

12 October 1962

The second war criminals trial started on October 10th in Vilnius, Dzerzhinski club. There are nine accused on the bench and one empty place that of Antanas Impulevicius who did not come. In connection with his absence, the public prosecutor, Viktoras Galinaitis, second class counsellor of justice, made the following statement:

The Soviet Government requested the U.S. Government to extradite Impulevicius, ~~for~~ guilty of bloody crimes against humanity. By refusing to comply with this request the U.S. Government violated the following agreements entered into by countries which had fought against Hitler Germany and bearing the signature of the U.S. Government:

"Declaration on the Responsibility of Hitlerites for Bestialities Committed", dated 30 October 1943;

The agreement of 8 August 1945 about criminal prosecution and punishment of the main war criminals of the European axis powers.

The Resolutions of the U.N. General Assembly, dated February 13 and October 31, according to which war criminals must be arrested and given over for trial and punishment to those countries, where they committed their crimes.

Impulevicius is well aware of the Soviet note to the U.S. Government, asking to extradite him, as can be seen from the U.S. press, e.g. The Philadelphia Inquirer.

The Forensic Board of Criminal Cases of the Supreme Court of Lithuanian SSR decided to try Antanas Impulevicius in absentia.

The composition of the court:

Chairman - Juozas Zvirblis, Deputy President of the LSSR Supreme Court.

Assessors: Ona Sulinskaitė, engineer at factory "Ramunė"; Balys Babenskas, instructor at the Technical School for Railwaymen.

Public Prosecutor - Jonas Macevicius, member-correspondent of the LSSR Academy of Sciences.

Secretary: Irena Gonestakite.

Defense attorneys: Tamara Mandrovskaya - for Davalga and Gaizauskas; Marija Matijosiene - for Tinteris and Planciunas; Alfonsas Sarka - for Kemzura; Jonas Jakutis - for Uselis; Vaclovas Barkauskas - for Stankaitis and Kolka; Petras Kiskis - for the absent Antanas Impulevicius. The accused Knyrimas refused the services of a defense attorney at the beginning of the trial and will undertake his defense himself.

Julius Gutmanas, chief psychiatrist of the Ministry of Health Care, is participating as an expert.

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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
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Bill of indictment: Colonel of the General Staff of the Lithuanian bourgeois army Spokevicius, colonel Butkunas, major Simkus, the accused Antanas Impulevicius became active helpers of Hitlerites at the attack of Germany against USSR. They began organizing punitive police outfits, composed of "traitors, adventurers, criminal elements".

The accused:

Antanas Impulevicius - upon occupation of Lithuania's territory by the German fascist army, he betrayed the Fatherland and went over to the enemy. Voluntarily entered the "national work protection" battalion on 28 June 1941. Henchmen under his and Simkus command murdered Soviet citizens in the IV and VII forts of Kaunas. On 9 August 1941 he was appointed commander of the second "auxiliary police service" battalion (latter 2nd and 12th guard battalion). Then under his command guarded Soviet war prisoners of war and took part in punitive operations against peaceful Soviet citizens. On October 6th the members of the battalion left for Byelorussia, where in two months, under Impulevicius command, they murdered 46 thousand civilians and war prisoners, raped, hanged, burned. Impulevicius was leader of the battalion until the beginning of 1943. In the spring of 1944, he voluntarily joined the "unit" of General Plechavicius, a Nazi appointee, and was appointed commander of the regimental headquarters of the Kaunas unit. In the fall of 1944, he commanded a battalion of armed bourgeois nationalists, fighting the advancing Red Army. Together with the Hitlerites he fled to Germany and now lives in Philadelphia.

Zenonas Amzura - descended from well-to-do farmers. Was company commander in the Soviet Army, which he deserted on 22 June 1941, betraying his Fatherland and going over to the enemy. In the summer he voluntarily joined the komandatura of Kaunas, which directed the mass murders in the greater part of Lithuania, and was appointed officer for special affairs. Was transferred to Impulevicius battalion on August 21, upon his own request. On October 6 he left for Byelorussia where, as a lieutenant, he commanded a company exterminating innocent civilians until May 1942. In the spring of 1944 he voluntarily joined the Plechavicius "unit" in Kaunas and was appointed aide to the commander of the battalion. After the expulsion of Germans from Lithuania, Amzura acquired forged documents and was hiding under the name of Petras Mamanskas.

