

Security Information

SECRET

4

TO: Chief, CSOB
FROM: []
SUBJECT: Biographic Debriefing of Cleveland O. Hahn

1. Upon arrival at CSOB the undersigned attempted to gain a definite knowledge of Hahn's activities in the past, particularly those in the post-war period. However during several preliminary talks it was found that Hahn, who incidently has a very remarkable memory, could enlarge upon his past in such minute detail that it was impossible to follow all names, incidents, and intricate, as well as delicate affairs with any clarity unless they were taken in chronological order and written down as Hahn related them. Furthermore it was also found that his post-war dealings were so intertwined with his activities during the German occupation of his homeland, which were in turn intertwined with his activities during the preceding Russian occupation of his homeland that it was deemed necessary to attempt to debrief Hahn from his early childhood.

2. During this debriefing Hahn showed complete willingness to participate therein, answered numerous questions quite freely, and was extremely cooperative in giving his life story which he had never told to anyone in such detail and so completely prior to this. Because of the complicated nature of this narrative the undersigned finds it necessary to break it down in the following order:

- A. Pre-war life
- B. The First Soviet Occupation of Latvia
- C. The German and Second Russian Occupations of Latvia
- D. Post-war Activities in Sweden
- E. Hahn's Work with DYCLAIM.

Inasmuch as Hahn mentions a great number of persons in this narrative regarding whom he has some information as to their past activities and present locations, and since this information, if it were to remain within the body of the narrative could cause some confusion in the mind of any reader, it has been decided that an appendix to his narrative containing the aforementioned information and keyed to a chronological numerical system, would not only give this narrative more clarity, but also permit easy recording of all the names known to Hahn which are of secondary importance in his life story.

3. Biography

Security Information

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE: METHOD EXEMPTION 3828
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2008

SECRET

-2-

A. Pre-war Life

(1) Hahn's father, Antons, was born in Vecpiebalga in 1884, the oldest of three children. While Anton's youngest brother, Janis, performed the managerial household tasks of the parents' farm, Antons' second brother, Julijs, was shot in later life because of some type of revolutionary activity which Hahn's parents seldom talked about, but casually indicated that it was the 1905 revolution when this incident occurred. Antons himself took the commercial course in the Polytechnic Institute of Riga, which he completed with a master's degree in Economy. While attending the Polytechnic Institute, Hahn's father joined the well-known Latvian students' fraternity, Celonija, and helped pay his way through the institute by working as a tutor during the summer months. This summer activity brought Hahn's father together with Hahn's mother, Olga Elizabeth Mezciems, whose two brothers, Janis [1], and Aleksandrs [2], he (Antons) tutored. From the beginning of Antons' association with his future wife's family he noted that Olga's father, Davis Mezciems, a merchant in flax seed, was extremely pro-German, such German sympathy being consistent with the pro-German feeling of all merchants in the Baltic States whose heritage stemmed from the pro-German Hansiatic League. Hahn's father, Antons, being however, quite a nationalist, which was the exact opposite of Olga's family's feeling, occasionally found himself in differences with her family, but nevertheless managed to sway Olga's two brothers toward Latvian nationalism to such an extent that in later life they became well-known Latvian patriots who fought against German as well as Russian oppression and subjugation while participating in the Latvian independence battles, 1914 - 1918. During his days as a member of the fraternity Celonija -- which at that time was the only social center for college students -- Hahn's father continually propounded Latvian nationalism through anti-German sentiments, and also became an excellent fencer. Despite some of the early opposition by Olga's father to a marriage between Olga and Antons, Olga's family finally consented to such a union and Olga became Antons' wife in 1909. Subsequent to the completion of his studies Hahn's father worked as General Secretary in the firm "Konsums" in Riga, which dealt in artificial manure and seeds. When the war broke out in 1914 there appeared to be a migration of Latvians toward Russia, particularly Leningrad, because of an impending German occupation of Latvia. Consequently Hahn's mother and father moved to Leningrad with their children, Margita [3], born 1911, and Ingrida [4], born in 1913. After the end of World War I in 1918, Antons returned to Latvia and resided on his parents' farm in Vecpiebalga, where Cleveland O. Hahn was born on 7 June, 1919. Shortly after this birth, in the same year, Antons moved his family to Riga where he procured a position with the newly founded Latvian State. Although Hahn

SECRET

Security Information

SECRET

does not recall all the details of his father's first job with the Latvian State he does remember that Antons had some kind of position in the Latvian Archives. In 1920 Antons worked in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry as the Director of the Commerce Department. During this time Hahn's father gained some fame as the organizer of the first Latvian Commercial Exposition in Riga. In that same year Hahn's father, along with the first Latvian Foreign Minister, Siegfriids Meierovics, was delegated by the Latvian Government to proceed to Poland where both were to contact Pilsudski, from whom they were to request aid for the clearance of the Latvian Province Latgale of all remnants of the Bolshevik Army. The two delegates were successful in this attempt, which paved the way for successful Polish recognition of the Latvian State and close, as well as friendly relations between Latvia and Poland. (Incidentally, Hahn's father wrote a book about this assignment which was destroyed by the Communists in 1940) In 1922 Hahn's father participated in the Bulduri Conference, where an unsuccessful attempt was made to unify the three Baltic states, Poland, and Finland. In that same year, 1922, Hahn's father left the aforementioned ministry and became Secretary to the Board of Directors of the Latvian State Bank. This being a somewhat inactive position, Hahn's father was also a Department Chief in this same bank, with which he remained until the Soviet occupation of Latvia in 1940. In the 1920s Hahn's father created the firm "Agronomis", of which he was Executive Director, and which dealt in farm supplies. This firm had connections with Sweden, Denmark, and England. He remained with this firm until 1930, when it appeared that the firm was about to go into bankruptcy, and in order to avert this the firm was consolidated with "Konsums" and emerged as the famous farm supply house "Turiba", an Ulmanis-supported project.

From 1935 to 1944 Hahn's father also taught Commerce and Economy in the Olav Commercial School in Riga.

Politically Hahn's father was a liberal, which in Latvia meant that he belonged to the so-called "Democratic Center". Shortly before the Ulmanis "coup d'etat" in 1934, Blodnieks, who was the last Latvian Prime Minister, and who wanted to change the existing cabinet at that time, informed Hahn's father that he would propose him as Minister of Finance or as Minister of Commerce and Industry. The aforementioned "coup" eliminated this possibility. Because of his basic belief in the principle of free enterprise and government exclusion from business, Hahn's father was always an out-spoken anti-Ulmanis individual. Because of an anti-Ulmanis speech which Hahn's father made in Vecpiebalga

Security Information

SECRET

Security Information
SECRET

7

during the early Ulmanis days, and which Ulmanis has always held against him, Antons was not given the position in the administration of the city of Riga for which General Balodis, second in command to Ulmanis, proposed him. As with most dictators, Ulmanis attempted to instill a liking for his regime in the school children of that day. This affected Hahn and his sisters to such an extent that occasional arguments between Hahn and his father arose in their home. In order to keep peace in the family Hahn's father slowly became reserved in his anti-Ulmanis attitude until he reached a point where his differences with Ulmanis became quite mild and eventually almost disappeared, though he really never changed his basic ideas of free enterprise. From 1935 until 1940 Hahn's father was Chairman of the Latvian Parent Teachers' Association. Through this position he on occasion had the opportunity to talk to Ulmanis in person, as a result of which his anti-Ulmanis attitude was softened to some extent.

To add to his accomplishments in Latvia Hahn's father also assisted in organizing the YMCA, of which he then became an honorary member.

(2) During his early childhood Hahn was a sickly boy and suffered from chronic tonsillitis and some minor heart ailment. Because of this, at the age of five his parents sent him to the Riga seashore (henceforth referred to as Jurmala) where his mother owned a house. Until the age of nine Hahn spent his winters with his governess in Jurmala and resided with his Godfather during the summers on his farm in Dzukste. In 1927 Hahn entered the Bulduri Grammar School in Jurmala, which he finished in 1933, having been the top student while attending this school. After an aptitude test which indicated his aptitude in the academic fields, Hahn entered the second Riga city high school, which he also completed as the top student. During his high-school days Hahn developed the idea that it was the city life which was so detrimental to his health -- though he well realized that his active and enthusiastic participation in sports was as to some extent the cause for his heart ailment, and therefore the idea began to shape in his mind that he would like to choose his career in the field of agriculture so as to be able to work in the country and "get closer to mother nature". Although his mother and father objected to this Hahn, having passed the Riga University entrance examination as one of the top aspirants, entered this university and began his studies in agriculture in 1938. In 1939 the faculty of the Agriculture School was detached from the University of Riga and transferred to the Jelgava Academy of Agriculture. Studying during the winter, Hahn worked on farms in the vicinity of Jelgava during the summers, not only to gain practical experience, but also to improve his health. In Jelgava Hahn excelled in agriculture theory but -- as a city resident throughout most of his life -- he lacked the practical experience, with the result that his accomplishments at the

Security Information
SECRET

Security Information

SECRET

Academy were not quite as good as those of his previous schools. This, to a great extent, made him feel that possibly he had chosen the wrong profession; however he was stubborn enough not to admit this, particularly to his parents. While at this Academy Hahn got acquainted with Jurijs Bumeisters, son of the famous Latvian socialist. (Later during the first communist occupation Jurijs Bumeisters helped Hahn a great deal).

B. The First Soviet Occupation of Latvia

(1) On 16 June 1940 the traditional yearly Latvian National Song Festival was held at Daugavpils, and Hahn attended it. During the celebration the huge throng attending it felt that something was amiss because, although Ulmanis was scheduled to speak in person he did not appear. In place of this personal appearance Ulmanis spoke over the radio, which speech was transmitted through loudspeakers to the throng and in this speech he made his now-famous statement "you must remain in your place as I will remain in mine". This song festival was the last Latvian national affair in free Latvia. Daugavpils being very close to the Latvian-Russian border, was entered by the Russian forces very shortly after Hahn's train left for Riga. Upon arrival in Riga Hahn was first informed that the Communists had invaded his homeland, and it was then that Hahn realized that the Russian forces practically followed his train. On the 17th of June the Russian forces had entered Riga and pro-communist elements conducted street demonstrations and engaged in battles with the police.

Seeing this Hahn felt as though life had come to an end; he felt he couldn't stand all the political scenes in Riga where all the old ideas of freedom and independence were being destroyed. He consequently proceeded to leave Riga and went to the village of Krimulda in the vicinity of Sigulda, where he stayed with his older sister for two months. It was there that Jurijs Bumeisters, who was travelling about extolling the communist system and their "excellent plan for Latvia", looked up Hahn and knowing Hahn's patriotism, and considering him a friend, advised him to do nothing rash and to be sure and undertake no activity against the new Latvian State. Hahn states this was a very friendly meeting in which Bumeisters desired to help a friend, at the same time telling this friend that not all will be quite as bad as he thinks. In this conversation Bumeisters further informed Hahn that the socialist organization to which he belonged had been active in the underground-Ulmanis days, and hence was now very powerful. Bumeisters left with the promise that he would help Hahn as soon as Hahn got over his wild and radical, as well as rash, desires to oppose the invaders. In the end of August another student visited Hahn and suggested that Hahn seek employment in the surveying work which was being done in the country in connection with the Communist Land Reform. This, according to

Security Information

SECRET

SECRET -6-

9

Hahn's friend, would not only give Hahn the needed practical experience, but would also provide Latvian nationalists a way to aid the oppressed farmers, as well as an opportunity to earn some money. Since Hahn, because of the currency reform in which most all Latvians lost their savings, could not expect his parents to pay for his schooling, he returned to Riga, procured such a surveying position, and was instructed to proceed to Ekejiene, near Cesis, where he was to work in a surveying team consisting of four Latvians. Upon arriving Hahn found that he was the last of the four members, the other three having gotten there before him. Feeling that such work would not proceed without complete Communist control, the other three men naturally assumed that Hahn was the Communist supervisor. Hahn, on the other hand, felt that inasmuch as the Communists must certainly give such an important job to at least pro-Communist thinkers, these three surveyors must be very profound Communists. Shortly thereafter they all realized that every one of them was a true Latvian nationalist and found that they were able to aid the farmers so that they did not lose as much land as the Communists had planned. Hahn remained on this job two months, after which time he proceeded to Jelgava in order to continue his studies.

While attending the Academy Hahn resided in the house owned by Mrs. Brumelis, who was Pastor Kulitis's wife's mother.

In the beginning of the semester Hahn was active in the student chorus group and became assistant to the chorus's director - Medins. A celebration heralding the opening of a new school year, as well as era for Latvia, was organized. The principle speaker at this affair was the head of the Communist-dominated Latvian Government, Kirchensteins. The student chorus group was scheduled to open the ceremony by singing the International. However when the time arrived it was found that the Director, Medins, was absent. Consequently Medins' son took it upon himself to lead the chorus and when the International was to be sung it was found that only a few voices were heard, one of which was Hahn's. Seeing that the greater majority of the chorus did not sing, these few voices also subsided. The NKVD investigated this incident, with no radical results following. Hahn, however, was removed from the position of Administrative Assistant and Medins, who claimed to be ill that day, was interrogated at length and was completely inactive for a short while thereafter.

With the beginning of this school year Hahn began to toy with the idea that some resistance to the present occupying regime should be initiated. Frequent travel from Jelgava to

SECRET

SECRET

his parents in Riga gave Hahn the opportunity to collect a few of his old and trusted friends and form a resistance group whose aim it was to attempt to infiltrate the Communist-controlled government positions so as to be able to restrain some of its radical policies. Besides Hahn this group consisted of Janis Jansons 57, Martins Kreslins 67, and Eduards Busers 77. Shortly after they agreed that they would work together as a clandestine group, these four members decided that Hahn would try to enlist several co-workers in the Jelgava area, while the other three, who were attending the University in Riga, would do the same in this city. With this in mind Hahn turned to Oskars Mitrevics, who was a fellow student in Jelgava studying forestry. Mitrevics was a member of the nationalistic Latvian organization Vanags, as well as the student fraternity Celonija. Because of the fact that Hahn's father was also a Celonija member Mitrevics felt that he could have confidence in Hahn and advised Hahn when the latter asked him if he knew of any underground organization, to turn to Janis Greste 87. Greste accepted Hahn and requested him to organize a net which would distribute the illegal monthly anti-communist publication "Zinotajs" (Reporter) and at the same time also enlisted Hahn in the sale of small metal Latvian national color emblems. Greste's advice to Hahn was to attempt to climb the Communist ladder in the academic field so as to be of help in the upper brackets of the communist structure. In order to accomplish this Hahn decided to turn to Bumeisters, who, of course, did not realize Hahn's true reasons. Expressing his desire to join the so-called Culture Commission of Jelgava Academy, which ruled all social and cultural functions, Hahn prevailed upon Bumeisters to aid him in joining, which Bumeisters did. Shortly thereafter Bumeisters, who was convinced that Hahn had had a change of heart and was now working for the Communist cause, requested that Hahn become the student reporter for the Communist publication "Zemgales Komunisti". For the purpose of averting suspicion of his underground activity Hahn also became active in the following fields: He wormed his way into the Academy Bulletin, of which he became editor; He became cheer leader of a group which expounded Communist theory during numerous demonstrations; He also was again permitted to become Administrative Assistant to the chorus Director; he became administrative leader of certain sports.

(2) In the early history of Hahn's resistance group he added to the Riga faction of this group an old friend, Valdemars Petersons 97. To his group in Jelgava Hahn added Karlis Engells, Pauls Avens, Janis Lasmanis, and Ivars Zemitis.

77

SECRET

SECRET

It later appeared that Greste was the propaganda leader in some underground organization which at that time was unknown to Hahn, and that Greste had been using him on a trial basis, which Hahn had apparently passed with success. Owing to the fact that Hahn now occupied a pretty solid position within the overt Communist structure at the Academy, Greste decided to turn him over to Lt. Kirsis, who it later appeared, was the chief of this organization's Military Intelligence Section. With Kirsis Hahn participated in a theft in Riga of a mimeograph machine so that this underground organization might enhance the printing of the illegal "Zinotajs". Hahn found that prior to this theft all arrangements had been made so that he and Kirsis only had to proceed to the office of some tobacco plant and there steal the mimeograph machine. In his initial work with Kirsis Hahn also participated in thefts of World War I arms and ammunition, which was taken from a museum in Riga; it was Hahn's task to hide these items, which he accomplished by storing them in the apartment of Ivars Zemitis.

In the beginning of 1941 Greste was warned that the NKVD was looking for him, and though he hid for a period of two months he couldn't resist visiting his recent bride in Lielvarde, where he was apprehended. Hahn assumes that Kirsis must have had a very good alibi because even though the NKVD was looking for Greste for two months Kirsis was not arrested and continued to live in the same apartment that he had previously shared with Greste. Hahn's assumption regarding Kirsis' alibi is strengthened in that during the aforementioned two months prior to Greste's arrest the apartment was a trap for anyone attempting to enter it. However later, after Greste was arrested he must have revealed Kirsis' complicity in the affair because shortly thereafter Kirsis too was arrested. Kirsis' mother was also arrested by the NKVD in Jelgava and not being able to stand the torture and finding an opportune moment in the toilet in the Jelgava jail she committed suicide by hanging herself. Neither Greste nor Kirsis have ever been heard of since. One of the aforementioned persons caught in the trap was CATSEYE, who was visiting Greste's father, but did not belong or have any connection with the group or any of its activities. CATSEYE was held for two days, interrogated, and then released.

