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'Russian missile downed MH17 Malaysian Airlines jet' in tragedy that killed all 298 people on board

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Investigative journalist team Bellingcat claims the doomed jet was shot down using a Russian missile launcher as it flew over war-torn Eastern Ukraine in July 2014

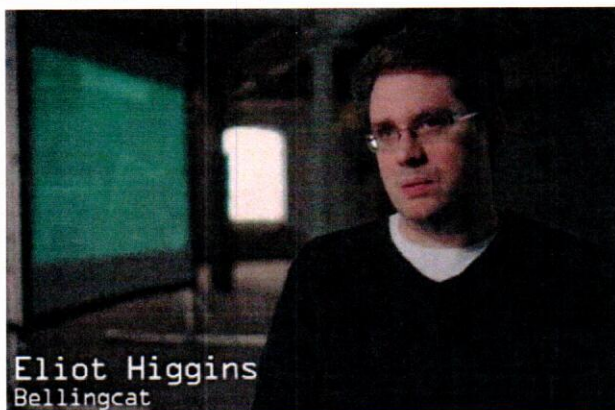
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The Russian army may have supplied the missile launcher used to down the doomed MH17 [Malaysian Airlines](#) jet, a team of investigative journalists has claimed.

Bellingcat says the country's air defence battalion provided the equipment used to shoot ~~the jet~~ as it flew over war-torn Eastern Ukraine on July 17, 2014, killing all 298 people on board.

The latest claims follow an investigation by the Dutch Safety Board, which found that the Boeing 777 was downed by a Buk anti-aircraft missile probably fired from an area occupied by Russian-backed separatists at the time.



Bellingcat founder Eliot Higgins told The BBC that Russian military investigators 'lied, faked images and misled people on purpose'

The report did not assign responsibility for the shoot down and a Dutch-police led international criminal investigation is still ongoing.

Read more: [Was MH17 shot down by Ukrainian fighter jet? New documentary explores conspiracy theories behind mid-air massacre](#)

Bellingcat, an investigative journalism collective, has now released a report claiming the weapon used came from the 53rd Anti Aircraft Missile Brigade, based in the southwestern Russian city of Kursk.



The cockpit wreckage of Malaysian Airlines MH17 at the Gilze-Rijen Military Base in Gilze-Rijen, Netherlands

The investigation focused on a Buk missile launcher that was filmed moving towards

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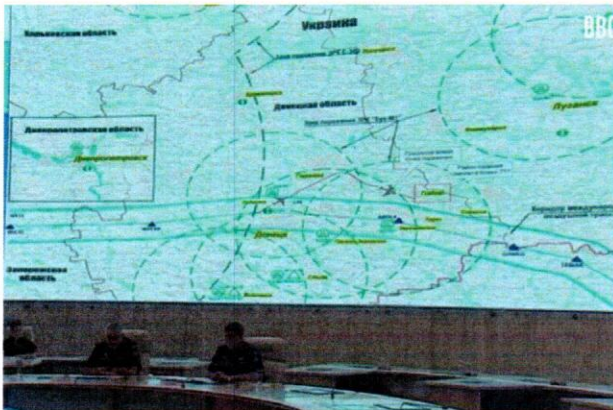


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that possible launch site hours before MH17 was shot down.

Eliot Higgins, the Leicester based founder of Bellingcat, told BBC Two in its Two's Conspiracy Files programme that Russian military investigators "lied, faked images" and "misled people on purpose."



The Russian army may have supplied the missile launcher used to down the doomed MH17 Malaysian Airlines jet

Among the things he claimed they lied about was the flight path and the radar data.

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He said: "This (was) just days after 298 people have been killed and they are just lying to the families of those people, which is really quite disgusting."



An official inspects debris from the MH17, collected by local residents

The Kremlin has publicly denied sending troops or military equipment to assist the pro-Russian separatists who launched an uprising against the Ukrainian government in Spring of 2014.

Leaders of the Donetsk People's Republic, the Russian-backed break away state that controls both the crash site and suspected launch site, have also denied having Buk missiles and blamed the Ukrainian military for shooting down the airliner.



Images from the final report into the investigation of the explosion on Boeing 777 flight MH17 which killed 298 people

Almaz Antey, the Russian state-owned company that produces Buk missiles, has opposed the Dutch investigation and released its own findings suggesting the missile was launched from another area, and came from equipment used by Ukrainian military.

The Russian defence ministry have been approached for comment.



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In fact the photo of the relatively undamaged right hand side of MH17's cockpit disproves Bellingcat's claims that it was shot down from Snizhne, because were that true the right side would have been struck, not the left.

Furthermore Elliot Higgins (Bellingcat) is the last person to call others liars since he is using images of a BUK-M1 which was phased out of Russian service long before 2014 and sold off to export customers. He has published images of Russian convoys at Belgorod, Russia 370km to the north, several days later carrying the new BUK-M2 missile and tried to pass these off as images of the same missile system that struck MH17.

Bellingcat appears to have been used as a pawn by Western political interests trying to provoke tension with Russia by spoon feeding Higgins with false and misleading data. It is incredible that the person being manipulated is calling others, liars. Lets have some honesty please?

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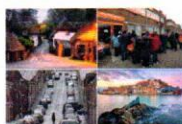
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