

LEGEND

1. Subject was born 14 March 1921 in Kaunas, Lithuania. His early years until 1941 will be similar to subject's real life story, except for his education. His schooling will begin in October 1927, in Public School No. 17, Kaunas-Sanciai until June 1931. Subject will have attended high school No. IV in Kaunas between September 1931 to June 1933.

2. After leaving school, subject does menial work for the Kaunas sewer plant, where he remains until the latter part of 1940. At that time, he decides to go to the Soviet Union in order to learn a trade in the railroad field. He was attracted to the Soviet Union by the propaganda and the many promises made to young people like himself. He begins work in the POLOTSK railroad yard as an apprentice. His major duties are filing and grinding burned-out bearings on railroad cars.

3. Shortly after the German invasion of Russia, subject is ordered to assist in the dismantling of his plant. On 28 June 1941, he leaves POLOTSK for VELIKI-LUKI, where he was ordered to go by the local military command. On 4 August 1941, subject takes his military oath and enters the Soviet Army.

4. Subject is placed into the second Company of the 298th Rifle Regiment of the 186th Rifle Division. The APN/number is 406/282. The Division was part of the 62nd Rifle Corps of the "Ural Army." One other Division, the 174th, was also part of this Army.

5. Subject's military history is as follows:

August 1941

Subject's Division was engaged in a bitter fight in Veliki-Luki. The Division was badly dèssimated and a large number of replacements came in at that time.

December 14, 1941

The 2nd Company of the 298th Division moved to Chernogubowo to join the 290th Rifle Regiment. The Commander of the 186th Rifle Division at that time was Genmaior Zigin. The Commissar was Belayev. The Operations Officer was Lt. Col. Zakharov.

July 1941 to January 1942

The Division retreats to Kalinin

January 1942 to June 1942

The 186th Rifle Division becomes subordinate to the 22nd Army. The unit fights in Kalinin, Rzhev, and Selizharovo. The action takes place along the Volga River most of the time.

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12 June 1942

Subject is wounded by anti-aircraft shrapnel and sent to the 2912th hospital in Moscow via the 39th Army Hospital. He enters the hospital on 18 June 1942.

June 1942 to September 1942

Subject remains in the hospital until his concussion and wound which occurred near his eye has healed.

25 September 1942

Subject is assigned from the hospital to the 354th Rifle Division. In the second part of 1942, the Division was subordinated to the 31st Army. In 1943 and 1944 was subordinated under the 65th Army. Subject joined the 1201st Rifle Regiment.

The 354th Rifle Division was activated in October 1941 at Kuybyshev which was in the Volga Military District. Division was subordinated to the 5th Army. Composition of the Division as follows:

- 1199th Rifle Regiment
- 1201st Rifle Regiment
- 1203rd Rifle Regiment
- 921st Artillery Regiment
- 809th Signal Company

Also contained a Medical Battalion, Auto Transport Company, Training Company, etc. As of July 1942, actual strength of Division was 8,000. It received 400 replacements that month. In September 1942, Division sustained 6,900 losses, lowering actual strength to 1,500. In November 1943, the estimated strength of the Division was 4,500 men. Infantry units up to 50% of TO strength and auxiliary arms up to 75% of TO strength. Division surnames were: Kalinkovichi, Bobruysk, Baranovichi, Slonin, and Luninets. Division personalities as follows:

Commanding General, Major Gen. Alekseyev; Commissar, Beloborodov; Divisional Medical Officer, Capt. Kotzen; Commanding Officer of 1201st Rifle Regiment, Col. Ljowin.

Division field post number was 30607.

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September to October 1942	<u>Action Participated:</u> The unit was in the area Rzhev, Rubtsov, and Sychevka west of Moscow.
October 1942	In the area east of Velikiye-Luki.
December 1942	Unit was transferred to the area north of Dmytriyeu.
16 March 1943	While his unit was fighting in Dmitrovsk, subject received a slight concussion and was forced to be hospitalized in the 467th Field Hospital.
2 April 1943	After his release from the hospital, subject was reassigned to the 60th Rifle Division known as the Sevsk. This Division is part of the 65th Army. Until October 1943, it was under the 18th Rifle Corps and then under the 27th Rifle Corps. Subject's unit was the 1281st Rifle Regiment. His C.O. was Maj. Oshchepaov. Other units were the 1283rd RR, 1285th RR, and 969th AR.
April 1943	In April 1943, the Commanding General was Genmaior Sklyar.
May 1944	The Commanding Officer was Genmaior G.I. Shernev.
31 July 1944	Subject became ill with dysentary while his unit was fighting in the area Minsk-Mazowiecky. He was sent to the 5265th Field Hospital in Lublin where he remained until October 1944.
3 October 1944	Transferred to the 39th Guards Division, known as the Barbenkovo which at that time occupied a sector of the first Bielo-Russian front under the 8th Guards Army.
Post War	At the end of the war subject's Division was transferred to the southeastern part of Germany in the area Plauen, Saalfeld, Rudolfstadt. Subject was placed into the 112th Rifle Regiment stationed in Plauen. His duties were primarily to stand guard and perform minor details.