In the Fall of 1940 Hahn informed his sisters of his underground activities for the purpose of procuring their aid in hiding persons working for the illegal newspaper, to report on local situations, and to aid him with funds. At that time Margita, the older, was a teacher in the French lyceum in Riga, while Ingrida, the younger, was a teacher in the Jaunjelgava's School of Commerce. Even though his sisters were skeptical about the usefulness of Hahn's activities, and even though they showed some hesitancy in approving, they nevertheless gave their wholehearted support to him whenever he requested it.

SECRET

SECRET

As far as Hahn could determine there was no definite goal that this underground organization had, nor was he knowledgeable of any contact with any foreign intelligence service. He believes that it was hastily organized by a few students and officers with the intention that when it became a going concern they would then decide as to what to do, being guided by the possibilities and situation at that time.

(3) Hahn's father, who at that time was without a job, and not knowing any of Hahn's true activities, believed that Hahn was really a Communist. This belief was also held by many other friends, acquaintances, and relatives, some of whom still feel today that Hahn was too strongly involved with the Commies. During a New Year's party, celebrating the arrival of the Year 1941, which was held in the home of Mrs. Janson 10, Hahn's Godmother, and which was attended by the Hahn family, Professor Birkhans 11, Judge Meikmans 12, Druggist ~~Cerbulis~~ 13, and some others whom Hahn cannot recall now, Hahn's father, who apparently did not want to differ with his son who was so openly a Communist, made the statement that the present regime was really not so bad after all; "a person can work, can live, and can breath". All others present were quite surprised and dejected about this statement because they considered Hahn's father an authority in politics, a staunch supporter of freedom, and a person who had never talked that way before. Hahn, who realized the true reason for his father's utterings, felt it his duty to inform his father about his true activities. The father was somewhat alarmed about Hahn's safety and feared that he would take a bad end. Nevertheless he occasionally aided Hahn in his illegal activities. His father agreed that openly anti-Communistic sympathies should not be shown -- on the contrary one should play along with the Communists while in public, but his father was certain that this double life which his son was leading was a little too much for his frail boy.

(4) In the beginning of 1941 Hahn had a chance to climb even higher in the ranks of Communists at the Academy in Jelgava. This occurred when Komisorg (abbreviation for Academy Communist Young Organizer) Pavils Vipers 14, son of Professor Vipers, found that because of his work load he could not function in two positions at the same time, i.e., Vipers was not only Komisorg, but was Chairman of the Academy Culture Committee, of which Hahn was a member. Giving Hahn the position of Chairman of the Culture Committee, which Vipers was forced to vacate, the latter told Hahn that that is as high as Hahn would ever be able to go in the Communist ranks because of Hahn's parents previous high social standing (they owned a house, etc.). Hahn's reaction to this at that time was that Vipers hadn't been doing too badly, being the son of a university professor.

Security Information

SECRET

SECRET

-10-

13

(5) Through Hahn's friend Janis Jekabsons 15, now in Australia, who lived in the same residence as Vipers, Hahn, who later added Jekabsons to his group, had an opportunity to receive reports of Vipers statements which the latter often made at home. According to Jekabson, Vipers had often expressed himself, saying that the political activities in the Academy were quite an easy task for him -- all he had to do was pound his fist on the table and even the old underground members from Latgale were scared into inactivity.

(At this point an inconsistency in Hahn's narrative was noted in that he had previously stated that he had been given the position of Chairman of the Culture Committee activities because Vipers was overworked; on the other hand at this point it appears that Vipers really considered his work at the University to be a task he could successfully accomplish with great ease. Hahn could not explain this discrepancy and brushed it aside by saying that possibly it was Vipers' Russian soul and moodiness which caused him to have made two contradictory statements, one directly to Hahn and the other to Jekabsons -- of course not knowing that Jekabson would tell Hahn.)

(6) It should be noted here that Hahn believes Vipers to be a very clever, shrewd, and intelligent person. In part this is evidenced by the fact that prior to 1940 the faculty at the Jelgava Academy had often stated that Vipers was the most intelligent student that they had ever seen. Incidentally, Vipers was always the first student in his class.

In order to camouflage his true aims still further, Hahn organized the Atheist Section at the Jelgava Academy. He undertook this task because such a section -- according to the Communist order -- within a body of higher learning was deemed of primary importance, and because such a section had not been formed until that time Hahn felt that another opportunity had presented itself. Furthermore Hahn felt that one Communist position more or less meant little and that there possibly would be no work attached to this. This assumption was quite correct, Hahn was given this position and did virtually nothing for a long period of time. In order to avert suspicion Hahn wrote one atheist article in "Zemgales Komunisti". This article was read by Pastor Kulitis, who lived in the same apartment building as Hahn, and having read this article told Hahn that such articles should never be written and that the way that Hahn has expressed himself was quite contrary to the truth. This article created a great deal of opposition to Hahn among those who lived in the same apartment house and who knew Hahn. A fellow student who knew the true circumstances regarding Hahn's activities informed the apartment house superintendent of Hahn's true activities; she in turn further informed Kulitis

Security Information

SECRET

with the result that the housekeeper and Kulis were from then on favorably motivated toward Hahn. After he had served a while as the organizer of the Atheist Section, Hahn was asked why he had accomplished nothing during his term of office. His reply was that he neither had supporters nor was there any interest among the students, which resulted in his being removed from this position.

(7) Since in a routine personnel questionnaire Hahn had declared that his mother owned a house at the beach, his scholarship was rescinded, forcing Hahn to work evenings for "Geklu Eksports" (seed export) as a laborer carrying seed bags.

SEKLU
Twenty to thirty Academy students who had also lost scholarships because of either too high social standing or because their families had been members of Aizsargi, or for other reasons, were also forced to seek this type of spare time employment with the aforementioned company. Toward the end of the school year Hahn's "visible reform" which was evidenced by his excellent performance as Chairman of the Culture Commission, resulted in the procurement of the position as bookkeeper for the University kitchen. This enabled Hahn to discard his job as physical laborer and to get free meals at the Academy kitchen.

(8) In the end of January 1941 Hahn, as one of eighty students from all over Latvia, went to Sigulda, where a winter rest camp for pro-communist students and college activities was located. The head of this camp, which was located in the Rakstnieku Pils (author's castle) was A. Valcis /17/. According to Hahn there were some cases of students who were permitted to attend this rest camp on scholastic merit, but those were very few and the camp was always considered as a camp for Communist sympathizers. Hahn and his friend, Janis Jekobsons, were permitted to take advantage of a two week rest period in this camp upon the recommendation of Vippers. In this camp Hahn had a chance to acquaint himself with many leading young Communists such as Vera Kacena /18/, who was a political organizer at the University of Riga, another organizer being Cildermanis /19/ (not present in this camp), Vidis Predeus /20/, FNU Sapiro /21/, PREDEUS Ilja Hanins /22/, Stanislavs Buls /23/, Jekabs Graucis, Jazeps Lipskis /24/, Pavils Vippers, A. Kravis /25/, Velta Cukaine /26/, LIGITA (Vipper's mistress), Monta Reksane /27/, and FNU Pauluks /28/.

During his stay at this rest camp, Janis Mikelsons /29/, chief of all camps and rest areas, arrived at this camp for the purpose of inspecting it.

(9) After his rest at this camp and his subsequent return to Jelgava Hahn had his first contact with the NKVD in February 1941, the circumstances being the following: In the

Security Information

SECRET

beginning of February Professor Pauls Galeniks /30/, a botany professor at that time, called Hahn to him and informed him that he was to report to the Jelgava City Executive Committee, which was located in the former city hall. In the talk with Professor Galeniks Hahn sensed that the professor felt quite odd in ordering Hahn to what at that time seemed an inevitable fate. In answer to Hahn's question as to the reason for this, Galeniks replied that he was not knowledgeable of the reason and that possibly some job or other must be done; nevertheless Hahn did not find out the reason for his impending visit. Although Hahn was not certain of what this visit would bring he took all necessary precautions by informing his co-workers that he must visit the NKVD and that the possibility may exist that they may force him to become an informant. Hahn's friends advised him with some reluctance that if such a job were offered to him that he take it. At home he told Mrs. Grummel, the apartment house supervisor and owner, that she was to burn all incriminating evidence if he did not return within two hours. He later found that she, fearing the worst, burned everything immediately after he had left. Upon arrival at the city hall Hahn found the Chairman of the Executive Committee awaiting him. After some preliminary questions the Chairman informed Hahn that he had a job for him which would enable him to make some extra money. This job consisted of taking inventory of all textile stores in Jelgava, this being in accordance with the nationalistic program. The interview was curt and brief and ended with the Chairman's instruction that Hahn wait for a while. Hahn was conducted to a room where he waited all alone for a short period of time. Then the room was entered by an individual who Hahn later found was the Chief of the Jelgava NKVD, FNU Melnikovs /31/; Melnikovs sat down in a corner of the room and said nothing for a prolonged period of time, during which Hahn became very uncomfortable. Then slowly Melnikovs began his interrogation, which lasted for three hours with the end result that Melnikovs did not like two points regarding Hahn. -- (a) Hahn's activities within the Mazpulks (the Latvian 4H Club), and (b) Hahn's connection with the fraternity Celonija. Having committed himself to nothing Melnikovs left. Hahn was forced to wait for half an hour and passed this time by attempting to gain some knowledge of his fate through listening to the subdued conversations next door. In this attempt he was not successful. When Melnikovs returned he informed Hahn that he could go, to which Hahn replied that he desired to know whether he could have the job. Melnikovs answered curtly and in the tone of "go away little boy, you bother me" and said "you will be notified later".

After this episode Hahn felt that he now had to be more careful because he was known to the NKVD. Through

Security Information

SECRET

16
SECRET

Jekabson Hahn found that Vippers was knowledgeable of his talk with Melnikovs.

(10) On February 12, 1941, during a yearly University celebration, Hahn met Valdemars, who was at that time serving in the motorcycle unit, territorial group (the name for the corps Russian-controlled Latvian army) and was stationed in Sloka. Hahn had known Valdemars as a former student from high school days and hence, feeling secure enough, approached Valdemars with the proposition that he join his underground group. Although Valdemars felt a bit uncertain about joining because of a small unpleasant incident on 18 June (Latvian Independence Day) in Sloka, he nevertheless agreed to join and informed Hahn that the unit in which he served was an extremely nationalistly motivated group and would no doubt never fight for the Communists. Since Valdemars frequently travelled to Riga on duty, a way for Hahn to contact Valdemars in Riga through Hahn's friends was arranged. After Valdemars joined the group he was caught AWOL for two hours and sent to a corrective camp which was stationed at times on the Latvian side of the Latvian-Russian border, and at times on the Russian side, the last location of this unit in 1941 having been in Paplaka.

(11) In March and April 1941 a large number of persons, including some of Hahn's fellow conspirators, were arrested. Besides Kirsis, Kreslins, and Jansons, also arrested were Edvins Bumanis 32, and Hugo Wergs, 33.

One girl who was knowledgeable of Hahn's participation in the underground was arrested in Riga and was questioned under torture. Later, when released, the girl informed her sister in Jelgava, who was one of Hahn's co-workers, that even though she had revealed nothing about Hahn to the NKVD that his name was known to them and that he best be extremely cautious.

At the same time FNU Vanaga arrived at the Academy in Jelgava and warned the students there that Hahn was a Communist; he made the same statement regarding Hahn's sister who was at that time attending the French lyceum in Riga. Vanags cautioned all to be very careful of Hahn, who, having heard from Kreslins that Vanags was a Communist, began to believe that this was some act of provocation.

(12) Just prior to the end of April 1941, Oscars Mitrevics introduced Hahn to another group so as to be able to utilize Hahn's capabilities more fully, because practically all members of the group Hahn had been working with had been arrested or had been compromised. Mitrevics introduced Hahn to Janis Vanags 34, who requested Hahn to organize support points on

SECRET

SECRET

the Latvian-Lithuanian border, which were to be utilized by persons crossing Lithuania on their way from Germany to Latvia and vice versa.

In accordance with Vanags' desire Hahn organized three support points on the Lithuania-Latvian border, in the districts of Perkone, Rucava, and Kaletu. These support points consisted of farm houses, paroles, and lines which would lead a possible infiltrator or exfiltrator to or from Hahn in Jelgava. From there Hahn had arranged lines which would lead to or from Vanags in Riga.

In the end of April 1941 Vanags informed Hahn that some clandestine activity of his group in Riga on the left side of the Daudava, had been discovered, had resulted in a shooting, and that twenty persons from this group were caught. Due to this Vanags advised Hahn to take cover. It was at this time that Hahn found that the leader of this group was Rikard, who along with Vanags, had managed to escape during this shooting.

(13) About the same time Hahn's older sister arrived in Jelgava with the advice that Hahn better be careful since the NKVD had come to their apartment and even though they had indicated they were looking for someone else, she was sure that they were using that as an excuse and that they were really attempting to find Hahn.

(14) Because of the previously-described series of alarms, Hahn began to feel very unsafe toward the end of April 1941, and began spending many nights away from home, staying on such occasions with friends. He finally decided to leave the Jelgava Academy.

In the very last days of April 1941 Hahn was approached by a female member of the Academy chorus who Hahn had always thought quite pro-Communist. This girl then quite openly informed Hahn: "Comrade (Hahn) you will be arrested". Hahn, thinking this some sort of provocation, assumed the usual line and with great importance asked this girl whether she realized with whom she was speaking (meaning of course, that he was the Chairman of the Culture Committee, etc.). Nevertheless this girl stated that her boyfriend was in the militia in Jelgava, where he saw a warrant for Hahn's arrest. The reason for this arrest, according to the girl, was the fact that illegal meetings were held and nationalistic songs were sung in Hahn's apartment. Hahn obtained this information in the course of an Academy party, which was the last Academy function that he attended. Not desiring to show any fear or emotion, Hahn stayed until the end of the ball, slept that night with friends, and in the morning checked with the janitor of his apartment building to determine if anyone had come to look for him, and found that such was not the case.

Security Information
SECRET

SECRET

Just one week before the ball -- as Hahn began to feel more and more uncertain because of the aforementioned incidents -- he had asked the chief of the communist-sponsored students' professional organization, A. Jakans /357, for a reference about his work in the Academy. Hahn sought this reference because he felt he needed a job to fall back upon in case he ever had to abandon his location and seek cover. Hence, having procured this reference, he approached the Agriculture Commissariat, where he contacted the Personnel Chief, FNU Stein /367, with the request that he be given a job in his field. In this fashion Hahn procured employment at the Soil and Vegetation Research and Experimental Station in Peternieki, 13 kilometers northeast of Jelgava.

On the morning after the ball -- having found that he was not being looked for -- Hahn went to the Voenkomat where he registered that he was leaving Jelgava and proceeding to his place of employment in Peternieki.

(15) The chief of this experimental station, (Professor) FNU Konrad, as well as most other employees, believed Hahn to be a Communist observer because Stein had sent with Hahn an order to the Professor that Hahn is to be employed by the station. Despite the fact that everyone at the station disliked him, Hahn found that his position was very good in that he could not only continue his clandestine activities, but also had the opportunity to do a great deal of travelling, which his job at the station called for. Several times after he returned from some business trip or other -- having on the side also accomplished some of his underground work -- he was informed by Professor Konrad /377 that some NKVD people had been looking for him. Such visits strengthened the suspicion of Konrad and his staff since they believed that the persons who had come to visit Hahn were his buddies from the NKVD.

In the beginning of May 1941 Mitrevics introduced Hahn to a new underground organization whose leader was Indulis Grosskopfs /387, who it later developed, had connections with Kirsis' group which consisted of members of the Riga University Riding Club. The assignment that Grosskopfs gave to Hahn consisted of spreading written instructions to Latvian farmers, as well as other rural inhabitants so that they would know how to protect themselves from thefts, and other acts of violence in time of war. Even though this is an act of self-preservation which would come naturally, it was felt that these instructions were needed because of the possibility that war may spread panic and no one would really know what to do. At that very time Grosskopfs was awaiting the second part of these instructions, i.e. instructions pertaining to sabotage and armed resistance, which he was expecting daily to arrive from Germany. On a pre-arranged

Security Information

SECRET

SECRET

date Hahn had all his co-workers ready to spread these instructions, which however did not arrive from Germany, and therefore this project had to be abandoned because Hahn considered it impossible to get all his assistants together again. During the last Hahn-Grosskopfs meeting in the middle of May 1941 the latter expressed fear that the NKVD was on his trail and that he could not delude them despite his influential position. Grosskopfs did not appear at their next scheduled meeting and when Hahn called his residence -- using the alias Jekabs Gangis -- Grosskopfs' sister informed Hahn in a sobbing voice, that her brother was not home. Hahn gathered from these sobs as well as from her tone of voice, that Grosskopfs had been arrested, and therefore, worried about the written instructions which he was to distribute, he asked Grosskopfs' sister if he could come and see her. Receiving an affirmative answer Hahn proceeded to Grosskopfs' residence in great hopes that he could salvage all the material that had been so difficult to prepare (particularly difficult was procurement of paper in Latvia at that time), and for which many people were waiting; he felt that if he could not get all or a part of this material he could at least clarify the circumstances surrounding Grosskopfs' apprehension.

