrail was made previously and saved in the archive of the photographer or his friend V. Djukov. It should be mentioned that at that time Savur-Mohyla was the location of the most active combat actions in that time, the Ukrainian aviation was actively used in vicinity of Snizhne, militia used man-portable air defense system or the Strela-10 system against them. Thus the smoke trace in the sky may be contrail from unsuccessfully whenever launched missile, which did not strike target. When Aleynikov and Djukov learned that one of the versions of the accident was the result of missile strike, they wanted to announce a sensation, they found in the archive perfect image, edited it with Photoshop and posted on Twitter. It took them three hours. Remember there is no other photo and video evidence confirming missile launch.

2. The image was completely falsified with photo editor, i.e. the white smoke was laid over the photograph. In addition, this work was coordinated by the Ukrainian special service (government officials and interested persons). But main work on research, falsification and circulation was done by pro-Ukrainian blogger V. Djukov. It also could take him three hours

The photographs was taken by Aleynikov before the plane crash, but the Billingcat experts do not except an opportunity to change the data and time of photos. In Bellingcat report the sofa experts state: "although person can change data of camera, the first photograph was posted in two hours after the catastrophe (at the same time it could be taken in three hours). According to our opinion if photographs captured not missile launch which allegedly had been seen over Terez on 17 July 2014, only and one scenario can be possible. That is a photographer took image in advance, he also change the data on camera and installed 17July 2014 16.25 (Eastern Europe Summer Time). But it should be mentioned that the probability of this is extremely miserable.

By the way,It wants to remind to Bellingcat, even a broken clock is right twice a day. But if be more seriously, it is not difficult to change media data of photographs for a qualified specialist. In addition it was enough time for doing it. The reason of it that the information of mediadata was classified for a long time. Bellingcat explained it like that. The information of images allegedly can be presented as a danger for life of the photographer, i.e. for Aleynikov and his relatives. But it sounds not very convincing.

Also it should be mentioned that all these materials, on which referred Bellingcat in order to blame Russia and militia, were taken from anonymous sources. But it is unreal to define exact time and other information. Thus the Bellingcat experts use this to falsify evidence in the accordance with their aims.

Any sortwares are vulnerable, sometimes a designer does not know about it. But in fact, even the most protected informational objects can be vulnerable. For example, the bank system or the Apple's production, which operates the most advanced security technologies in the
accordance with the leadership of company. This, it does not recommed to speak about camera's software or even the professional camera's as unvulnerable. The qualified specialist can speak about the quality and vulnerability of electronic devices for a long time. You can read their thoughts on different forum in the Internet.

Then let us consider the second suggestion about activity of the Special Service. There are a lot of evidences provided by anonymous sources of information in favour of this suggestion. Bellingcat actively uses them as the key evidence without examination while conducting the investigation.

Although the Security Service of Ukraine actively participated in broadcasting of the version that the Malaysian airliner was hid Buk missile launcher operated by pro-Russian forces. The Special Service of Ukraine posted the video with allegedly intercepted conversations of militiamen in the Internet.

By the way video and the text has been made very carefully. First of all it was designed for the layman, because nobody will reveal sources of information during ordinary conversation. For reliability and creating a "beautiful" pictures were used the image of men in military uniforms and masks. In accordance with the opinion of the Security Service, thus allegedly real image of Russian terrorists will be created for the viewer. Also the Ukrainian specialists added the codenames of conversation participations. As a result, all doubts allegedly disappeared. In the early hours the “staffing” with fake video probably gave the Ukrainian Security Service advantages. But later Bellingcat presented forgery of video as key evidence. However it is not acceptable at all, even among the sofa experts of beginner level will be undeer the influence of special services made a movie that is not even a real-time imagery. But Bellingcat it is consciously, as there is no other significant materials.
Also, it is not clear with explaining the launch site of Snizhne in the Bellingcat report. On page 17 of the Bellingcat report there is information that a track trail was appeared on a field, where was the location of missile launch and the fact that they allegedly determined the exact location of missile launch in the accordance with SBIRS data.