24 May 1946

Subject was discharged.

6. After his release from the army, subject returns to Kaunas via Brest Litovsk in search of his mother. Upon his arrival in Kaunas, he learns that his mother had gone to the farm of an uncle near Kursenu (northwest of Siauliai). Subject immediately departs for the farm where he finds his mother well cared for by his uncle, Mykolas Balciunas. On this farm he also meets [] who was working as a farm hand, and a lovely young girl, BIRUTE. They became good friends and corresponded with each other after subject leaves the farm to return to Kaunas. In Kaunas, subject registers with the militia and receives his Voyennie Bilet as well as his passport after a period of about three weeks. He decides to leave Kaunas in November 1947, after his mother had died.

7. Subject planned to go to Moscow after his friend, [] had written him several letters glowing with accounts of good work and high wages in his factory. Subject's job in Kaunas was never too satisfactory, and with the death of his mother, the last close ties with that city were cut. Shortly after Subject's arrival in Moscow, he receives his second Voeyenny Bilet which at that time was being reissued.

8. In Moscow, subject obtains a job at the Moscow Bearing Plan #1 located on Sharikopodshipnikovskaya Street (55°43'09" N--37°40'50" E). Subject's duties are as a laborer in the foundry, stoking the furnace and other menial tasks.

9. In July 1951, while subject was still in Moscow, he received his second passport valid until July 1956.

10. When subject received his new passport in Moscow in July 1951, attention was drawn to the fact that the subject was not a Soviet citizen by birth. Subject began to feel that certain prejudice was raised against him for holding a privileged position in Moscow, for working in one of the largest plants in the USSR, and for living in special workers' quarters. He began to realize then that he could not remain in this job forever and that he better start looking for other work. At one time, his foreman approached him and told him that pressure is put on all the Balts to return to their native country and give the Great Russian worker the chance of working in the Moscow plants. The foreman further told him that subject was considered a foreigner and that it would be to his advantage to move to another job outside of Moscow.

11. The only means of obtaining a legal release from his job in the factory was to obtain a position somewhere else and to have his new employer request subject to leave for another part of the Soviet Union. Subject began to notice advertisements in the Soviet papers asking for workers in the lumber industry at high wages. Since subject was partially skilled in operating machinery, he felt that he could get higher wages than he was now earning (450 rubles per month) if he applied for a position in the lumber industry. He wrote to Belomorsk and applied for a position as a machine operator. In return, he received an offer and necessary travel

orders to come to Belomorsk. The pay was 750 rubles and subject began to feel that he could now save enough money to marry Birute in another year or two.

12. The lumber concern that hired him sent him to BELOMORSK to register with the militia and to get his other documents straightened out. He then took the bus to SUMA where his gang was working. He was trained on the spot in the operation of the TL-3 winch and also to drive the KT-12 tractor. He learned to use these machines very quickly since he was already acquainted with machinery and didn't have to learn everything from the beginning. He liked his job very much, not only because the pay turned out to be as much as was promised, but also because he was considered a skilled worker on a much higher level than the slave labor which was doing all the menial work.

13. On 8 September, subject left SUMA to go on leave in Lithuania. He was given leave for a number of reasons. In the first place, he had over-subscribed his quota and rather than higher wages, he asked to be given three weeks' leave to visit Birute in Lithuania. Because of a slow-down in logging operations, subject was given permission to take his leave at that time.

14. Subject left from BELOMORSK (there is a bus line between SUMA and that city) on or about 8 August on the Leningrad-Murmansk RR. His route took him over Leningrad, Pskov, Daugavpils, Vilnius, Kaunas, Plunge, then by bus to RIETAVAS. Subject decided to go to Lithuania because he had heard so much about the improvements made under the Soviet system, the growth of the country and the happiness of its people. He still had distant relatives whom he did not see since he left Lithuania since 1947. The friends he left in Kursenu had corresponded with subject from the time he left that city and now he had returned to spend a week with them.

15. Once subject leaves Kursenu, his main subject for conversation is Birute whom he found just as lovely as he had dreamed about the long years away from Lithuania. He is returning to SUMA only to make just a little more money and then find a job permanently in Lithuania to settle down with Birute.

16. In August, subject left Kursenu to head back to Siauliai and from there to Belomorsk. His Spravka will give him sufficient time to make the return trip with a short stop in Kaunas. Since he has some time left, he decides to save money and to hitch hike from Kursenu to Siauliai (the area in which the DZ is located).

17. When subject arrives in Kaunas, he will use a Spravka giving him sufficient time to remain for six days prior to his departure for Belomorsk. If he should be questioned in Kaunas, his answer will always be that he is waiting for the next train to take him directly home.