Hahn claims that though he realized the risk of going to a residence which could easily turn out to be a trap was very great, he was young, enthusiastic, and somewhat foolhardy and proceeded anyway despite all the possible consequences. Arriving at the residence Hahn was informed by Grosskopfs' sister that the latter had been arrested somewhere on the outside. Nowhere in the residence could Hahn find the aforementioned first half of the instructions, though he did find all the paper upon which they were to be printed, and taking this paper Hahn left the apartment house. On his way downstairs he noticed two men who seemed to be observing him and feared that he had fallen into a trap. However he passed these men on the stairs and left the building without incident.

(16) In the end of May 1941 Vanags introduced Hahn to some unidentified man who Hahn later learned was a member of Rikards organization. This man informed Hahn that through him he would get pistols which Hahn was to distribute to his Jelgava Academy underground, as well as his Riga group. Another assignment was then given to Hahn which consisted in organizing an information center in Riga to which information regarding Russian troop movements in the provinces and Riga would flow, such information being gathered by Hahn's organization and/or any recruits they cared to enlist in this work. The unidentified individual was to become the recipient of all this information. For this purpose Hahn set up a safe house address on Kr. Barona Street in Riga. The house-owner's son, Voldemars Dibrechts /39/, was also recruited for this assignment. In the collection of

SECRET

Security Information

SECRET

-17-

28

such information the following persons were active in the Riga area; Ilgvars Kilevics /40/, Bruno Smits /41/, and Romans Sternbergs /42/ (and some others whom Hahn cannot recall).

(17) Through several Academy students in Jelgava Hahn got to know another underground group which however, was only a local group. Hahn soon learned that this group was getting arms from somewhere and was distributing them in the Latvian province Zemgale. One lot of such weapons, Hahn was told, was buried in Landenwald, near Jelgava. One of the leading personalities in this group was FNU/Lossbergs, Through Kilevics, a messenger for this group, (for the Riga area) Hahn was put in contact with Tirumnieks, a member of Lossbergs' group. Tirumnieks gave Hahn a safehouse address with an accompanying parole to which Hahn was to proceed in case of war so as to receive arms. This address was six kilometers from Peternieki in the direction of Riga. It was to the vicinity of this safehouse that the Germans were to send paratroopers as soon as war broke out.

The night of 13-14 June 1941 disrupted all activities in Riga because of the extensive raids, searches, and deportations. Hahn looked up Mitrevics who advised him to sit tight and wait until all quieted down. During this night Hahn was in Liepaja, having just come from one of the safehouses on the Lithuanian-Latvian border. The owner of this house was also deported during this night, after Hahn left. Hahn stayed with his Godfather in Liepaja during this night and though they arrested a nextdoor family, neither Hahn nor his Godfather, the famous Latvian patriot, Janis Mezciems, were disturbed. The following morning Hahn returned to Riga where he checked to see whether his parents were deported and found them alive and well. After that he returned to his experimental station and remained there without contacting anyone until the breaking out of hostilities between Russia and Germany.

On the following day the Germans began to bomb Russian units on the Riga-Jelgava road. Having the first indication that war had begun Hahn proceeded to the aforementioned safehouse with Janis Leja, whom he recruited as an aid and who had been working at the same experimental station. At the house Hahn and Leja found that the inhabitants were not knowledgeable of the parole and therefore Hahn and Leja left. They asked some passerby who the new occupants might be and were told that the old inhabitants had been arrested and that inside were Communists. (Later after the Germans had chased the Communists out of Latvia Hahn learned through Tirumnieks that the Communists inhabiting the house had followed Hahn and Leja, but since they had gone through the woods they were unable to catch them. Tirumnieks further told Hahn later that the Lossbergs group had been completely disrupted by the deportations, Lossbergs himself having also been deported.)

Security Information

SECRET

Security Information
SECRET

-18-

21

Finding no contacts at the safehouse both Hahn and Leja returned to their jobs at the experimental station. On 25 June Hahn left the station and proceeded to Riga in order to clarify the present situation and to attempt to locate some contact or other which could then give him an idea as to further action. While in Riga he accidentally met Sternberg, who asked Hahn to come to Lielupe, where Sternberg was in charge of a "Pioneer" (Communist Youth) group of summer camps. Sternberg told Hahn that he was hiding several persons at this camp, one of whom was Karlis Rusovs. 43.

At this camp Hahn also found in hiding FNU Baris 44. In the next few days several more underground workers arrived, their identities being the following: Janis Jakabsons, Janis Cambers 45, Visvaldis Dzelzitis 46, Georgs Punnenovs 47, Harijs Krievins 48, and Olgerts Ozols. Not knowing what to do and having no arms these men stayed in this "Pioneer" camp where they had sufficient food and shelter. On the 27th of June German forces had entered Liedaja and on the 28th were approaching Sloka. In view of the impending German occupation of Jurmala (where this "Pioneer" camp was located), the Militia that was stationed there, retreated toward Riga on the 27th of June. On that same day Hahn and his friends found that the Russians had blown the railroad bridge across the river Lielupe prematurely and were unable to move one armored train and one weapons and supply train. No other Russian forces being in the vicinity the Militia, just prior to leaving, ordered the Bulduri volunteer fire department to guard these trains. The members of this volunteer fire department found a stock of liquor on the supply train and proceeded to get inebriated, which enabled Hahn and his friends to take command of the train under the leadership of a local inhabitant Teodors Zebins 50, whom they chose as their leader because they felt they had no one experienced or old enough to assume this position. During the day from dusk to dark this group guarded the trains and moved arms and ammunition to the camp; at night the train was left unguarded, since they feared that in the dark a superior armed force might come upon them. On 28 June the members of the volunteer fire department advised the group to abandon the train lest they run into difficulties with the retreating Russian army which was about to arrive. Nevertheless on 29 June they returned to the trains and found that an NKVD detail had just arrived and was preparing to blow up the pontoon bridge leading across the river Lielupe. Hahn and friends disrupted the efforts of this NKVD detail which hastily departed after Hahn and his friends opened fire on them. On 30 June Hahn and friends watched the Russian army retreat across the river toward Riga and on 1 July 1941 saw the advance elements of the German army pass through their area.

Security Information

SECRET

SECRET

C. The German Occupation of Latvia

(1) Hahn and friends arranged with the arriving German forces that the former would patrol the Jurmala area and seek out remaining Communists for which purpose they were permitted to retain their arms. Their offer to go along with the German forces and fight the Communists, however, was refused. The first few days of the German occupation brought Hahn and his friends news that the two foremost Latvian Communists, Augusts Kirchensteins and Vilis Lacis were hiding in the Jurmala area. All efforts were made to find these two individuals, however, these efforts were not successful and it later developed that one could judge with reasonable certainty that the news that they were in this area was erroneous.

On 4 July 1941 Hahn proceeded to Riga with Baris where both of them contacted the Latvian Col. Weiss, who was organizing the so-called Latvian internal protective forces (Selbstschutz). Hahn and Baris reported the Jurmala situation to Col. Weiss and volunteered to aid the Colonel in any way possible. After a few days' wait Hahn was ordered to proceed to Ragana where he was to assist in clearing the area of any remnants of the Communist forces; this clearance was under the command of the Latvian Capt. Mucenieks. When Hahn returned to Riga he requested that his friend, who had remained at the former "Pioneer" camp, return to Riga because the Latvian Internal Security Force was being formed. When they returned to Riga some of his friends returned to their families, however eight members of the Jurmala group, including Hahn joined this security force, were assigned to a bicycle squad, whose leader was Karlis Lamberts, were armed, issued the pre-war Latvian army uniforms, and, as a part of the 40 men group, under the command of Latvian Lt. Col. Bergs and Latvian First Lt. FNU Akmentins, proceeded to clear the woods along the left side of the River Daugava of remaining Communists. This group also aided the local population in setting up security forces, as the group itself was too small to cover a large area, and since remnants of the Communist army which had turned into gangs of robbers and cutthroats were terrifying the countryside. When this 40-man group arrived at their final destination in Bauska the recently appointed local German army commander, a major, called this group "Latvian bandits", disarmed them, arrested them, and held them for further investigation. After the local German commander had received confirmation from headquarters in Riga about their status they were released and ordered to return to Riga unarmed. In Riga the group found the Germans had outlawed the Latvian Internal Security Force, causing Hahn's group to disband. Hahn and Lamberts decided to proceed to the headquarters of the Perkonkrusts because they heard rumors that Gustavs Celmins, the chief of this organization, was at that time in Berlin awaiting permission to form a national Latvian army, which he hoped to get in the very near future. In the headquarters of

SECRET

SECRET

23

the Perkonkrusts Hahn met Mitrevics, who informed him that all the underground work that Hahn had performed during the Communist occupation -- with a few exceptions -- was on either direct or indirect orders from Feliks Rikards' group. Hahn was requested to write a report outlining all his activities in Jelgava and Riga; this report was then given to Rikards' assistant, Aleksandrs Mittenbergs 537.

(2) The Perkonkrusts, which during the very early days of the German occupation, was the leading indigenous element in Latvia, made the following request of the population:

That persons register in the following categories --

Category A - Those persons who had been members of the Perkonkrusts prior to 1940.

Category B - Those persons (who wished to register) who had worked in the anti-communist underground during 1940-41 under the leadership and guidance of the Perkonkrusts or its members, yet who had never been members of the Perkonkrusts.

Category C - Those persons who wished to join this organization but who had never been members nor who had never participated in underground activities sponsored or led by the Perkonkrusts organization.

All of this registering was obviously voluntary and was carried out with the intention that having been the pro-German faction prior to 1940 the Perkonkrusts would now become the Latvian puppet government under the leadership of Celmins, yet under the complete direction of the German occupying authorities. Hahn, as a well-qualified person, joined the aforementioned category B, not because of political concurrence, but rather because he believed that well-qualified men with good intentions belonged to it.

(3) The registration, as outlined above, having been completed in the very early days of the German occupation, two very definite groups appeared to take shape within the Perkonkrusts: (A) Sondergruppe R (Rikards) -- the assignment of this group was to investigate all Communists' affairs, locate remaining Communists, and press prosecution. This group could be considered a type of internal political security police. The results of the investigations conducted by this group were turned over to the German authorities, who prosecuted political offenders. It later developed -- and Hahn thought this odd -- that in addition to investigating Communists and persons suspected

SECRET

SECRET

of Communist sympathies, the R group also investigated former, as well as present political enemies of which the former primarily were members of the Zermieku Savieniba (farmers' Union), and the latter was the newly emerging Valdmans faction which began to compete with ^{Uminis} Uminis for the role of indigenous puppet government. For example, the group investigated such persons as Julijs Druva 54, Arturs Kroders 55 and Latvian Captain T. Steinbergs 56.

It should be mentioned here that the Rikard group was divided into the following sections: Section A - External Section, with the assignment of counter-intelligence activities, particularly the uncovering of existing and/or remaining Communist underground forces and activities. Section O - the Operations Section, with the assignment of gathering of intelligence, coordination and consolidation of information and reports, and of investigating former Russian collaborators; keeping of complete operational records and files of all persons and activities which the above-mentioned A section either investigated or performed. Section K - Personnel section of Perkonkrusts members only. Administrative Section, which performed all normal administrative function. (B) Sondergruppe A (Arajs) 57 assignment -- execution of Jews and Communists. Shortly after the R and A groups emerged entities the A group completely left the Perkonkrusts and come under the direct command of the SD in Latvia.

(4) Hahn, tired of waiting for the formation of a Latvian National Army, and organized a small five-man group, consisting of former fellow students, and proceeded to the country where this group reaped the harvest of abandoned farms, the owners of which had in most cases been deported. Besides Hahn this group consisted of: Sternbergs, Jakobsons, Roberts Krastins, and Aleksandrs Vilumsons 58.

This little group worked in the country of their own volition for two months and during this time managed to reap the harvest on four farms in the vicinity of Tukums. In the end of September they received news that the Perkonkrusts was accepting applicants for the Latvian National Army. With all haste they returned to Riga and registered for this army, and found after a few weeks that the German authorities had changed their minds and did not allow the formation of a Latvian National Army.

With the aid of Mitrevics Hahn joined Sondergruppe R and was assigned to Section O. This section was further divided into two subsections, (a) the investigation subsection, and (b) the operational files subsection. Hahn was assigned to subsection (a), his duties consisting of filling in personal data on various cards which were then filed.

Fearing that too many persons, particularly university students, believed that Hahn was an out and out communist Hahn decided against continuing his college education; furthermore Hahn also wanted to continue fighting Communism actively and not be bound by such a rigid cover as attending a university would constitute.

(5) Because the Rikard group is today commonly referred to as the Latvian cardfile group (Kartoteka) it is worthwhile to note that this name for the Sondergruppe R was originally created in the end of 1941 or the beginning of 1942. When this change in name only occurred the activities of the group did not change. The reason for the change although not known, is assumed to be the fact, that, to the Latvians working for this group the term "Sondergruppe" sounded too German.

(6) Attached below is the organizational chart of Sondergruppe R.

SECRET

(7) The only worthwhile name mentioned in this narrative is the name of Eduards Cerins (pertinent data regarding the other names is found in the Appendix). In approximately 1939 Cerins changed his name from Eduards Pods to Eduards Cerins because the name Pods means, literally translated "Pot" and has an unsavory sound. This was a custom in that year in Latvia where, because of the previous German influence, many persons had cacophonous names, which they desired to Latvianize.

Subsequent to the end of World War II Cerins remained in Latvia where he was believed to be the publisher and editor of illegal underground paper "Mazais Latvis" (Little Latvian.)

The reason that H believes that Cerins is the publisher of this paper is the fact that Cerins had been active in the newspaper field during his entire adult life; furthermore in the fall of 1945 when H was hiding in the Latvian woods, and when this paper was already being published, Hahn heard that Cerins would like to meet him so that they could coordinate the efforts of the underground in Riga. Unfortunately Hahn was not able to meet Cerins at that time. While in Sweden in 1947 Hahn heard that Albins Sietinsons former co-worker in the Perkonkrustis was in Germany. They began to correspond and Hahn found that Sietinsons also believed that Cerins was the editor of the aforementioned underground paper. A further indication that this belief had some basis of truth was the fact that when Valdemar came to Sweden from Latvia in 1948 he expressed the opinion that he too was quite certain that it was Cerins who was at that time still publishing the paper. There is no subsequent substantiation that the paper is being published at the present time and/or that Cerins is the editor now.

(8) The Headquarters of the Rikard group was located in Riga in the YMCA bldg. which also housed another group which was divorced from the activities of the Rikard group though not from its control. This group consisted of former Latvian officers who overtly — as far as the Germans were concerned — were working for Rikard, but who covertly, as far as Hahn knows, were performing the task of building a clean nucleus for a Latvian army which would be activated at the proper moment. The chief of this unit was Captain Rudolfs Veidemanis /59/. Veidemanis had three assistants: 1st Lt. Parups (secretary) /60/, 1st Lt. Fridrichs Lucis /61/, and 1st Lt. Arvids Endzins /62/.

(9) The YMCA building further housed another group which was, however, completely divorced from the R group and had no connection with it whatsoever. This group was known as the "Anti-Semetic Institute". The only three workers of this institute that H can recall are Harijs Maldonis /63/, Hintauts Plakis /64/, and Peteris Martinsons.

In the summer of 1943, while Hahn was in jail with Mitrevis, the latter told Hahn that Peteris Martinsons had been a U.S. agent and disappeared from Latvia in 1943. In the beginning of 1950 the British requested from Hahn in writing, if Hahn and/or anyone in his group had any information regarding Peteris Martinsons. This request came from L. Krauja. This name (Krauja) Hahn believes is a cover name for either the former Latvian Air Force Lt. Colonel Janis Rucelis, or former Latvian Lt. Colonel Adolfs Bulle. Hahn believes that it is more probable that it is Rucelis than Bulle because, in his initial letter to Hahn, Krauja mentioned a substantial amount of historic information concerning himself as a Latvian patriot who fought side by side with all Latvian patriots during the German

SECRET

SECRET

occupation on land as well as in the air, another indication which points to Rucelis is the fact that he mentioned that he attended the Riga University which Bulle did not attend. Another indication pointing to Rucelis is the fact that in his original letter to Hahn he stated that in his (Rucelis) position he is unable to enter into public affairs. This statement coincides with the truth for never has Hahn noticed any press mention of Rucelis while Bulle has occasionally received such publicity.