Jonas Stankaitis - son of a kulak from the region of Pakruojis. Joined the "national work protection" battalion on 5 July 1941, betraying the Fatherland, and was appointed platoon leader in the sixth company. He had the rank of junior lieutenant. Personally directed mass murders in Byelorussia. In 1943 went over to the guard battalion in Kaunas.

Juozas Knyrimas - squad leader of the murderers company of Impulevicius battalion. Distinguished himself by special cruelty and sadism. Hanged with his own hands three Minsk underground fighters, condemned to death by Gestapo. Since 1942 he became professional agent of the German fascist intelligence. After the war lived under the name of Jodifas Knyrenuzas. Was tried for plundering of state property.

Jonas Davalga - one of the most active fascist henchmen. Took part in many mass murders of Soviet people. Personally executed by shooting three Soviet partisans in Kopel, Byelorussia. Was member of a "jagdkommando".

Pranas Planciunas - was born in a well-to-do farmers family. As member of Impulevicius Battalion participated in no less than three mass murders of Soviet people, during which 9000 civilians were executed. From end of 1943 to the capitulation of Nazi Germany he was soldier in the Wehrmacht.

Bronius Gaizauskas - participated in the mass murder in the VII fort and in Byelorussia.

Povilas Tinteris - kulak's son. Murdered, burned, plundered as member #1 of the battalion. In the spring of 1945 joined a band of bourgeois nationalists, which was active in Vaskai rural district, region of Birzai.

Andas Kolka - betrayed Fatherland and went over to the enemy in 1941. Voluntarily joined the "national work protection" battalion and was later transferred to the second "auxiliary police service" battalion, in which he remained till summer 1944. On September 11-12 took part in punitive operations in the forests of Jonava region, where 48 peasants were murdered. In Byelorussia took part in mass executions and fight against Soviet partisans.

Juozas Uselis - in 1940-1941 was company commander of the Vilnius military school. Betrayed Fatherland and went over to the enemy. In July 1941 joined the "national work protection" battalion and was appointed commander of sixth company. Commanded 3rd company in Impulevicius battalion. Took part in mass executions of civilians in Lithuania and Byelorussia. In the spring of 1944 voluntarily joined the Plechavicius unit. - - - After the expulsion of Germans from Lithuania, he went into hiding. In the spring of 1945 was one of the organizers of armed bourgeois nationalist bands in the district of Ukmerge, under the pseudonym of "Pakalnis". Later was hiding under the assumed name of Juozas Prokopavicius.

Some of the crimes of Impulevicius battalion in Byelorussia, where it operated jointly with the German 11th reserve police battalion under major Lechthaler:

Impulevicius commanded executions of Soviet citizens and partisans in Minsk and environments. In the fall of 1941 the members of the battalion shot several thousand civilians and some 9000 war prisoners. On October 15-18 they shot 1775 communists, prisoners of the Minsk concentration camp. On October 28-29 - 5000 civilians were shot in the town of Slutsk. On November 9-10 - 8000 Soviet citizens were shot in Borisovo.

The accused are tried on the basis of the Law of 25 December 1958 and article 212, part II, of the USSR Criminal Code.

The presiding judge asks the accused whether they confess their guilt. Kolka and Tinteris confess fully. Vselis, Gaizauskas, Amura, Davalga and Stankutis confess partly. Knyrimas and Planciunas state that they are innocent.

The accused Kolka tries to pretend to be a half-wit, but unsuccessfully. He confesses having taken part in the executions, led the condemned ones to the ditches, taken their possessions. He also attended a Hitlerite saboteur school.

A statement by the former German security chief of the occupied Byelorussian town Borisovo, dated 28 February 1947, describes the training of the Lithuanian "punitive forces" for the mass executions in Borisovo, and the subsequent mass murder. The accused Davalga describes the executions in detail.

(Valstieciu Laidkrastis, 12 October 1962)