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NOTES TO LEGEND

NOTE

1. Subject has worked in a foundry and can therefore substitute details here.
2. Most labor in a lumber camp is unskilled and probably a majority is slave. Sleeping quarters for the majority are crude and built on the spot by the internees. Normal food would be soup (usually cabbage) and coarse bread of rye base. Little non-animal food otherwise. Life under those conditions would be very simple: work, with a minimum of sleeping and eating. Attempts are now made to make logging less seasonal so that work during the winter would be continued. To compensate for the short daylight hours, bonfires would be lit for several hours at a time. During the winter, daylight may be found as little as three hours daily.

For details of logging operations and the use of machinery see the attached articles and book *(not attached here)*

Since the late forties and early 1950, the Government had made an intensive campaign to step up logging production. To overcome the crude operations in the past new machinery was introduced and skilled labor was attracted to logging camps. People like Subject who lived in a large city and who had knowledge of machinery would be likely to be approached and offered employment in the frontier areas. Subject, of course, would not be a slave laborer, but because of his special skills would be regarded as a valuable asset to the camp.

The TL-3 skidding winch which Subject will have been operating is one

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of the latest Soviet models. It was manufactured in the ONEGO plant in Petrozovodsk. Since its manufacture is in Karelo-Finland there is a good possibility that this machine is used in the BELONORSK area. The ONEGO Plant (Onezhsky Mashinostroitelnyy Zavod) is one of the oldest factories in the area. In 1949 it celebrated its 175th anniversary.

The TL-3 winch was designed by A. N. BRYZGALOV, the chief engineer of the plant.

The following excerpt from the story of a lumberer who recently told his story gives a good account of life in a lumber camp and some of the working procedures:

The lumber procurement section consisted of five timber-cutting details working at different places around the construction project, sometimes as far as 60 to 100 km from the site itself. All the timber closer to the site had been cut before for other needs. The timber-cutting locations were connected with the construction site by a narrow-gauge (100 cm.) railroad. The trees were cut with electric saws, trimmed of branches, and towed away by caterpillars. These caterpillars were mostly of the KT-12 type manufactured at the Kirov Tractor Plant in Leningrad. A KT-12 caterpillar's towing capacity was approximately 12 cubic meters of timber. Some other caterpillars were of the NATI-3 type, manufactured either at the Khar'kovskiy or the Altayskiy Tractor Plant. Timber was towed by caterpillar to the narrow-gauge railroad line terminal which was sometimes about 500 m. away from the timber-cutting location. At the railroad station there was one caterpillar crane of one-ton capacity for loading the timber on flat cars. My timber-cutting detail consisted of approximately 450 workers working in one eight-hour shift. The other work details were smaller in size, but I do not have exact information on them. I guess that on the whole there was a total of 1,500 lumberjacks in timber-cutting details. I worked as a tractor operator, my work norm being to transport 100 cubic meters daily. However, since the distance I had to tow timber was 500 m., I could never make more than 60 cubic meters daily, and my wages were cut accordingly.

Approximately 60% of all the personnel working on the construction project were slave labor camp inmates. I do not know from which camps they came. Each timber-cutting detail had constructed several barracks where the inmates

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working in the detail lived. Half of these inmates were men and the other half women, who performed the same work as the men but lived in separate barracks. Guards were MVD troops composed mainly of national minorities such as Kazakhs, Uzbeks, and Mordvins. The slave labor camp inmates belonged to two groups. Those who had served half of their sentences and behaved well were proclaimed "unguarded" (Raskonvoirovanny) and could move from the camp to their working places and back without an escort; the others, who were serving the first half of their sentences, were guarded and escorted constantly. Both groups of inmates worked at the same places and were encircled by MVD guards. The guards treated these people very roughly. The slightest violation of the work discipline or laxity in work resulted in punishment; inmates would be beaten with rifle butts and thrown into solitary confinement in cold, stone cells with 300 gm. of black bread daily and a bowl of soup every 48 hours. There were two attempted escapes by the slave labor camp inmates just before I arrived at Svir #2. With the help of police dogs all escapees were caught, severely beaten, and sentenced to an additional five years in camp. Because it was the established policy that MVD guards responsible for escorting inmates would have to serve the sentence of escaped prisoners in case they were not caught, the guards were personally interested in catching escapees and setting up such a reign of terror that no attempt to escape would ever be made.

The free lumberjacks working on Construction Project made 800 to 900 rubles a month. The work, however, was exhausting, and so these free workers did not stay too long on the job, providing of course that they were able to obtain transfers to other jobs. Tractor operators, when the tractors and caterpillars were still in good shape, could make the same amount of money. Free workers lived in very primitive, cold, dirty wooden barracks. A berth in such a dormitory cost 25 rubles a month. There was no mess and no workers' kitchen. We could buy some groceries and occasionally some fish and meat at a store run by the construction project administration and do our own cooking in the evenings. The prices at the store were not any higher than usual, but the supply was inadequate and often there was nothing at all to buy. Sometimes we did not see bread for as long as two days.

Slave laborers, on the other hand, received no wages. However, those who had fulfilled their daily work norms were given some additional food in the evening; but even these increased rations were not sufficient to maintain the physical strength of these people, many of whom died of exhaustion during my stay with the construction project.

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