The above mentioned British request for information about Martinsons stated that Martinsons had studied law in Riga, came from Sweden ~~via~~ from whence he moved to Germany, after the war, and had worked for the YMCA. Hahn believes that Martinsons' name was purposely camouflaged by including another name in the request; the other name, which cannot be recalled, was that of a 60-year old farmer. The letter further bore the following request, that the letter itself be immediately destroyed subsequent to memorizing the names requested.

Since Hahn truly could not recall either one of the names and since he could not connect the Peteris Martinsons who worked for the Anti-Semitic Institute with the Peteris Martinsons regarding whom the British were requesting information, Hahn's reply was that he had no information regarding either individual. It was not until much later, when this letter again recurred to Hahn, that the similarity in names as well as incidents regarding Martinsons occurred to him.

(10) Gustavs Celmins, who was the chief of the Perkonkrusts was also considered Rikard's chief though he rarely if ever interfered with Rikard's activity except in that he was the overall and general policy planner and executor juggling between German directives on one hand and his own Perkonkrusts interest on the other. This continued until December 1941, at which time the German army forbade the Perkonkrusts to function as an organization. Oddly enough this pre-war fanatically pro-Fascist organization was the first organization to be outlawed.

Security Information

SECRET

SECRET

by the German authorities. This act eliminated the necessity for a chief of the Perkonkrusts and therefore caused Celmins to leave the position as chief of the entire complex. Shortly thereafter Celmins and his secretary, Feliks Elvins, served on the staff of General Oskars Dankers, /65/, indigenous chief of a Latvian quizzling government (General Direktion des Innern).

Despite the fact that the Perkonkrusts was nonexistent, and hence Celmins was not the leader, he still had an indirect contact as well as some limited jurisdiction over the R group because the Perkonkrusts continued to exist illegally supported by its former members, most of whom worked for Rikards. Consequently Celmins was very knowledgeable of most all of the activities of Rikard's group.

(11) One month after H began to work in the (a) subsection of the O Section of Rikard's group he was transferred to the more active subsection, the (b) subsection of the O section. In this sub-section H had to interrogate witnesses who had information regarding pro-Communists who were either in Latvia at that time, or had fled Latvia when the Russian forces retreated. As most outstanding H remembers the case of the former (Latvian Supreme Court Justice) Janis Ankravs /66/ who had been forced by the NKVD to become an informant. The reason that this case is so outstanding in H's memory is the fact that H knew ANKRAVS' family personally, because Ankravs was such a highly placed person in the pre-war Latvian judicial system, because Ankravs himself freely admitted cooperation with the NKVD, and because Ankravs wrote a long, detailed narrative regarding his NKVD recruitment, meeting, and activities.

(11) In the very end of 1941 Rikards received a lot of complaints, particularly from the Jelgava area, regarding H's pro-communist activities during the previous Russian occupation; these complaints were not primarily based on personal prejudices but rather expressed the fear that H may have infiltrated the Rikard group as a true Communist. In a meeting with Security Information, Rikard was quite knowledgeable of H's true purpose and activities and advised H that it

SECRET

Security Information

SECRET

was not necessary for the latter to prove in writing or by documentary evidence any of his former activities. At that same time H's former Academy friends informed him that in their investigation of former NKVD records in Jelgava they had uncovered a document which indicated that H, along with Karlis Engelis and FNU/Smidris, were slated for arrest by the NKVD because of illegal anti-communist activities in the Jelgava Academy. (It was Smidris who actually uncovered this information in the end of 1941.)

When Hahn was in Jelgava shortly after the above-mentioned incident, H took the opportunity to visit the office of the Latvian Political Police Chief, FNU/Metra /67/. There H talked to one of Metra's assistants Peters Cimals to whom H expressed willingness to write a complete report outlining not only his activities at the Academy during the Communist occupation, but also the activities, names, and other data about other Communists known to him. Cimals expressed regret that H did not do this in the very first few days after the Russian retreat and stated that at this time the entire matter was self-evident to the political authorities and there was no need for H to write such a report.

Metra, incidentally, was a secret informant for Rikard.

(12) After working about a month in the investigations sub-section, H began to feel that his work had little if any importance and would not lead him to his ultimate goal, the active fight with Communism. This feeling developed when he realized that all the persons he was interrogating were or had been small fry in the Communist machine; He also felt that his lack of experience in interrogations was the cause of his personal reprehension, and that this lack of experience also caused him to believe most all of the information elicited during such interrogations, which

Security Information

SECRET

2

SECRET

then made him feel too sympathetic toward the person he was interrogating. All in all it could be said that H. was dissatisfied with himself inasmuch as he was of the firm conviction that such petty activity was not leading him to his ultimate goal, the destruction of Communism.

As the German occupation of H's country progressed toward the German supremacy goal, the occupying authorities began to engage in various anti-Latvian activities, making H realize that this is not a case of friendly cooperation to achieve the destruction of Communism, but rather that a new enemy has arrived intent on destroying Latvian nationalism. Despite realizing that it is no doubt this monstrous German force along which could destroy H's arch enemy, nevertheless H and several other nationalistically inclined friends began to think that they were duty bound to insure the re-creation of the Latvian state if and when Communism were destroyed. Momentarily that entailed preservation of nationalism and nationalistic institutions which the Germans with all haste were in the process of destroying. So that such anti-Latvian acts be recorded H and Mitrevics began to write down and collect all such acts including changes in street names, high taxes, German privileges, particularly those concerning food, etc. Since H had numerous friends, particularly in Jelgava the collection of such German activities was not difficult and resulted in a steady flow of such reports.

An excellent opportunity to enhance this activity of H's presented itself when Rikard personally talked with H and requested that he accept an assignment to work for the SD. Rikard explained to H that in this position H would have to check various applications of Latvians applying for positions with the German occupying authorities, for telephones, etc.

SECRET

SECRET

Rikard further explained the H's true aim would be to observe the inner workings of the SD as well as its plans and intentions in Latvia. It was then that H was informed that Martins Balodis was already assigned to the SD and working in the same overt as well as ^{covert} capacities; H with his excellent German language qualifications was to replace Balodis, who could not handle this language. Balodis was therefore recalled to his original assignment in Rikard's group. H accepted and was assigned to SD, Abteilung III, and worked in its card file section. The chief of Abteilung III was Captain Liebram; H's immediate supervisor, the chief of the card file section, was Sgt. Fritz Grimm ^{Westphalia} of Westphalia, whose assistant was Sgt. Goltz of Bavaria. (It was Goltz who later arrested H.)

The following persons (Latvians) also were in the service of the SD, but not with the covert assignment that H had: Mrs. Alps/69/, Mrs. Vidins /70/, FNU Mazprecinieks/70/, Vilis Bems /72/, FNU Rodums /73/, Olgerts Dreimanis /74/, L. Purmalis /75/, FNU Briedis /76/, FNU Zarins /77/, Bruno Bekas /78/, Janis Bankavs /79/, FNU Petersons /80/, FNU Didrichsons /81/, FNU Geide /82/, FNU Popovs/83/, FNU Lukins /84/.

Working in this capacity H had the opportunity -- being very cautious-- occasionally to glance at the records of more or less famous and outstanding Latvians, known organizations, and situation reports. Occasionally H had the opportunity to get a glimpse of some very important documents, which were known in the Latvian circles as "bombs". One such, and possibly the most important document which Hahn saw was Himmler's and Medem's /85/ disputes and proposals regarding future plans for German colonization of Latvia. /86/. H also had the opportunity to see and later report to the individuals concerned, information pertaining to such individuals' anti-

SECRET

SECRET

German sympathies as was known to the SD. All that H observed was recorded from memory and transmitted to Rikard who, Hahn feels, passed this information on, though he doesn't know a copy of this summary was also given to Celmins. At one time H seriously considered making photographic copies of all information he saw, but thought the risk too great and therefore abandoned this idea.

In the beginning of March 1942 -- because of the extensiveness of the information at the disposal of Hahn, he began to record this information (typewritten) in a bi-weekly summary being assisted in this job at that time by Romana Sternbergs.

(13) As this information that Hahn was receiving assumed very voluminous proportions, enabling him to write extremely lengthy bi-weekly reports, Mitrevic thought it a good idea to exempt such covert information from these reports that would be of interest to the German authorities and supply them with a similar bi-weekly report. Behind all this was Mitrevic's idea that if sufficient interest in such a product were aroused in the German authorities it could give Mitrevic the opportunity to form an information section attached to Rikard's group. The covert purpose for such an information section being a nationalistically-motivated anti-German espionage center.

(14) As the gathering of such information progressed successfully, further compilations were made of such items as foreign broadcasts, particularly those of the BBC and some American broadcasts, current and anti-German jokes and puns, and rumors.

The BBC monitoring was performed by H and Verners Almenaus and several others whom Hahn organized into a little group so that all schedules could be observed.

Security Information

SECRET

After approximately three months' activity and assignment in the SD Hahn began to feel insecure and asked Captain Liebram for a release, basing his request on the fact that Hahn did not feel quite at home among all the Germans who worked in the organization. Being a very understanding and particularly to Hahn, sympathetic individual, Liebram granted this request. It should be noted that H felt insecure because on several occasions when he was rummaging through various files he was observed in this activity by Sgt. Goltz, in whose mind H had aroused some suspicion -- although at the time Hahn could satisfactorily explain away his curiosity in files with which he was not concerned.

(15) Returning to his original organization from the SD, Hahn was assigned to the job of block leader in addition to his other normal duties. (A block leader, and in this case particularly Hahn, was a person who had under his jurisdiction between 30 to 40 persons who were members of the Perkonkrusts and whom he had to visit once a month, collect dues, report changes in policies, and directives, and other incidental organizational news, and whose suggestions and views he was obliged to report back.)

Apparently Hahn satisfactorily completed and performed all ^{his} assignments and therefore he was informed by the chief of the cardfile subsection that he had been accepted by the Perkonkrusts as one of "the old fighters" (alter Kämpfer).

In the summer of 1942 Hahn received an order from Celmins, through Rikards that he was to proceed to the rural sections of Latvia to determine the general mood and thinking of the population and to contact all the covert members who were reporting to the headquarters through the open mails. On this trip Hahn was accompanied by Roman Sternbergs. Travelling about they arrived at the conclusion that because of the political lines which the Perkonkrusts has taken during the initial phase of the German occupation

~~-34-~~
SECRET

34

most rural inhabitants were not favorably inclined toward the PERKONKRUSTS. Consequently any new informant whom H and Sternbergs recruited were purposely non-Perkonkrusts members, and consisted mainly of young teachers with whom Sternbergs, a teacher himself, was personally acquainted,

Returning to Riga H found that the now famous break between Celmins and Rikards had occurred. The reason for this break was that Rikards, Adolfs Schilde, Evalds Andersons, and Edmunds Puksis disagreed with the extremely pro-German line Celmins was taking. This break, which occurred on the initiative of the above mentioned person created no changes with in the structure of Rikard's group or any of its workings; the only effect it had was that those persons siding with Rikard's views could really not be considered any more as members of the Perkonkrusts, but rather as plain employees in the Rikard's group, and Rikards personal supporters.

In the fall of 1942 H got acquainted with a Latvian religious sect (Dievturi) which propounded a nationalistic Latvian religion based upon the ancient Latvian Gods. The leader of this sect was Ernests Brastins/87/. Hahn was put in contact with this sect by Mattins Balodis and Jekabs Sildegs (both members of Rikards organization). Hahn slowly got to know several of the adherents to this religion and was eventually informed that within this religious sect there existed an underground organization, to which many former Latvian army officers belonged, who were serving at the time in the police force in Riga, (It should be noted that not all of those persons belonging to the underground organization were necessarily followers of this religious movement.) One of the leaders of this underground group was a member of the Riga criminal police, fnu Mezzargi. Hahn was informed that this underground was quite interested in procuring his as well as Mitrevics' services; however, talking it over with Mitrevics, he and Hahn decided not to join because they could not determine the entire structure of the organization, or any of its aims. In the end of 1942 the German authorities discovered this activity and arrested a large number of policemen, thereby disrupting

SECRET

SECRET

this underground movement.

Also in the end of 1942 ~~1941~~ it could clearly be seen that the German authorities opposed and were striving to destroy all Latvian nationalism and any of its organizations and supporters by at first beginning to arrest some members of Rikards group as well as ~~the nationalist~~ ^{Latvian} organization Tautas Balss (Voice of the People), whose chief was ~~and~~ ^{and} Caupals, (of this organization the Germans arrested its leader and some 200 members).

Shortly thereafter they also arrested 1st Lt. ~~Parups and Arturs Neparts~~, who were both accused of spying for the British.

(16) In the very end of 1942 an article appeared in Hahn's covert bi-weekly summary describing Celmins' activities in Berlin prior to the outbreak of the war. Celmins, who was very perturbed about this article since it described him as having had a good time and led a soft life rather than concern himself with pressing national problems, requested that Mitrevics reveal the source thereof. Mitrevics refused to reveal such information because it had been clearly understood before, that the work of the Rikard group, and the organization Perkonkrusts were two separate, divorced matters, whereupon Mitrevics was expelled from the organization by Celmins. This act caused Hahn, Teodors Jansons, and Dzems Randzins to hand in their resignations from the Perkonkrusts, which were however, not accepted by Celmins.

At this same time a disagreement arose between Rikards and Greble, the reason for it being that the German authorities had requested that approximately 20 members of the Rikard group be assigned to anti-Communist activities in Russia. Greble opposed this idea because he felt that no Latvian should leave homeland, and therefore he, and approximately ten of his friends and supporters, quit the organization. With Greble's departure and with the rift between Rikard and Celmins, Mitrevics became one of the leading personalities in the organization and was able to influence Rikards to the extent that Rikards began to realize the need for a new nationalistic basis to his work and consented to create the aforementioned information center which later coordinated the activities of all covert informers ^{Security Information} who reported up to that time had been utilized in

SECRET

Security Information

~~SECRET~~

35

somewhat of a hodge podge fashion. The chief of the information section therefore became Mitrevics, whose assistant was Teodor's Jansons. Under Mitrevic's jurisdiction and direction came Romans Sternbergs, Hahn, and later Robert Krastins.

(17) With the replacement of Liebram by Schlesinger, who became chief of Abteilung III of the SD in the beginning of 1943 the relationship between the SD and Rikards group became strained. Shortly after his arrival, Schlesinger personally visited the headquarters of Rikard's group (which incidentally was the first time that any German official had made an inspection of this headquarters) ostensibly for the purpose of acquainting himself with the workings of the organization. However it was soon found that he paid very particular attention to the informations section and requested Mitrevics to furnish him the names of all sources of information, which Mitrevics refused to do. Mitrevics based this refusal upon the fact that when recruited the sources were promised anonymity. Immediately after this visit preparations were made to notify all sources to discontinue their reporting, in case any repercussions from the German side were to appear; preparations were also made to hide all existing comvetq records if such need arose. It must be noted that a certain feeling of expectancy existed. Hahn and Sternbergs then prepared a lengthy essay entitled "German Latvian Relations" which depicted numerous anti-Latvian acts by the Germans and which contained a warning that if such conditions were to continue, an open and possibly armed conflict between the German occupying authorities and the Latvian population may occur. Though this was far from being a diplomatically worded document, Hahn feels that it was the best that he has ever written because it showed the conditions as they truly were. This document was given to Rikard who—circumventing his next step in the chain of command, —in the SD—transmitted it directly to some highly placed persons in Berlin. The result was that no doubt the local SD was reprimanded and prepared to take corrective steps.

Security Information

~~SECRET~~

SECRET

This document was also shown to Prof. Svabe, famed historian and known anti-German, so that his reaction may be observed. Svabe considered the document well written but doubted whether it would have any effect; his opinion was that such a compilation of facts should either be sent to the Western democracies or be kept in Latvia until such material could be used as proof of German attempts to subjugate Latvia. Taking this opportunity H also informed Svabe as to the extent of information that the SD possessed about him.

(17) In the beginning of 1943 H also held two speeches arranged covertly and attended by a select group of friends and coworkers in which he described the German colonization plans and their "Übermensch" (Supermen) theory and policy and its effects on his homeland and its population. The first such speech was held in Riga in Valdémars residence and was attended by his university classmates as well as by the dean of the Riga university, Ernest Magobads /88/, who warned against taking drastic measures. The second speech was held in the Academy in JELGAVA where he spoke to former (Russian occupation) underground members. This speech basically was of the same nature as the first, however in it Hahn stressed the necessity for restating the German ideas of colonization and subjugation. His intention with this group was to draw it closer to himself and Nitrieres so as to reactivate the former, extensive underground.

The only non-underground member who attended H's second lecture was farm machinery lecturer, Janis Abolins who was asked by H's friends to attend because they considered him as the most promising young Latvian Lecturer. It was ABOLINS who later told H that all that the latter had said in his speech was correct, however that serious thought should be given to recruiting some suitable instructors in sabotage so that resistance may be offered to what in his opinion would be a lengthy Russian occupation following on the heels of the current German one. Hahn admits that he was quite surprised about this view and took no action, though the idea had left a definite impression on him.