Field south of Snizhne between July 16 and 23, 2014 (Source Google Earth/Digital Globe)

Indification of the launch point of the SBIRS data

This statement is extremely doubtful. The quality of the imagery is poor. The maximum satellite resolution power used by Digital Globe Company is 0,5-0,8m. Thus, it is impossible to differentiate the trail of Buk missile launcher and agricultural machinery. Also it is impossible to explain the nature of mysterious triangle by using this imagery.

According to he specifications satellites such as «SBIRS» need more than 20 seconds to detect the fact of missile launch and at list 50 second to determine direction of missile. However, the work of Buk propelling systems from specified area cannot last more than 17 seconds.18

In addition the location of missile launch is counted with the accuracy to 3-4 km. That is obviously better than the US space system capability.

Thus, due to absence of any technical specification like detection time, height, detection condition etc. the information provided in the Bellingcat report is fully unproven and unreliable.

What most remarkable is that the Russian service of BBC made report in the first days after the tragedy. Conducting investigation on alleged place of missile launch British journalist Olga Ivshina met no eyewitnesses of missile launch\(^\text{19}\), but found eyewitnesses, who indicated the presence of a military aircraft right beside the Malaysian Airlines Boeing MH17 at the time that it was shot down.

Moreover, she stressed that Savur-Mohyla, the location of the most active combat actions at that time, was in close vicinity to the place of missile launch. Thus, there were a lot of military men in that place, who could take mass photos or videos of smoke column. As well as there were many people working in the coal mine, who also could take photographs by using their mobile phones with cameras. Such event as the launch of super missile cannot fail to be seen. British journalist made a supposition that it could be the smoke from combat actions in vicinity of Savur-Mohyla or from coal mine’s equipment.

\(^{19}\) [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RA2GfthOyz8 «Удаленный репортаж о поиске «Бука» - расширенная версия - BBC Русская»](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RA2GfthOyz8 «Удаленный репортаж о поиске «Бука» - расширенная версия - BBC Русская»)
The report by Olga Ivshina had been removed from the site BBC for some time, because the first version was too pro-Russian. Later the second version of report was added with some comments from pro-Ukrainian experts and published again by BBC.

It should be mentioned, that Olga Ivshina is not the one journalist who tried to find an alleged place of missile launch. Telegraph reporters visited the field not far from the city of Torez and village Pervomaysky. They found something, but did not understand what. Firstly, that’s a video link and the report. According to them, people saw the traces of tracked vehicle on suggested place of missile launch, but no missile launches. In addition, reporters asked a tractor operator, who was next to the place. He answered that several days ago one field had been on fire. As the result, Telegraph reporters could found only burnt land and strange rubbish. What a surprise – the field was on fire. In this time of year it is often to see burnt field in Ukraine. The reason of it is obvious. The temperature approaches 35 degrees of Celsius in the middle of July. The grass is very dry. If look at imagery it’s easy to see the hot summer withered the grass, thus one spark or cigarette is enough to fire grass. But there is no trace of tracked vehicle at imagery at all. Also we must not forget that there was fighting not far from Savur-Mohyla. The Ukrainian aviation was Actively used there. All this suggests that the burnt part of field cannot serve as proof of the missile launch.

![Photo of burnt field](image_url)

*The photo taken by Telegraph reporters in the alleged place of missile launch.*

Bellingcat refers to the evidences of local people in order to add some weight to its report. That evidence deserves attention. The picture of situation described by local people explains the tragedy in different way from one presented by sofa experts.
According to the Bellingcat report, witnesses heard aircraft noise, missile noise and deafening noise of missile blastoff\(^\text{20}\). «It was a huge missile, it wobbled and flew over our house in the direction of Torez»\(^\text{21}\) – eyewitness speech, mentioned as an example.

