

1. ARAJS is a Latvian and will be about 40 years of age now. He studied "Jurisprudence" at the University at RIGA until 1938 or 1939; he had the reputation of being a brilliant student. He speaks Latvian, Russian and German very fluently, and probably a little of other languages. Upon leaving the University, he joined the Latvian Police in a junior administrative position. His reputation inside the Police Service was that of an energetic and promising young man, who was extremely anti-Russian and anti-communist. When the Germans occupied Latvia, he at once joined the German Security Police (Sicherheitsdienst) and quickly attained the rank of Major, with command of a special task-force some 150/200 strong, which operated against the partisan bands resisting in the forests. This task-force was several times ordered over the Latvian border into Russia, and whilst its duties on these occasions were ostensibly the combatting of partisan resistance, it was generally understood that it took part in pogroms ordered by the Germans against Russian Jews. He was seen in uniform in LIEPAU, Latvia, in October/November, 1944.

2. When the Germans retreated from Latvia, ARAJS came to Germany with them, accompanied by a small portion of his task-force. The majority of his men stayed behind to fight with partisans against the Russians. His wife also came to Germany and lived in the southern part of Bavaria. The person most likely to be able to give information as to his wartime activities is probably Herbert SELDMANUS, who was also a Major in the German Security Police and who is now in a DP Camp in either Niedersachsen or Westphalia. When the war ended, ARAJS adopted the name ABOLS (a common Latvian name) in order to conceal his true identity, and appeared in LUBECK in 1945 under the latter name.

3. In late 1945 or early 1946, he was arrested in the name of ABOLS by the British and interned in a Camp near HAMBURG until late in 1948. After an investigation by the British War Crimes Commission, he was released about Christmas, 1948.

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