SECRET

SECRET

(18) At this same time, it seemed to the German occupying authorities sensed that the population began to resist them though mostly in passive rather than active ways. To rid themselves of such internal, indigenous dislike and opposition, the Germans embarked on a vigorous propaganda campaign to "enlighten" the population. For this purpose they assigned German civilian employed by the Civil Administration to tour Latvia and speak to the inhabitants. To aid these speakers with the language, Rikards group was requested to assign an interpreter to each speaker. H was assigned to this task and standing, alongside of the speaker, interpreted his speech as he saw fit. On one occasion the speaker scheduled to speak before a typical farm group, requested Hahn to suggest a good Latvian song which could be sung at the conclusion of his speech. H suggested "God Bless Latvia" (DIEVS SVETI LATVIJA) the former Latvian national anthem which was forbidden by the German authorities. After the lecturer had departed he expressed his appreciation to H for having suggested a song which was sung with such obvious enthusiasm. To his query as to the origin and type of song, H replied that it was an old, patriotic song. In general the speaker was so impressed with H's ability as an interpreter that he told H that after the war the two of them can travel through Russia on a similar assignment.

Later, however, upon returning to Riga, H's real intentions were apparently deduced by the Civil Administration. He was therefore informed by a friend who worked in the political section of the Civil Administration that appropriate, derogatory remarks regarding his conduct were entered in his file. Hahn feels that this episode, though not of itself, was at least ~~part~~ another contributory reason for his subsequent incarceration.

(19) By this time Alfreds VALDMANIS had surpassed his competitor Gustavs Celmins and emerged as the indigenous Latvian leader who, though sponsored and supported by the Germans, did occasionally, quite openly, oppose them; such opposition however, was tolerated by the occupiers because of this there now seems to be a divided opinion among influential and prominent Latvians regarding VALDMANIS: some

SECRET

claim that his opposition was genuine and he was not removed because the Germans feared repercussions from the population who in general favored VALDMANIS; others maintain that this opposition was instigated by the Germans themselves who desired that the population rally around a Latvian leader whom they could control because of his pro-German sentiments.

Since, at that time, Valdmanis represented the most acceptable political line, Mitrevics, with Rikards consent, contacted him so as to rid the Rikards group of the undesirable PERKONKRUST comotation and to gain a new, nationalistic basis for further activities. This contact resulted in an agreement that Rikards' group would exchange all its information - including covert items-- while Valdmanis would furnish all latest decisions and transcripts from all meetings of the indigenous governing body. From this meeting Mitrevics retained the impression that Valdmanis was an unusually able individual who excelled in politics and was undoubtedly a thorough national.

It is noteworthy to add that after the war, when Hahn was contacted by the British Int'l service representative, George Kilgour, Hahn was informed that in the latter part of the war British Intelligence representatives in Germany were in contact with Valdmanis.

In order that a Latvian political center be created, Mitrevics, felt that it was necessary to contact Bruno Kalnins/89 who was an important leader of the social democrats. The initial contact was assigned to Hahn who contemplated undertaking it through Juris Dumasters. This meeting which actually never occurred, had already been arranged, the purpose behind it being to determine if Kalnins wished to participate in such a unification.

(20) In Feb 1943 the aforementioned officers union (national army corps) informed the Rikards group that the Latvian Legion was being formed and that these efforts to form such a military body must be disrupted and opposed until the Germans consent to the Latvian sovereignty requests. In concrete terms such opposition was

undertaken by appealing to the nationalistic feeling of those Latvians which were the first to be ordered to report for military service and which were, via handbills, instructed to disregard such orders. Hahn's assignment was to procure the names of all those persons originally scheduled for military service. He planned to procure these names through the aid of Bruno Smits who was employed in the Department of Labor as the secretary to the chief of this Department, P. Reinhardt.

Since Smits claimed he had access to this list, Hahn arranged with Bruno Rugens /90/, a member of Rikards group (section I (eye), for the receipt of this list, as Rugens had organized the distribution of the aforementioned handbills. At the arranged time Smits telephoned H and informed him that he (Smits) is unable to produce the rosters since they have been removed. So that the distribution arrangements may be cancelled H telephoned Rugens and, in the belief that he was talking to the latter, stated his (Hahn's) name when asked to identify himself. Later Hahn found that it was the SD informant ~~Popovs~~ Popovs to whom he had revealed his name. Popovs was at that time using Rugens as an unwitting informant. Incidentally, Hahn was never able to participate in the distribution of the handbills and was not knowledgeable of the success or failure of this undertaking. However, later when incarcerated, he was informed by Serins, who unbeknown to Hahn also participated in this affair, that the rosters had been obtained and the handbills successfully distributed, though the entire undertaking did in no way deter the formation of the Latvian Legion.

(21) Pertaining to Hahn's personal life, it should be noted that at this particular time on 28 Feb. 43) he asked Tamara Dance for her hand and having received a favorable reply planned in accordance with existing customs to procure her parents' blessing on 6 March 1943 on day he intended to become officially engaged. These personal as well as his other plans were interrupted on the early morning hours of 6 March when Hahn was arrested by SD (Sgt. SOLTZ), his former immediate supervisor.

(22) When arrested Hahn was requested to surrender any weapons. He complied with this request surrendering only his legally authorized service pistol. However, Colt

Security Information

SECRET

and two assistants spied a hidden Russian Semi-automatic rifle. This deception resulted in a search of Hahn's room where they found another pistol, numerous Russian hand grenades and ammunition for the semi-automatic rifle. All this as well as all correspondence which mainly consisted of amorous letters between Hahn and his wife-to-be was confiscated. On his way out, Hahn was able to whisper to his father that he immediately inform Rikards and Mitrevics. Later, however, Hahn found that Rikards had already been arrested whereas Hahn's father's warning had saved Mitrevics from being arrested. After two weeks in hiding Mitrevics voluntarily surrendered to the Germans because in reprisal they had arrested his wife. Mitrevics' surrender ceased Hahn's treatment because the Germans were quite annoyed about Mitrevics' escape.

On this same morning (6 March) approximately 40 members of Rikards' group were arrested, the group headquarters closed, the organization discontinued, and the Hq building (the YMCA) was henceforth occupied by the SD which used it as a pleasure club.

Hahn was interrogated by German SD members, the entire questioning lasting approx 2 months. The questioning itself was conducted by the chief of Section V of the SD, an Austrian 1st Lt. fnu STEDRY (ethnic Germans (Volksdeutsch), fnu WUKIN and fnu GRAEF, also participating was an Austrian (Sgt.) SUTTER. Under some though by no means excessive duress, Hahn was accused of the following:

- a. Illegal possession of firearms which was taken as an indication of armed revolt.
- b. Attempted interference with military conscription.
- c. Clandestine collection of subversive material.
- d. Possible cooperation with the British.

To all these charges Hahn claimed he was innocent and consequently he was then questioned on the following points:

- a. Listening to foreign broadcasts and the written recording of such information.
- b. Illegal, Security Information

PERSONNEL

SECRET

Security Information

SECRET

42

Regarding (a) Hahn freely admitted this monitoring activity while regarding (b) he revealed only what he had previously known was at the disposal of the Germans.

All in all, H claims that he revealed a comparatively minute amount of his as well as his friends true activities, aims, and motives. Later Hahn's father who had continually attempted to procure his sons release — told H that the Germans had informed him (H's father) that they were forced to keep his son in confinement not because they could prove anything against him, but because of his insolence.

(H states that when he was asked whether he knew why the Germans had liquidated the Rikard group, he replied with a quote from Schiller: "The slave has done his duty, the slave may go". Because of this H was beaten, while as a precaution a gas mask was placed on his head. Just before this gas mask was placed on his head he asked the Germans if this ~~is~~ be the "New Europe".

Slowly all but the following 7 of the arrested Rikards/ group members were released: Rikards, Urkis, Mitrevics, T. Jansons, A. Grinbergs, B. Rugens, and Hahn. In the beginning of June 1943 the chief of the SD, (Dr. Lange informed these 7 that they would be transferred to the jail in Valmiera where they would be incarcerated for an indefinite period of time which he termed, "^{Schulungszeit} Schulungszeit" (Learning period). He further stated that their release depended upon their behavior in the Valmiera Jail. Furthermore, each was informed as to the reason for the detention, H's transgression being illegal listening to foreign broadcasts which according to Lange called for a minimum of 2½ years in jail; however: "we'll see".

(24) On 12 June 1943 all seven accused were transferred from the Riga jail to the jail at Valmiera where they were all assigned to the same cell. In this jail they found they were among communist inmates some of whom had been caught and jailed on the proof and investigation conducted by Rikards group. The indigenous gaurd detail in this jail consisted of members of Araj's group, whose conduct toward these 7 men was at first quite harsh, but who, later, having found out the truth treated them comparatively well, even to the point of giving them many privileges.

Security Information

SECRET

Security Information

SECRET

43

This jail was administered by the local SD unit whose chief (1st Lt.) fnu PRENNER /
/91/ under whose direction the jail was supervised by a Latvian, (1st Lt.) fnu RUNKE,
a sadist and drunkard who personally beat not only many communist inmates but also
the horses which were an intergate part of the prison detail.

Through the aid of Janis Dalins /92/ and Janis Zakis the seven inmates
secretly received food which the former donated voluntarily from their farms. At the
same time-- Hahn and his friends found later-- Gustavs Celmins was quite actively
collecting food and money from all PERKONKRUSTS supporters for the purpose of aiding
those fellow members who had been jailed. Since H and his friends had received none
of this aid, and since Hugo Ginters later informed them that Celmins had kept all
these donations for his own use, the men, particularly Rikards, brought these accusa-
tions before Celmins after their release. According to H this particular incident
is even today Celmins most vulnerable spot about which he is most criticized.

During their imprisonment, the seven Rikards group members were informed in
letters from their families, that the Germans were spreading tales that the Rikards
group was not discontinued because of political reasons, but because of misappropria-
tion of German government funds for which the 7 men -- who were also found guilty-- had
to be jailed. This obviously, was incorrect, though there was some question regarding
payment of wages and advances which was the responsibility of the chief of the Admin-
istrative, support, and Finance section; these charges against Petersons apparently
were correct, for later he seems to have repayed a certain sum. Ironically, fnu //
Petersons was one of those 40 released prior to those 7 who eventually were held in
Valmiera.

In the fall of 1943 there occurred a reorganization of the Valmiera jail
which brought about the following changes:

- a. All communist inmates were transferred to the concentration
camp in SALASPILS on 28 Sept 1943 leaving in Valmiera only

Security Information
SECRET

Security Information

SECRET

44

Hahn and his friends and those persons imprisoned for criminal offenses.

b. This jail then became the detention house for those accused of Latvian nationalism, instead of the former communists.

c. The prison chief Runke was replaced by Lt. Col. Apsitis, a more humane and likeable person.

In her letters to her husband the distressed and somewhat hysterical Mrs. Rikards informed her spouse that she feared an SD informant among the seven friends because some of the statements the SD was making to her could only come to the SD via such treachery. When they read this the 7 men considered it so much nonsense and laughed about it. However, later, when in Sweden Hahn was accused of this by pastor Berzins whose wife was a good friend of Mrs. Rikards and who was apparently spreading this tale giving treachery as the reason for Hahn's early release.

(25.) Hahn, Aleksander Grinbergs and Bruno Rugens were brought before SD chief Frenner on 20 Dec. 1943 and were informed that they are going to be released. Handcuffed and under guard these three men were brought to Riga where they were released in the following order: Grinbergs, Hahn, Rugens. When he was released Hahn was told by Stedery that he was being released because of his father's persistency and promise that he (Hahn's father) would vouch for his son; Hahn's father also claimed that Hahn's mother is very ill and Hahn is needed at home where his father would see to it that Hahn would not engage in any anti-German activity. Prior to being released the 3 men were requested to furnish any information they had regarding the newspaper "Briva Latvija" (Free Latvia) which was secretly being published by Gustavs Celmins. Failing to reveal any such information, the men were requested to sign a statement that they would immediately inform the SD of any information they may receive pertaining to this newspaper.

Security Information
SECRET

Security Information

- 49 -
SECRET

45

It is noteworthy that Celmins was publishing this paper not so much to oppose the Germans in a clandestine manner as to insure himself -- sensing Germany's defeat -- the possibility of claiming opposition to the German regime. This is easily evidenced by the fact that when his coworkers from the rural areas arrived at his office, they were given a stack of newspapers which when leaving they quite openly carried under their arm. It was later found that the Germans who began to suspect Celmins had photographed some individuals leaving his office with a stack of "Briva Latvia" conspicuously under their arm.

Shortly after his release Hahn carried out his previously planned personal affairs by becoming engaged to his present wife who was at that time working as a dentist in Rauna. Though Hahn's wife's mother opposed an early marriage, Hahn who was ordered to appear for military service on 3 March 1944, was married by the civil authorities on 2 March 1944. On the appropriate day Hahn appeared before the Latvian Legion medical board who declared him unfit for military service because of heart trouble. In accordance with existing procedures, Hahn, having been found unfit for active service, was assigned to Police duty in Riga and was actually employed by the Police Department. At first Hahn was assigned to the 7th precinct whose chief was police Capt. Rekis. Hahn's duties were those of an ordinary patrolman pounding a beat. Inasmuch as the police was at that time very unpopular Hahn applied for the position of interpreter for the police. Having passed a test in German proficiency he was given such a position and assigned as interpreter to the 14th police precinct. As customary, Hahn's civil marriage was followed by a regular church wedding which took place in Riga's St. John's church on 9 April 1944 and was performed by pastor A. Mitulis. The wedding and reception was also attended by all of his former Valmiera jail fellow inmates who had by that time been released.

In June 1944 Kahn began to think about the advice of lecturer Abolins, i.e. that he should form a stay-behind group. This idea began to form because

Security Information
SECRET

~~Security Information~~

SECRET

46

of the heavy losses sustained by the Latvian Legion on the Russian front and because a collapse of this front seemed imminent. Hahn discussed this with Valdemar who was assigned to the Hq. of the Latvian Legion. Valdemar, who by virtue of his assignment had access to factual military information, thought Hahn's idea praiseworthy and advised that in his opinion many Latvian Legion soldiers would take to the woods without hesitation because they too saw the inevitable German defeat and retreat from Latvia, which then would again be occupied by the Russians.

(26.) In the very end of July 1944 the Russian forces which were advancing eastward through Lithuania sent a surprising bridgehead toward Jelgava, capturing that city and proceeding to Tukums which was also captured. The element of surprise caught the Germans off guard and thus enabled the Russians to cut off any German retreat through the two Kurzeme ports Liepaja and Ventspils. However, the Germans and many Latvians fighting completely independently managed to rally, contain this drive, and eventually push this spearhead out of Tukums, thus clearing an avenue of retreat for the German forces; the Russian forces were at that time firmly entrenched in Jelgava and vicinity where some fierce fighting took place. However, neither the Latvians nor the Germans could push this force out of Jelgava which from then on remained in Russian hands.

This Russian advance, as well as German disinterest to hold Latvia (which was indicated by the ~~panic~~ and panic attempts on the part of a number of highly placed officials to flee to Germany) enhanced Hahn's efforts to organize a stay-behind group. Hahn accomplished this in the following manner:

Just prior to the aforementioned spearheads entrance into Latvia, the German authorities permitted the Latvians to renew the "Aizsargi" (home guard) which had been outlawed since 1940 by the Russians as well as the Germans. In anticipation of a Russian fifth column, all members of the Aizsargi were assigned

Security Information

SECRET

Security Information

U7

to the various police precincts. T. Vansons and Rikards, who had in the meantime joined the Aizsargi, were assigned to the 14th police precinct where to their surprise they found Hahn at work. Hahn then related his stay-behind idea to Jansons, who wrote it up in a proposal form and passed it on to Rikards. The latter took this proposal to Lt. Col. Dzenitis /93/ Chief of the Aizsargi, who felt that such stay-behind unit -- which Hahn named "Anti-Bolshevic Partisan Hq" (PPC) -- would become detrimental to the Aizsargi inasmuch as such a group would start its activities by armed resistance to the Germans causing them to outlaw the Aizsargi. Nevertheless, upon the insistence of Rikards, Dzenitis consented, with the provision that the PPS would operate clandestinely as an integral part of the Riga Aizsargi Regiments, Communications Battalions, special assignment group. This Aizsargi Regiment was commanded by Lt. Col. Vitols while the Communications Battalion was under the command of Rudolfs Turks /94/.

Though Hahn himself did not have the opportunity to take part in all this preliminary work -- being kept busy by his job of interpreter -- he was, however, kept fully informed of all activities in behalf of the formation of the PPS. Much to the regret of the Hahn - Janson - Rikards triumvirate, the Aizsargi were unable to furnish proper support to the PPS causing Rikards to contact some former friends who were at that time with the German Frontaufklarungstrupp (Combat Intelligence Unit) 212, under the command of Lt. Hasselmann whose assistant was Lt. von Firks. Another officer of this unit was a Lt. Hubert who, after the war, has contacted Janis Celms, Prof. Endzins and others in Germany. The 212th Comb. Int. unit seemed very interested in Rikards plans for stay-behind operations and indicated that they would support the unit even though: "You may curse us (Germans), just as long as you don't fire upon us."