However it is not difficult to remember, that the sound of plane, flying at the altitude of 10 kilometers in cruise mode, particularly is not heard on the ground. The sound of aircraft can be heard only when the plane has already moved away from the observer. The same goes for warhead initiation of guided missile. In that case, it is possible to hear an extremely soft sound of clap.

Hence, the reference of tremendous roar of missile, flying over civilian houses, fully refutes hypothesis of Buk firing, because firstly missile roar lasts 2-3 seconds after launch and secondly special point of Buk missile targeting is comparative straight trajectory without any wobbles. It is called the method of navigation guidance.\(^\text{22}\) Missile wobble is typical for anti-aircraft missile system with monitoring guidance (S-123, S-200, «Osa» anti-aircraft missile systems), but in principle it is not typical for Buk missile system.

\[\text{The launch of SAM system "Buk-M1"}^\text{23}\]

\(^{20}\) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SkCcCmYlMZc
\(^{21}\) http://mashable.com/2015/07/15/mh17-missile-launch-site
\(^{22}\) http://rbase.new-factoria.ru/missile/wobb/strela_2m/shema.htm
\(^{23}\) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nXgToM8cbBI
The analysis of the Bellingcat evidences shows:

1. The photographs taken by P. Aleynikov published by Djukov are fabricated. The data of shooting or image, or both parameters simultaneously are unreal. That makes impossible the missile launch from Snizhne on 17 July 2014.

2. Negotiations of militias published by the Ukrainian Security Service have the signs of production. The place, which allegedly was the missile launch, was burnt out during the period from 17 July 2014 to 22 July 2014 in the result of intentional or accidental fire. Five days after the MH17 crash the journalists have demonstrated it, but not in hot pursuit.

3. The imagery provided by the representatives of the US military intelligence could not be regarded as evidence of the missile launch from the area of Snizhne.

Thus, there is no evidence to prove the fact of presence of Buk missile launcher in the south of Snizhne.

In conclusion, considering the version that "Boeing" was hit by a single self-propelled fire installation SAM "Buk" supposedly located in the militias to consider the offer, how likely such an option from a technical point of view.

We've managed to communicate with some experts in Air Defence. They confirm that they are very surprised by the fact that the Ukrainian and western journalists overblew version that one and only surface-to-air missile system Buk is cause of plane crash. Bellingcat is disparately finding the traces of missile system through the Internet. For it they use falsifications, unverified information, analysis of information divorced from its context, violation of logical construction etc. Bellingcat experts conducting actions in order to fit to the medieval Jesuitical principal of «the end justifies the means» sometimes forget that the aim is not to only prove a version proposed by them, but the aim is to find the truth in HM17 tragedy.

It is necessary to realize one very important detail for full understanding of unlikeness of the version that single Buk missile launcher was able to shoot down the Malaysian airliner. The capabilities of single self-propelled surface-to-air missile system are strongly limited. Thus, the team of vehicles conducts air target engagement.

Buk missile launcher consists of three vehicles: command post 9S470M1, surveillance radar 9S18M1 «Kupol-M1» and TELAR 9A310M.
Buk system consists of three vehicles.

Every vehicle has its own combat mission. The mission of TELAR 9A310M is to conduct fire. Finding the target in wide range is the mission of surveillance radar 9S18M1 «Kupol-M1». It locates the target, and then cues information to the command post, after this the command post marks target to TELAR, as the result – the missile launching.

It goes without saying that TELAR is able to independently find the target and fire it, but in that case the target acquisition area is limited by 120° in azimuth and 7° in elevation. Thus, the fire effectiveness is too low.

It means that single TELAR can maintain the operation of known-distance firing only in assigned in advance sector of responsibly, so-called ambush tactics, i.e. Buk launcher should exactly know the target, its location and flyover time. Not obtaining all the information, the effectiveness of Buk TELAR is too low; the launcher doesn't not effectively complete the mission of finding and engagement target.