Armed with this promise the PPS began to form small groups in the rural areas supplying them with radio sets (for the purpose of keeping the PPS center informed), arms, and explosives. Trained radio operators were furnished

SECRET

~~SECRET~~

to the small groups from the reservoir of Latvians who readily placed themselves at the disposal of the PPS. The location of such radio operators as well as the assembling of the sets themselves which were received from the 212th Comb. Int. group in parts, was accomplished by Aleksanders Akmentins /95/. Because of the sensitivity of his assignment, the Germans kept Akmentins under very strict control which he thoroughly disliked and as a result, later, went into hiding.

In order to seek further aid in its stay-behind activities, the PPS contacted the Hq. of the Latvian Legion, whose CO, Gen. Rudolfs Bangerskis, *x-elin* however, was not favorably inclined, whereas one of Bangerskis aids, Col. Silgailis was sympathetic and officially gave two persons from Hq. leave with covert instructions that they are assigned to the PPS. In manner Romans Sternbergs and Valdemar began their activity in the formation of the provincial stay-behind units. Also active in the formation of these units were Roberts Krastins, Krisjanis Kronins, /96/ and Edgars Ermanis /97/.

(27.) In the beginning of Aug. 1944, Hahn's wife joined many Latvians who were fleeing their country fearing a second communist occupation; another reason for her leaving was Hahn's decision to remain in Latvia as a partisan which she felt she was not able to do. Her first location was in Vienna where he passed an examination which enabled her to practice dentistry. In the end of October she ~~the~~ -- with the help of Valdmanis -- proceeded to Wiesbaden, where she gave birth to her first child, a son Valdis Antons, on 23 April 1945.

(28.) In the middle of September 1944, though slated for a "Combat Police Regiment", Hahn, through Rikards influence, was transferred from the police to the 212 Comb. Int. group. In the end of Sept. 1944 Hahn reported to the Hq. of this group which was located in Tinuzi near Ikskile. There he was issued a German Army uniform, a side arm, identification (Soldbuch), and was assigned some EM rank which Hahn does not recall.

Security Information

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

It should be noted here that a similar group known as the Kurelis group after its commanding officer former Latvian General Kurelis, was formed with the sanction of the German authorities. This group, the same as PPS, was under the direction and supervision of the 212th Comb. Int. group through which both groups were also supplied. The ultimate assignment of this group was the same as that of the PPS, though originally the Kurelis group was assigned the task of assisting the German Army to protect Riga from a Russian attack. Jansons attempted to unite the PPS and the Kurelis group by talking to Kurelis chief of staff Capt. Upelnieks, who opposed such unification because, according to Upelnieks the PPS was too much under German control and hence not as nationalistic a body as the Kurelis group. (Hahn and other PPS members differed with this opinion.) Later, in Kurzeme, in the beginning of November 1944 the Germans discovered several activities of the Kurelis group which to them seemed peculiar:

a. Fearing a complete collapse of the German lines in Latvia, the majority of the 212th Comb. Int. group returned to Germany. The Kurelis group considered this as an indication that their responsibility to defend their country had begun. Consequently, the Kurelis group proclaimed itself as the core of the Latvian National Army and requested all Latvians to appear for service for their country.

b. The result of this proclamation was that a considerable number of Latvians joined Kurelis forces. However, many of these were -- as Kurelis Hqtrs later admitted -- communist agents and deserters from the Latvian Legion.

The chaos which the fear of a collapse of the front had created, subsided when the German Army and the Latvian Legion were able to stabilize the line. This enabled the German authorities to consider Kurelis activities further and

~~SECRET~~

Security Information

-47 SECRET

58

come to the conclusion that the Kurelis group is a threat to their rear, is causing and instigating disturbances, and is of anti-German sentiments. Consequently this group was liquidated by the SS chief, Maj. Gen. Jekeln /98/; Kurelis himself was arrested and later brought to Germany (now in Goldswaith, Texas) while most all of his staff officers were

58

Security Information

SECRET

SECRET

shot and all the members fled hunted by the Germans who put 2,000 of them in the STUTTHOF Concentration camp.

Hahn's opinion of this episode is that the Germans ^{hierarchy} ~~hierarchy~~ fearing a repetition of the plot of 20 July 1944, removed all stay-behind activities, which they considered political, from the army, and assigned this responsibility to the SS. Kurelis, being under the direction of the 212th Comb. Int. group, was considered -- in addition to everything else -- unreliable. The reason that this same fate did not meet H and the PPS, was that the PPs, prior to the liquidation of Kurelis group, was transferred on their own initiative to and came under the jurisdiction of the "JAGDVERBAND" which was the newly created BB department charged with this new SS assignment--the control and direction of stay-behind matters.

The front having become stabilized, the 212th Comb Int group returned to Latvia and continued its activity of dispatching agents behind the Russian lines, for straight military purposes and aims. As already mentioned this group then had lost all stay-behind responsibilities, though it still did keep up contact with the PPS.

(29) With the German retreat from Estonia, rumors in Riga had it, that the Estonians managed to proclaim their independence and establish a temporary government. This brought about some streetfighting with the German Army remnants. ^{Spurred} ~~Spurred~~ by this example the Latvians also began to plan such a government which would assume power with the aid of the Latvian Legion. Rikards from PPS was assigned the liaison with this provisional government /99/ which had made all preparations to flee to Sweden if there appeared difficulties from either the German or Russian side. However this project failed completely when (Lt. Col.) ~~X~~ Zenitis, one of the instigators, revealed this secret when under the influence of alcohol. As suspected no drastic measures were taken by the German authorities, who did send some of the major figures to Germany.

The PPS which was informed of this project and expected to fight was assigned the task of communicating with the provisional government and in case of trouble -- aid this government in its move from Latvia to Sweden. In order to instruct the units in

Security Information**SECRET**

49 **SECRET** 52

Vidzeme, H, proceeded to the vicinity of Asis with the appropriate instructions. At present H can only recall two local groups that of the brothers Karlis, Janis and Peteris RUSOVIS /LDO/ and that of former Sigulda civil judge and Rikards brother-in-law fnu ROZENBERGS. The Russian advances at that time prohibited H from contacting the RUSOVIS group. However, he could contact Rozenbergs on the particular day when he took to the woods in the community of BIRINI. Taking the opportunity, Hahn visited his two sisters in the vicinity of Sigulda and persuaded them to flee to Riga, though they had originally planned to remain there, fearing the ill effects that the life of a refuge would have upon their small children. Because of the speedy advances of the Russian forces, Hahn returned to Riga two days later, on 28 Sept, 1944 and just in time to say his good-byes to Rikards who was moving to LIELIUBE in northern Kurzeme where, it was said, Mitrevics had been active since July. Rikards assigned Jansons to take his place in Riga.

One of the last PPS tasks in Riga was to locate nationalistic and patriotic females, who when this city would fall into Russian hands, would associate with Russian officers. Any information received in this manner would be brought to the remaining PPS radio operators who would transmit it to PPS Hq. in Kurzeme.

During this time Valdemars and his friend Edgars Ermolnis (101), both PPS members, requested the 212 Comb Int. group to give them permission to remain in Riga and join existing, illegal communist underground forces which were awaiting the arrival of the Russian forces and which had attempted to persuade Ermanis to join this forces. This proposal was rejected by the Germans because they had no possibility to check on its authenticity and suspected it may be a provocation attempt. Receiving no support and cover from the Germans, Valdemar and Ermanis had no choice but to abandon their plan and eventually leave Riga with the other PPS members.

In the first day of October 1944 H and Roberts Krastins were ordered to Kurzeme where they were to find suitable quarters for the PPS in KULDIGA where they were also to meet Von Firks. Arriving there they found Von Firks who was to furnish support

Security n

SECRET

~~SECRET~~

to the PPS ^{group} gorilla groups had left for Insterburg, Germany. The officer who gave them this information advised H and Krastins that they too proceed to Insterburg. However, they told this German officer that they had no desire to leave their homeland. Hahn and Krastins found suitable quarters for the PPS in Kuldiga through the aid of the chief of Kuldigas 1st police precinct, Janis Vanags who had a radio operator under his direction and was leader of all PPS groups in the Kuldiga area. It was anticipated that Vanags radio operator would become the communicator between the groups in Riga and the PPS in Sweden should the latter be forced to flee there.

Having found the necessary quarters, H and Krastins returned to Riga, where they remained comparative inactive until the fall of Riga on 13 October 1944. During this time H travelled between Riga and Majori (on the Riga shore) where the 212th Comb Int. group had set up forward Hq. On 11 Oct 1944 H was in Riga for the last time and attempted to persuade his parents and older sister to flee from Latvia, (Hahn's younger sister had left for Germany with her two children because the Germans had forced her husband to come to Germany.) Hahn's parents and older sister refused to leave because:

- a. They were too old to become homeless wanderers.
- b. They were assured by the wife of artist ROMANS SUTA, ^{fnu} BELCOVA

that H's parents were in no danger. She gave this assurance because her husband, a communist sympathiser had accompanied the retreating Russians in 1941 and was expected to return with them as a powerful individual.

- c. H's older sister was also persuaded by (Mrs.) E. PERINS, one of the leading persons in the National Welfare Agency by which H's older sister was employed, that to leave Latvia at such a crucial time, would not only be deserting the sinking ship, but would also enable the Russians to Russianize Latvia much easier as none of the intelligensia would remain.

H claims he was very angry because he viewed his parents and sister decision as utterly senseless; he claims he has since often regretted parting from his family under such circumstances, however, there was no way he could convince them of the necessity

Security Information

~~SECRET~~

SECRET

to leave.

(30) After the fall of Riga, H proceeded to Talsi where he joined the rest of the PPS members, who in the interim had left Riga with their families. The general feeling within the PPS was for a move to Sweden because ~~the~~ ALL Leiding Germans had fled from Latvia and a general situation of complete chaos existed. From Talsi the PPS moved to Ventspils where in his attempts to organize the move to Sweden H for the first time met Dr. Ginters who was arranging such journeys. H requested aid, giving Dr. Ginters a list of all PPS members. One week later, however, the picture changed, the front was again stabilized and the 212th Comb. Int. group informed the PPS that the Germans would remain in Kurzeme and continued organizing stay bhing activities. After several heated debates among PPS members, it was decided that H, Jansons, Krastins would remain in Kurzeme, while the rest, Valdemars, Sternbergs, Ermahis, Kronins and radio operator Aboltins would take advantage of Dr. Ginters aid and await boat transportation in the vicinity of Jurkalne. During this waiting period, Valdemars who was in possession of a German identification which permitted him easy travel, utilized this for various arrangements that had to be made prior to the departure of the PPS.

Also during this time H again met Dr. Ginters and expressed the desire that Dr. Ginters arrange via his radio contact with Sweden, that those PPS members and others who would remain in Latvia. Ginter's replied that he cannot decide such matters as that is not in his jurisdiction but is rather a matter for Gen Tepfers decision. (This was the first time that H had heard Tepfer's name mentioned in connection with any clandestine and resistance activities)-- Receiving no reply, H, Jansons, and Krastins decided to await a reply from Tepfers and therefore returned to Kuldiga in the middle of October 1944 where they continued to organize stay-behind groups.

(31) In the middle of October 1944, the German SS Jagdverband --also known as WILDCAT--arrived in Kurzeme under (1st Lt. V. JANKAUS, a Latvian, who had completed an espionage school in Germany, and who was the JAGDVERBAND operations chief in KURZEME.

Security Information

SECRET

SECRET

JANKAVS immediate chief was (fnu Von FOLKERSAM who kept up contact with JANKAVS through German liaison officers. (VON FOLKERSAM later was wounded during a battle on the Oder river and was replaced by a Latvian (Lt. Col.) Emils Grapmanis who became chief of JAGDVERBAND--OST.) The assignment of the JAGDVERBAND in Latvia was to recruit Latvians for training in Kurzeme and dispatch behind the Russian lines (for operation in Latvia only). Consequently this activity did not interfere with the PPS who continued to organized stay-behind groups. Yet the work of the PPS was hindered by the fact that beside it there was also Kurelis group which conducted its activities with a great deal of noise.

As already mentioned in the beginning of Oct 1944, the Germans began to arrest many Latvians who they feared were working against them. This was most evident in the cases of members of Kurelis group.

Rikards, fearing arrest, arrived in Kurzeme and went into hiding and complete inactivity in LIELIRBE and awaited the opportunity to flee to Sweden. In the end of Oct, this opportunity presented itself and Rikards began his journey by boat however, the boat developed motor trouble and Rikards was apprehended by the German authorities to whom he explained that he was attempting to flee to German. Shortly thereafter Rikards was released and attempted to rejoin the PPS which, however, turned him down as it was still his intention to flee to Sweden, while the PPS consisted only of members who were to remain in Latvia; furthermore, there was some animosity now between those who had continued to work while Rikards just sat around awaiting an opportunity to escape.

In the beginning of November, Mitrevics, who also feared that the Germans would arrest him, arrived in Kurzeme and joined the PPS to whom he promised he would actively aid in the execution of their activity, but who would not pass up the opportunity to flee to Sweden. Mitrevics who had really never stopped his activities was accepted, even though he too had attempted to flee to Sweden in the same boat with Rikards.

SECRET 56

The heart and soul of the PPS at that time was Jansons who led the PPS toward a nationalistic goal. The reason that Rikards was not accepted into the fold was partially Jansons fear that the group would again come under German influence, and partially the fact that the long years in active covert and clandestine work as well as his incarceration had made Rikards extremely nervous and brought him to drink.

(32) Since the arrival of Jankavs in Kurzeme, he repeatedly wrote to Jansons requesting that the latter, who was located in Kuldiga, appear for a visit in the vicinity of Kabile. Jansons in turn requested that Jankavs do him the honor and visit him in Kuldiga. However, Jansons soon found it impracticable to continue opposing a person recognized and supported by the German authorities. Consequently, Jansons, found a former friend, who was on Jankavs staff and decided to talk to him prior to meeting Jankavs, so as to determine whether a spark of nationalism existed in the JAGDVERBAND, or whether it was completely subservient to the Germans. Consequently, H. Jansons, and Krastinis proceeded to Kabile where they met Jansons friend, RAIMONDS SILARAJIS /102/, who they found was quite pro-German and who indicated that the PPS would do best to join the JAGDVERBAND because the JAGDVERBAND would soon take over all stay-behind activities anyway. The Pro-Germans feeling within the JAGDVERBAND was further evidenced by the statements of another of its members (Lt. Pauls TIMOFJEVS) who more or less indicated that the Latvians "must either win with the Germans or perish".

Jansons met Jankavs and disliked the latter's pro-German attitude; therefore the PPS continued to oppose cooperation with the JAGDVERBAND until approximately one week after their original meeting, the 212th Comb. Int. group announced that the stay-behind activities were transferred to the JAGDVERBAND. The PPS was then given the choice of either joining the JAGDVERBAND or lose all support from the German side and continue to operate illegally. This latter possibility the PPS found impractical and therefore decided to join the JAGDVERBAND with the covert intent that the PPS could sway the local JAGDVERBAND more toward national lines.

Security Information

SECRET

In this reorganization which was brought about by the PPS joining the JAGDVERBAND, H was given the assignment to organize stay-behind groups in Ventspils county. H, in carrying out this assignment, was able to set up stay-behind groups in the following districts (PAGASTI):

- a. EDOLES, leader (Lt.) fnu AUGLS /103/
- b. ZIRAS,
- c. ZURAS, one member of the group was fnu Juris Grinvalds, (104)
- d. VENTA (which included the city of Ventspils), leader policeman ANDREJS MACPANE.
- e. ZLEKAS, leader fnu KRENGELIS who was shot by red partisans before the end of the war.
- f. VGALES
- g. PUZES, leader fnu SEMKOVSKIS /105/.
- h. POPES leader policeman ZUMACS /106/.
- i. DUNDAGAS leader police Lt. RUDEMIS
- j. PILTENES, leader officer candidate AMBATS

In this work H was greatly aided by the police chief of Ventspils district, (Major) JUNIS, who according to Valdemars was caught by the Russians in 1946 after a battle in the woods; another assistant was the administrative head of Ventspils district, Valdemars KARKLINS /107/. The aid to KARKLINS, VILIS ZVANITAJIS was also helpful to H.

Aside from this assignment H was also charged with the covert task of keeping in contact with the group arranging travel to Sweden. Aside from Dr. Ginters, H also met OSVALDS BELESKALNS /108/, fnu PRISENFELDS, /109/, and NADOLSKIS /110/. In addition H also met EZONS VALIMANIS /111/ for whom, in addition to Nadolskis, H procured a JAGDVERBAND identification document regarding which he (Hahn) was later questioned by JANKAVS; H was, however, able to explain his action satisfactorily.

Having been made an integral part of the JAGDVERBAND, the PPS ceased to exist as such; however inasmuch as its center of activity was Kuldiga, where it remained in ~~Latvia~~ Kabile-- its functions and thereby its outward appearance

remained unchanged so much so that for all intent /of purpose basically nothing seemed to have changed.