You can put a pistol to the keyhole and wait for hours, days, months, when an enemy appears right in front of the door. Theoretically it is possible, but in practice it is absolutely unreal. In additional, Bellingcat forgets, that some Ukrainian squads of anti-air system were deployed in the area of Donetsk.

The argument that the Ukrainian Armed Forces did not use anti-aircraft system against the militias because they had no aviation is not convincing.

The Ukrainian minister of Defence Heletey even carried out an inspection of several anti-air units with the aim of propaganda.

24 http://militaryarms.ru/boepripasy/rakety/buk-m1/
25 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iBtPduKnjnl
While the Ukrainian Defense minister Heletey visited troops in the vicinity of Donetsk on July 5, 2014.

Naturally, the whole information about air traffic was at disposal of the Ukrainian Army, which together with the civilian air traffic control department motorized all the targets. Thus, the Ukrainian military men perfectly knew about the airliner.

Thus, insisted by Bellingcat the probability that civilian aircraft was shot down by single anti-aircraft missile system “Buk: under militia control is miniscule. Also there were several completely developed anti-aircraft missile systems “Buk” in vicinity of aircraft crash, which technically obtained a power to fight a wide range of air targets.
Did trailer with SAM "Buk pass" Luhansk on July 18, 2014?

The Minister of Internal Affairs of Ukraine A. Avakov said on July, 18 that the Ukrainian Interior Ministry allegedly established the fact in area of Krasnodon that the Russian Buk launcher, shot down the Malaysian plane on July, 17, crossed the state border from Ukraine to Russia. According to his words shooting was made at 4.50 am on July, 18. Later, the Ukrainian Ministry of Internal Affairs has officially circulated this information. Also it published video depicted Buk with three missiles, whereas normally "Buk" carries four missiles.

The Ukrainian bloggers debunked the Avakov’s lies soon, clearly proving that the shooting of the trailer, transporting "Buk", was on the outskirts of Luhansk and they identify exactly location of “shooting stage” on Nechuy-Levytsky street. Bellingcat struggling to prove his version grabbed this unreliable fact.

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26 https://www.npu.gov.ua/uk/publish/article/1103327
In investigations sofa experts showed the absence of missile as the real prof that exactly this anti-aircraft system launch missile that shot down the Malaysian airliner. In fact, the number of missiles on self-propelled fire system anti-aircraft system “Buk” can be from one to four. The maximum is four missiles. But on the fragment of video frame we can see the absence the second missile. Thus, It does not prove that the second missile (attention: exactly the second missile) shot down the airliner and, of course, it could not state that there was the fact of launching missile from that Buk system. Moreover, it cannot state that the fact of missile launch actually was.

If make a suggestion that four missiles were loaded, so the first missile from the left side would be launched first. This special point is explained by the construction specialty of Buk missile launcher and the TELAR operating procedure.

However, we can see the first missile from the left is on its place. Therefore, there was no launch. Besides, there must be special trails on vehicle after missile launching. It is impossible not to notice them. But in fact there were no trails of lampblack or burnt charge on the photographs provided in the Bellingcat report. Thus there was no missile launch from the Buk anti-aircraft system. No launch. Probably, the second missile was not loaded on that TELAR.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cB49a_R6QCE
Also it is possible that one of the reasons of transporting TELAR on tractor was its delivery for repairing on the one of Luhansk’s company.

The whole story of the video, distributed by the Ukrainian Ministry of Internal Affairs, is not very clear.

It is necessary to remember one event in Ukraine dated December 2015 for full understanding the picture of reality. According to our opinion that event connects with MH17 tragedy. This is a conflict developed between Saakashvili and Avakov. It also is known by a lot of people due to phrase - "How do you speak in similar situations? – BAA-BAA-BAA...". In the meantime one video of "Saakashvili’s meeting with oligarch Mazepin" appeared. After that Saakadhvili in special-appointed press conference with the MIA of Ukraine publically said that it was fabricated by the Ministry of Ukraine and called Avakov swindler. Avakov did not recommend on allegation by the Governor of Odessa.