In the middle of December 1944 Sternbergs arrived from JURKALNE and joined the PPS where he began to work in the newly created information section. Shortly thereafter Bruno Rugens and his brother-in-law ZIGURDS ZALCMANIS also arrived in Kuldiga and joined the group. A little later the group was also joined by: radio operator Janis Abolins, KRISTAPS KADIKIS, OLGERTS LABIETIS, ATIS KRISKANS /112/, fnu STRADS, fnu BREMSMITS, ERIKS WANGRAVS, BRUNO AVERS, And KARLIS MITREVICS.

Shortly after his arrival, Olgerts Labietis was assigned the task of establishing stay-behind groups in the Kuldiga area, while Kadikis was made chief of fortification. The task of creating stay-behind nets in Talsi fell to STRADS, while BREMSMITS undertook this task in LIEPAJA and vicinity and RUGENS in AIZPUTE where he used the alias GAVJA. ZALCMANIS was assigned to work in the Information section which was headed by MITREVICS. One of the original three PPS members, KRASTINS was charged with establishing stay-behind nets in the vicinity of TUKUMS.

(33) The JAEDVERBAND in Kurzeme consisted of the following person:

- a. Chief, V. JANKOVIS (Capt)
- b. Adjutant, fnu KARLINS (Lt) 202
- c. (Lt) JUNKERENS
- d. RAIMONDS SILARAJIS (Lt) Chief of Political Section
- e. PAULS TIMOFEJEVS (Lt)
- f. TOCS (Lt)
- g. HARIJS MALDONIS (Lt)
- h. MINTAUTS PLAKIS (Lt)
- i. fnu GRIGORS /113/ (Lt)
- j. TIRUMNIEKS (Lt)
- k. VOLDEMARS NITOLS (Sgt)
- l. A. JAKOBSONS (Sgt)

Janson himself was also considered a member of the JAGDVERBAND and was given several positions, the last one-- at the end of war--being chief of the Political Section. The ranks held by the persons named on previous page are believed to be fictitious and were assigned to these men for cover purposes only.

(34) In the beginning of 1945 H was able to contact the illegally living remnants of Kurelis' group which had united themselves and assumed the name "VIESTURA STRELNIEKI" (the riflemen of the legendary hero VIESTERS). This group was led by former police Captain PETERIS SAMSONS /114/, a very efficient organizer who was assisted by ERNEST RIEKSTS /115/. The Viestura Strelnieki believed that illegality was the key to success because the Germans had become much too insecure. Though they already had experience in such illegal life and though they -- according to Samsons -- they consisted of 2,000 men, they lacked the support the Germans could furnish. Consequently H provided them such support as well as documents which would aid them should they be apprehended by the Germans, because he felt that there was no difference between the aims of the Viestura Strelnieki and the PPS, though the practical achievement of their mutual goal was envisioned by each in a different way.

H and Jansons firmly believed that there would be no aid from the German side once Russia had occupied their country. Consequently they began to draw up a declaration which would unite all illegal and dissident elements in Latvia, which, in case of complete Russian occupation, would place themselves at the disposal of such a power which would guarantee Latvia its freedom and independence; obviously ~~in~~ in back of their minds, they hoped for aid from the western democracies.

In the beginning of March 1945 the news arrived that a boat from Sweden would arrive for the purpose of exfiltrating some persons. So that a person representing the eventual stay-behind elements could be sent to Sweden, but had no authority to speak and act in the name of those remaining; fnu KURMIS/116/, INGRIDA VIKSHE /117/, LIJA KRONBERGS/118/. (Later RIEKSTS told H in Sweden that the former ^{Security} ~~former~~ arrival ^{on} had begged the LCP for aid, but found nobody who would listen to his pleas. He finally was given the opportunity to send one radio message to those he left behind. RIEKSTS

SECRET

advised to H was "don't give them (the LCP) anything you have, because they'll just extract everything from you and then throw you away like an old, useless, dry lemon.")

At this time the PPS and the Viestura Strelnieki agreed that at the time of German surrender, the Latvian Legion should also become an integral part of the stay-behind elements. For the purpose of discussing this matter, Jansons and Samsons — with Jankev's knowledge — contacted the remaining Latvian ranking officer of the Latvian Legion (Col.) Roberts Osis /119/ who they felt was sufficiently qualified and acceptable to become the chief of all partisans when the Germans capitulated. Osis, however, declined the offer, because he felt that his place was with his regiment, the front. Nevertheless, Jansons, fully convinced of the need to bring the Latvian Legion into the stay-behind fold, continued to explore this possibility with other officers such as, (Major) ESTIPNIERS /120/ (Major) Kocins /121/ and (1st Lt.) MIERVALDIS ADAMSONS /122/. All his efforts were, however, in vain, because all officers could not see the necessity to organize such a matter prior to the capitulation.

(35) In December 1944 Valdemars who was awaiting transportation to Sweden was apprehended by the German authorities and threatened with a court martial for desertion. The 212 Comb Int. group to which he was assigned conducted an investigation and requested H, Valdemars' immediate supervisor, to furnish an explanation. H claims he told the investigating officers that Valdemars was sent to the vicinity of JURKALNE to observe the activity there.

(VALDEMAR later informed H that the Germans had showed him a statement signed by H that H confirms the fact that Valdemars had without proper authority absented himself from his post of duty. H claims he explained to Valdemars that this obviously was a clever forgery and, according to Hahn, accepted this explanation, though originally he was convinced that H had actually written such report.)

Shortly after Valdemar had been charged with being AWOL and imprisoned, H met BILSKALNS and having found that the latter was security-minded Valdemars was a good aid to those attempting to escape Latvia, promised Bilskaļns promise to do

SECRET

SECRET

all he can to free Valdemars.

In the middle of February Valdemars, in accordance with a general amnesty to all those convicted of being AWOL, was released. Jansons, in his attempts to find approval among Latvian Legion officers, met Valdemars in Liepaja where the latter had just been released from confinement and assigned the duty of EM in charge of a group of EM just released from confinement for similar charges. Janson related to Valdemars his difficulties with the Latvian Legion, and Valdemars, though he wasn't considered a PPS member, promised to do all in his power, not only to convince the leading elements of the Legion, but also to find recruits for stay-behind activities in LIEPAJA.

About one month before the cessation of hostilities Valdemars joined the newly created Latvian National committee which had been sponsored by the German authorities and whose president was the CG of the Latvian Legion BANGERSKIS. (In Kurzeme, among the Latvians, this committee was commonly called the Potsdam Government because it had originated in Potsdam). Valdemars was at that time being trained for the position of assistant (for special assignments) to (Capt) fnu UJERTS /123/, chief of the Political Police. Because of the short period of time before the Germans capitulated, this "government" was not even able to get properly organized and hence came to nothing.

(36) There was another, independent, attempt in Kurzeme to organize a Latvian temporary government at this very time. This attempt was supported by Hahn and the PPS which helped to find suitable farmer and labor representative. Despite German threats of reprisals, the majority of representatives met in Kuldiga one day before the German forces surrendered, on 7 May 1945. Hahn remembers the following persons who participated in this government's creation: a Cabinet:

- (Col. Roberts OSIS, proposed prime minister
- JANIS ANDERSONS /124/ proposed minister of Agriculture
- ARTURS BRODERS, proposed minister of Education

Security Information
SECRET

SECRET

(These cabinet members did not appear at the initial Kuldiga meeting because of German threats that they would not tolerate any Latvian nationalism.)

b. Delegates:

- Ventspils District Chief ~~frn~~ KARKLINS
- " " " 's assistant VILIS *enc*
- KULDIGAS " " A. JANSONS /125/
- Theology lecturer ALBERTS FRELJS /126/
- JANIS JAUNBERZS /127/ representative of farmers union
- JANIS BERZINS /128/
- TEOFIS* frn CIRKELIS /129/ representative of farmers union
- A. STRAUTMANIS /130/ " " " "

(37) In March H and Jansons as well as FRISENFELDS and BILESKALNS met Dr. Ginters and discussed the possibility of organizing shipments of food, weapons, and medicine from Sweden to Latvia. Dr. Ginters was requested to strive for such shipments so that the opposition elements would not be left alone when the Soviets occupied all of Latvia. H's and Jansons position in demanding such aid from Dr. Ginters was strengthened by the fact that Bileskalns and Frisenfelds, two leaders of the actual operators of Dr. Ginters, respectively Tefers, organization, joined H and Jansons in this request, and indicated dissatisfaction with the manner in which Ginters led and Organized activities had been handled heretofore, i.e. that in numerous cases Dr. Ginters had given preference to political considerations rather than to merit and necessity. To this Dr. Ginters replied that he still had 300 persons who are to be ferried to Sweden and that it will be possible to conduct this activity with much greater speed because of the arrival of Spring; he further also claimed that the requested support could certainly be sent with those boats which were arriving to ferry across the aforementioned persons.

Approximately 2 weeks before the capitulation H again ~~conferred~~ ^{conferred} with Ginters and proposed that the families of those persons ~~engaged in stay-behind activities~~ ^{engaged in stay-behind activities} also

SECRET

-60- Security Information

SECRET 63

be transported to Sweden. Dr. Ginters promised to take care of this as well.

H feels that Dr. Ginters was sincere in his promises and no doubt requested aid from Sweden as well as sufficient boats for all persons slated for transportation. However, H believes, that Dr. Ginters requests were not taken into consideration because not a single boat arrived from Sweden after 5 March 1945. Later, in Sweden, Dr. Ginters informed H, that when he (Dr. Ginters) arrived in Sweden, he resigned from the LCP because he was extremely dissatisfied with the action of the LCP during the final period.

(38) In the beginning of April 1945 the PPS suggested to Jankavs that a more nationally acceptable Latvian temporary government,

Security Information

SECRET

SECRET

be created. Hahn, supported by Mitrevics proposed Valdmans as the political head while the aforementioned Col. Osis would become the military chief. For this purpose Hahn and Mitrevics proposed they fly to Germany. Jankavs who reported this to his superiors received a favorable reply and Hahn and Mitrevics made the necessary preparations for their journey to Germany. However, the plane that was to fly them to Germany brought from Germany Aleksandrs Akmentins and Lt. Daugavietis /131/ who advised Hahn and Mitrevics that it was useless to attempt anything in Germany because complete confusion reigned there. This made Hahn and Mitrevics decide to cancel their flight.

(39.) Shortly after the German liquidation of Kurelis group, 200 of its members managed to hide in the Kurzeme forests and after awhile joined a communist partisan group, known as the "Red Arrow". In the middle of April 1945 Hahn happened to meet one of these 200 men, Sgt. Benitis /132/, who informed Hahn that the former Kurelis group members were desirous of leaving the company of the "Red Arrow" group because they had nothing other than an illegal existence in common with that group and because the Germans were hunting them because they were erroneously thought to be members of the "Red Arrow". Benitis indicated that the 200 men were willing to fight the Russians if the Germans would permit them to legalize themselves. Hahn related this to Jankavs who contacted the SS Chief in Kursame and procured his consent to permit these 200 men to come out of the woods and legalize themselves. The intent behind this was that these 200 men would then be added to Jankavs (Jagdverbands) stay-behind organization. Because of transportation difficulties Hahn was unable to arrive on time. at the appointed meeting place where these men were to be met, with the result that the men feared some sort of deception from the German side and, utilizing the lull in the German attempts to locate them, successfully escaped from their area failing to keep

Security Information

SECRET

-62- SECRET 65

the arranged appointment with Hahn. The German army officer, Major Arendt, who was in charge of the operation to capture these 200 men and the "Red Arrow" group, complained that Hahn had disrupted what seemed to be a practically successful mission. Hahn was requested to reply by indorsement which he promised to do but which he never actually did. Hahn claims he feared that for this episode he would surely be punished, possibly with a death sentence; however, the entire matter apparently was soon forgotten in the confusion that existed in the last few weeks before the German surrender.

(39.) About a week before the surrender Mitrevics finally convinced Jankavs that the Germans would be in no position to furnish support to the stay-behind groups, and consequently Jankavs agreed to give Mitrevics the necessary authority, credentials, signal plans, and other data, so that the latter may proceed to Sweden and attempt to procure western aid for those remaining in Latvia. With Jankavs approval for such mission, Hahn introduced Mitrevics to Dr. Ginters who by that time had received SD approval to continue his activities. Dr. Ginters promised to aid Mitrevics in getting to Sweden. On 6 May Bileskalns, who was directly involved in the organization of expeditions to Sweden which originated from Latvia, had arranged that an entire convoy of boats (about 5 or 6) would leave the Latvian shores. Just prior to the final arrangements Bileskalns was arrested by the Germans, who freed him on the following day, as a result of Mitrevics intervention which was successful because Mitrevics could speak in Jankavs name, having proof of such authority. Consequently, on 8 May 1945, the day the Germans capitulated to the Russians in Kurzeme (incidentally, this was two days after V-E day), this convoy of boats, carrying among others Mitrevics and Andersons, left the Ventspils harbor.

Prior to leaving Mitrevics had arranged with the FPS that as soon as is humanly possible he would send couriers from Sweden to Helirbe where they were to be received.

SECRET

On 7 May 1945 Hahn met Bileskalns for the last time. At this meeting the latter stated that he would remain in Latvia and promised Hahn that should Hahn ever plan to leave for Sweden, Bileskalns would give him an address of a person in Sweden to whom Hahn could turn for aid. Hahn parted with Bileskalns after they made arrangements for subsequent clandestine meetings; also during this meeting Bite mentioned that he had no fear of the impending Russian occupation because he had numerous friends and acquaintances among the communists who were willing to aid him.

Having left Ventspils on the evening of 8 May 1945, the boat convoy had been able to get within sight of Gotland when it was surprised by Russian patrol boats which opened fire upon the last boats. The first boat in which Anderson and Dr. Ginters were traveling managed to escape and reached the shores of Gotland. The occupants of all other boats were either ordered to board the Russian patrol boat or the largest boat in the convoy, the tug "Rota". When this was accomplished the other boats were sunk. The Russians then ordered the tug "Rota" to proceed to Ventspils while their boats left. Hahn later learned that the Russian boats proceeded to Klaipeda having on board among others Mitrevics and Bite (though the latter had told Hahn he would not leave Latvia). In Klaipeda, Hahn later found, the male prisoners were separated from the females who were released shortly thereafter and instructed to return to their homes. Then men, among whom were also Mitrevics, Bite, Karklins, and Edmunds Puksis, were brought to Ventspils under guard and were placed in the city jail. Subsequently they were transferred to the Riga city jail.

The persons on the tug "Rota", which was ordered to Ventspils, found that all Russian vessels had apparently left. However, since they feared that they were nevertheless being observed, they proceeded to that port weathering a heavy storm prior to their arrival. Upon arriving there they found that they

SECRET

could just as easily have turned about and continued their journey to Sweden after the Russian patrol boats had left, because they were neither being observed nor had the port of Ventspils been informed to expect this tug. Taking advantage of the opportunity all persons on this tug left the tug upon arrival and proceeded to escape. Hahn later found that the following persons had been aboard the "Rota": Vilis Zvanitajs, imn/Vaivars /133/ and Sasa Dreimanis /134/.

(40.) In the very beginning of May 1945 Hahn and his friends had heard from German officers that the German lines would not be able to hold off another overall Russian offensive and that the Germans were expecting this to take place in the middle of May. Consequently Hahn began to make preparations to assume an illegal life as a partisan in the woods of Kurzeme, at the same time alerting his stay behind groups. On 8 May 1945 a meeting was held in Kuldiga which was attended by all district stay-behind leaders and their messengers for the purpose of receiving final instructions, however such instructions were not forthcoming as Jansons was in Liepaja conferring with the military authorities, Jankavs had disappeared for several days, and Mitrevics was on his way to Sweden. By night fall Hahn and Sternbergs had learned that the Germans would surrender at midnight. Guided by necessity Hahn and Sternbergs gave the necessary orders, to wit that the stay-behind groups assume the previously planned active opposition to the Soviet occupying forces. Two hours later Jankavs arrived and was shown a copy of the order to begin the stay-behind activities. Jankavs approved, though Hahn had worded the order in the sense that, now that one of Latvia's enemies had capitulated, there only remains one more to overcome.

Upon parting with Jankavs, he stated that though he may have acted incorrectly in the past, he is still a soldier and will continue to fight, and hopes to meet Hahn and his friends later. Thereupon they arranged a dead letter drop and divided 300,000 rubles of which half was kept by Jankavs.