Thus, it was demonstrated that the Ukrainian Ministry of Internal Affairs uses the methods of falsification of documents for the producing of evidence. In this regard, it is a question, because Avakov once lied saying about the place of shooting video. Then why is the video of Buk transporting not fabricated. It successfully appeared for the Ukrainian leadership and in time.

Let's imagine. The video that must prove the fact of transporting Buk launcher to Russia is allegedly real. It could not be fortuity. At the same time the Ukrainian specialist posted it extremely fast. It is clearly obvious that it was shootong not by common people, who usually slept at 4.50 am, but by special appointed people, who conducted special mission. The video lasts for 9 seconds. It explains that the cameraman knew exactly all details about the march route, time range and time of appearing object on the camera.
Also it is necessary to pay attention to perspective of object. It means it specially found in this way in order to trouble to identify the locations of shooting. There are no landmarks on the video at all. Why? The answer is simply. It was made in order to provide Avakov an opportunity to create the Krasnodon version. Thus this version is allegedly answer on questions that what aim of transporting Buk launcher from Krasnodon and who was blame of airliner crash.

However, the inaccuracy with the shooting place discovered by the Ukrainian bloggers, is not the only "mistake", made by the Minister of Internal Affairs of Ukraine in that case.

The investigation of open sources showed that the video of white trailer transporting Buk launcher was not made on 18 July 2014. In fact, as a result of shelling Luhansk on 17 July 2014 the Central electrical power station located in Kamennobrodny area was damaged. Thus there was no electricity in the most part of the city. According to the government data, it was de-energized 85% of the city.28

The accident led to the fact that from midnight, there was no electricity at least up to 1-2 pm July, 18 in Luhansk in the area of Kambrod - Jubileyne (Nechuy-Levitsky street, which captured the moving trailer, which was situated in that area). Also there was no water in multi-storey buildings that day. At the same time on 6th second of the video prepared by the Ukrainian Ministry of Internal Affairs we can see burning is clearly visible lighting street lamp. There was no electricity in the city, but the street lamp was lighting!

You can see the street lamp is lighting, but in fact there was no electricity in Luhansk that day.

Speculation that it could be a reflection of the rising sun was rejected immediately. According to the weather service of Ukraine on July 18, 2014 it was very cloudy over Lugansk. Thus that weather did not allow the sun to get the shot.

The information of the Ukrainian meteorological service over Luhansk on 18 July 2014

The previous facts let us state that the information provided by Avakov about the date of shooting as well as the shooting place (Krasnodon) do not correspond to reality.
The absence of other evidences for Buk presence in Luhansk on July, 18 2014 allows to state the following: that day white truck trailer did not transport the Buk missile system across Luhansk. In case if the video is not the result of falsification by the Ukrainian Ministry of Internal Affairs, it was taken before the date pronounced by Avakov. It means that before 18 July 2014. Operational efficiency, with which the video was posted by the Ukrainian mass media, speaks in favour of this statement. The time between the data of shooting and the moment of posting was several hours. It is quit fast. Remember, due to the crash in Luhansk the communication was off including the mobile communication and Internet, thus it is was very difficult to share video footage.
Concluding our report we suppose that conducted investigation showed the full invalidity of the evidences, on which based the Bellingcat version that Buk missile system allegedly was directed from the Russian Federation to Snizhne in order to shoot down the Malaysian airliner MH17, but later was transported back to Russia through Luhansk.

We proved that the white trailer carrying the Buk launcher (according to Bellingcat it hit down Boeing aircraft) could not be in Makiivka on 17 July 2014, and it also could not be in Luhansk in 18 July 2014.

There is no missile launch from Snizhne. The photographs by Aleynikov are exclusive evidence allegedly proves that the fact was fabricated.

The debunking of falsifications provided by the Bellingcat sofa experts and other similar fake groups is not finished. To be continued.