Security Information
SECRET

SECRET

According to previously prepared plans Hahn and 7 PPS companions proceeded to Lielirbe which was the chosen meeting place for all PPS members in Kuldiga. Because of the Russian parties combing the woods and blocking the roads, it took Hahn 2 weeks to journey these 80 kilometers. On the way Hahn tried to keep an appointment with Jansons, Augis and Akmentins in Edole. However, because of a misunderstanding this meeting was not kept. Later Hahn heard that Augis and Akmentins were arrested and that Jansons had been shot on the southern banks of lake Usina; rather than falling into Russian hands alive, Jansons shot himself. Also arrested in the first few days was the PPS radio operator Janis Abolins. On 12 May 1945 Hahn met Lt. Sturis whom the Germans had released from jail on the day of surrender. After future contact arrangements with Sturis had been made, Hahn proceeded to his destination. Shortly after the meeting with Sturis, Hahn met Sasa Dreimanis who informed them of the ill fated boat convoy. Two days later Atis Kriskans left the group stating that he would attempt to reach the destination by himself. He took along 20,000 rubles and has never been heard of since. On 15 May Hahn and his companions successfully eluded a sizeable Russian patrol; on 17 May the former communist partisans which were aiding the Red Army in combing the woods arrested another member of Hahn's group, Karlis Mitrevics; this constituted a loss of another 20,000 rubles. Finally on 23 May 1945 Hahn and his companions arrived in Lielirbe where they found those PPS members that had been able to arrive plus 2 new recruits. There the entire group remained until 3 June 1945, living in a bunker. During this time the group sent some trusted females to reconnoiter the Ventspils area, to procure some necessary material, particularly writing paper for proclamations, and to establish contacts with some acquaintances. Upon returning with the necessary writing paper, the group drafted a proclamation to the effect that now that the German enemy has fallen only the Russian enemy remains. This proclamation was then distributed in the Ventspils area.

Security Information

SECRET

-66-

Security Information

69

~~SECRET~~

During this time Hahn also contacted two foresters with whom he was acquainted and who resided in the vicinity of his bunker. These foresters, fnu Blumenfelds and Olgerts Rusmanis (who at that time was using the documented alias Olgerts Liepins) were trusted by the communists and supported Hahn quite extensively.

On 3 June Hahn and his original traveling companion as well as two additional members left the bunker and proceeded toward Talsi for the purpose of locating the Talsi partisan hq. Locating the previously arranged dead letter drop, they found no news and left a message at a live drop to meet on a future date.

From there Hahn's group proceeded to the vicinity of Piltene arriving there in the middle of June 1945. There they managed to locate the Piltenes group as well as Vilis Zvanitajs who remained with the group. The Piltene group, it was found, had added a member to its ranks, 1st Lt. Vairogs, a former Legion officer who had been wounded in the woods and picked up by the Piltenes partisans. Speaking several languages, including Russian and English, Vairogs listened to news broadcasts in those languages, and hoped to be able to escape to Belgium where the officers of the Latvian Legion had previously arranged to meet.

Hahn and his group next proceeded to return to Kuldiga where they found the partisan groups had been annihilated and that they could find no news regarding Jansons whereabouts whom they had been seeking.

In the end of June Hahn shot and killed his first and only human being, a Russian NKVD man who came to inquire as to who Hahn and Sternbergs were. On that same day Hahn met Jansons wife who also was trying to locate her husband. Though she had no further news about him, she did relate all she knew about the last boat convoy and how the participants had fared.

Hahn and companions then continued their journey to Ziekas where they contacted Lt. Sturis who then arranged that Hahn and his friends remain in the bunkers

Security Information

~~SECRET~~

10-84

[]

Security Information
SECRET

under his control. In the beginning of July Sturis and 10 men decided to return to his native area the vicinity of Birzale where he planned to continue his partisan activities. Prior to leaving he gave Hahn all his contacts which Hahn subsequently used to great advantage. Hahn later heard that Sturis had successfully reached his native area and was receiving sufficient support. Sturis assistant Lt. fnu Gulbis remained in the vicinity of Zlekas and proved to be extremely active in the future.

After a 4 days stay in Zlekas, Hahn proceeded to the vicinity of Dundaga where he kept his previously arranged meeting with the Talsi group. This meeting revealed that this group was by far the largest consisting of approximately 90 men, and that the group had contact with other groups in the area who were led by: fnu Felsbergs /135/, Lt. fnu Bensaks (operated in Engure area), and Major fnu Almenkalejs /136/. This group, it was also found, was already at that time publishing and distributing news from the free world which they procured via radio monitoring. Prior to departing, Hahn arranged a future meeting.

On their way to Lielirbe, where they hoped to find news about Jansons and others, they met 2 foresters, fnu Bankalns from Gibzde and fnu Miroshnikovs /137/ from Dundaga. The latter was a friend of Mitrevics and quite anxious to flee to Sweden. Hahn promised he would see about this possibility and kept these two foresters in mind as future contacts who had good relations with the Russians. Prior to arriving in Lielirbe, Kadikis shot a Russian who happened upon the group. This created a disturbance and the Russians began combing the woods, causing Hahn and his group to leave the area and head for the Zlekas area.

(41.) Journeying to Zlekas they found Janis Zalcmanis and 1st Lt. Eriks Robezgruntnieks whom they added to the group. Proceeding further they also located war correspondent Peteris Savejs who also joined the group. Arriving in Zlekas in the end of July 1945 and having two war correspondents, Savejs and Zalcmanis with them, Hahn's group began

Security Information
SECRET

Security Information

71

~~SECRET~~

to publish a periodical Tevzemeļi un Brīvība (For Fatherland and Freedom).

This paper was distributed through all of Kurzeme and was copied in many locales for further distribution. This paper contained three types of material:

- a. Articles in nationalistic style, not only to retain the nationalistic spirit, but also to enliven and encourage the continuation of such spirit among the partisans and the populace.
- b. Threats to those Latvians who chose to side with and work for the communists, calling these individuals by name and relating their deeds.
- c. Enlightenment of the international situation which was based upon radio monitoring.

This paper stated that it was published by the Latvian national partisan organization (LNPO) and was published twice monthly.

(42.) In their travels throughout Kurzeme Sternbergs, Krastins, and Kadikis noted the need for an overall leader who could unite all groups which at that time were completely independent and under the leadership of one individual. The benefits of a union of these groups under one leader are obvious, however the difficulty was that there was no one with a big enough name or high enough rank to assume such a position. Consequently these 3 members of Hahn's group decided to create a fictitious Colonel who they would claim is the accepted leader of all partisans in Kurzeme. The clandestine and conspiratorial living of the partisans afforded the necessary secrecy, so that no one dared to ask the "Colonel's" name or his whereabouts. The original intent was first to unite the partisans by such a ruse and then to find such a colonel who could really become the overall leader.

Though Hahn personally was, and still is, opposed to deceiving the partisans in such a manner -- he rather felt that one of the available higher ranking officers could assume command -- he nevertheless abided by the will of the majority, and later, much to his satisfaction, found that this fabrication did produce the

Security Information

~~SECRET~~

Security Information

78

desired results. The only difficulty encountered was that occasionally some of the other members of Hahn's immediate group who felt they should be in the know, began to complain that the "Colonel" never appeared in person, and should make at least one speech. Until Hahn left Kurzeme no real "colonel" or someone to pose as such had been found.

(43.) After the decisions of the Potsdam agreement were heard by the Information Section chief, Vairogs, it became evident that the Latvian partisans could expect no aid from the west. Consequently, Vairogs, accompanied by approximately 5 men, proceeded toward Poland in an attempt to get to western Germany, and then on to Belgium where he hoped to find the officers of the Latvian Legion.

Having heard the results of the Potsdam conference and knowing that Mitrevics had been unable to reach Sweden, Hahn felt it his duty to try to reach Sweden so that he can convince the west of the plight of the Latvian partisans. Consequently he and the following men proceeded to Jurkalne where they hoped to find a boat: (1st Lt.) Robezgruntnieks, Janis Zalcmanis, Vilis Zvanitajs, Eduarts (last name is forgotten), and radio operator Janis (last name is forgotten).

In the vicinity of Jurkalne Hahn's group met two other groups composed of former Legionnaires who had already been looking for a chance to flee, but had been unsuccessful. The three groups joined forces for the purpose of organizing a flight to Sweden by boat. At this time Hahn had already been able to contact Valdemars through some cut-outs through which he requested Valdemar to procure a boat. For this purpose Hahn sent Valdemars 7,000 rubles, in the belief that Valdemars, who was legal and working as a chauffeur for the Wool and Leather Central in Ventspils, could no doubt get someone to build such a boat. Hahn hoped to use this boat, if none could be procured in the vicinity of Jurkalne. As time progressed, Hahn lost contact with Valdemars and later found that Valdemars Plieders who was building this boat for Valdemars was arrested.

Security Information
SECRET

Security Information

73

At this time Hahn also learned that Dr. Ginters' radio operator @ Bergmanis, @ Jaunzems, in Ventspils had lost contact with Sweden. Hahn recalls that the parole and countersign when approaching Bergmanis was that Bergmanis would mention a number and the visitor then had to mention another number which, if added to Bergmanis' number would total 10. Bergmanis, who worked as a chauffeur and lived in Ventspils on Saules Iela (street), together with another underground man who worked as a civil judge. Both men had pseudonyms which were "Rich" and "Pitch" but Hahn does not recall which pseudonym belonged to whom.

Through Sasa Dreimanis Hahn contacted Bergmanis in the hopes that his radio contact with Sweden could be renewed which would then enable Hahn to request a boat and some aid for the partisans.

Hahn believes that it was Bergmanis with whom Arins was able to establish radio contact from Sweden in 1946. It is also Hahn's belief that Andersons (an infiltrator from Sweden who arrived in Latvia in the middle of October 1945) procured his (Hahn's) name from Bergmanis and then tried to contact Hahn.

(44.) During his stay in the vicinity of Jurkalne, Hahn was able to contact his parents by two separate means:

a. Through Valdemars who traveled between Riga and Ventspils and often brought Hahn letters from his family, carrying a reply on his return trip. On two occasions he also brought Hahn his clothing. On one occasion Hahn also sent money to his mother for an operation. All this activity was conducted through Mrs. Jansons and though on two occasions Hahn had arranged a direct meeting, this was not kept because Valdemars could not keep the appointment. According to Hahn a chauffeur in those days could earn an extreme amount by carrying persons who had no traveling facilities and therefore would pay exorbitant prices. Valdemar, who was not as active in such activity as his friend Ermanis, made approximately 10,000 rubles a month, while the latter earned about 40,000 rubles a month.

Security Information
SECRET

b. Through Janis Abolins, who had been Hahn's group's radio operator. Abolins had been apprehended by Russian patrols, but was released after at least a month in a screening camp. After he had traveled to Riga, he procured a job in his former place of employment, the Sampeteris radio station. In the end of July 1945 Abolins journeyed to Kuldiga so as to locate his friends and give them as much aid as possible. He was able to reach Hahn through a nurse in Kuldiga to whom he then monthly brought letters from Hahn's parents and who would then give him letters from Hahn to his parents.

These letters informed Hahn that his father is employed as a lecturer in political economy at the Riga University. In answer to Hahn's question, his father informed him that Hahn could spend the winter -- if he could make his way toward Riga -- either in Melluzi with his oldest sister's mother-in-law, Mrs. Baumanis /139/ or in their empty seashore home in Avoti. In addition to that, Hahn's father related many rumors that were being heard and the fact that Hahn's cousin Julijs Ozolins /140/ had returned from Russia and was an NKVD official in Liepaja. (Julijs Ozolins disappeared in 1941 when the Russians retreated and was believed to have forceably been taken along by the retreating Russians.) Hahn feels somewhat guilty that Julijs Ozolins became a member of the NKVD, because he believes he set a bad example when he was chairman of the Culture Committee in 1940/41 which Julijs Ozolins followed.

(45.) On 3 August 1945, Olgerts Labietis brought the news from Kuldiga that Jankavs is located in the vicinity of Kabile and is desirous of joining Hahn's group. On this occasion Labietis had brought along Jankavs radio operator, the aforementioned Janis. It was later decided that Jankavs would be accepted and would be added to the central group which was actually led by Sternbergs, but which supposedly was the seat of the fictitious "Colonel". It is noteworthy that Jankavs was accepted only as ~~secretary~~ ~~member~~ ~~and~~ not as any leader.

~~SECRET~~

75

(46.) As Hahn later discovered, the former Jagdverband radio operator fnu/Laiva had been apprehended in Baldone in June 1945. After he had been interrogated he was coerced into service for the NKVD with the assignment to watch all trains arriving in the railroad station in Riga and report any familiar partisan and/or underground figures. On one occasion he spotted Abolins who was returning from a trip to Kuldiga. Laiva, who was acquainted with Abolins, began a conversation with him and inquired about the former Jagdverband and PPS members, their whereabouts, and activities. Abolins, believing Laiva to be under no control, revealed all he knew of Hahn and his group which was, however, limited.

Thereupon, in Kuldiga, a stranger contacted the aforementioned nurse, Emilija Grintals /138/, and using the proper parole, delivered some mail from Hahn's parents. At this point the nurse was arrested and interrogated by the NKVD whom she informed she brought such letters to the woods where she was handsomely rewarded for her services. The chief of the Kuldiga NKVD, an unidentified colonel, prevailed upon the girl to lead the NKVD to the usual meeting place in the woods, and, cautioning her to act as though nothing was amiss, gave her Hahn's letters to deliver as usual.

Emilija Grintals, who knew the woods unusually well, was able to elude the NKVD detachment and, after walking through the woods all night, finally reached Hahn and his friends the following day. After she related her experiences and delivered the letters, she remained with the group and lived illegally.

On his next trip to Kurzeme, Abolins accompanied by Laiva, arrived in the vicinity of lake Usma and, for the first time, met some partisans, including Sternbergs. During this visit Abolins managed unobtrusively to inform Sternbergs that Laiva is working for the NKVD and that he himself has also been forced to work for it. Abolins begged Sternbergs to play along with them because otherwise reprisals would meet his family.

Security Information

SECRET

Security Information

76

SECRET

was very interested in H's whereabouts and was informed that Hahn -- who then used the alias ANDZS -- was somewhere near the sea. Laiva and Abolins departed with the promise they would return to the USMA railroad station on 24 September 1945 and would bring along some radio crystals, tents, and some other items.

At the appointed time Laiva returned to USMA alone and was taken to the partisan bunker where he attempted to continue his double game. On that same day H arrived and Laiva was confronted with the truth. He was informed that he would be shot and was prevailed upon to relate all he knew which he did with delight, as though he were at confession and cleansing himself of his sins. Laiva related that the NKVD had pressed him into service by threatening his family; that it knew that H and Krastins were corresponding with their families; that Jankavs on Laiva's first visit had asked Laiva to check on his girl friends whereabouts; that the NKVD believed Jankavs and Lt. Jansons to be leaders of the Partisans. According to Laiva, he was instructed to find out the strength of the partisans in Kurzeme, their other leaders, their locations, their radio communications possibilities, details of their safe houses, support points, and paroles. Laiva further informed that Abolins had been kept as a hostage in case he (Laiva) should be detected; furthermore, the NKVD did not trust Abolins sufficiently.

Laiva was then asked why he had not informed the partisans that he was in the service of the NKVD; they told him that had he done so, they could have gained a great deal of information by doubling him into the NKVD. The partisans felt that as an old friend and fellow-fighter, it had been his duty to inform them. To this Laiva explained that, working for the NKVD and being under its influence he had realized how useless their fight was at that time; however, he stated, that at the first sign of war he would have informed them of the truth. Holding Abolins up as an example, the partisans told Laiva that he would be shot, to which he reacted with surprising calm, and having signed a confession, requested he be permitted to sleep. After a sound two hour sleep, he was shot by his last commanding officer, Jankavs.

Security Information

SECRET

SECRET

77

Taking Laivas documents and belongings, Sternbergs travelled to Riga where he planned to organize an underground.

(47) Right after the German surrender, former Latvian Legion 1st (Lt) fnu Aiedainis /141/, managed to legalize himself and successfully pass through all Russian screenings. Claiming to be knowledgeable in the field of agriculture, he managed to procure the position of director with the Seed Central which purchased all seed in the Ventspils district. In this position Ziedainis emerged as the Chief supporter of the partisans sending them food, particularly dairy products and shoes and clothing through a well established net. His main assistant in this covert activity was a female agronomist overtly employed by his firm, fnu DAMANIS. Mrs. Damanis was often requested by the NKVD to furnish information regarding the partisans. These requests she related to the partisans, including Hahn's group, which then decided what information she is to reveal. It was her opinion that she could not continue such a game for long.

In addition to his support activities, Ziedainis was also active in aiding many partisans to legalize themselves by procuring for them jobs which required a minimum of documents and in which they later could become fully documented. He also managed to procure actual documents by having, among others, a connection with a printing firm in fnu CESIS which printed VOYENNI BILETI.

On 9 Sept. 1945 Ziedins proposed a meeting of all partisan and underground leaders in Kurzeme, which was held in ZLEKAS. In this conference it was decided to organize all the opposition elements into two main sectors:

a. The partisans whose aim would be to hinder all Russian acts of terror and inhumanity. This was mainly accomplished by threatening letters to Russians or Latvians engaged in such activities. According to Hahn such threats were fairly successful for a while. Under no circumstances should the partisans enter into armed conflicts with the Soviet forces. The question of living through the winter was discussed at length and many valuable suggestions offered.

b. The underground members whose assignments consisted of supporting the partisans, accept and aid those partisans who were physically or otherwise unable to

Security Information

SECRET

Security Information

79

meeting which would take place on 24 Sept 1945 at the northern end of Lake USMA. Until this following meeting it was hoped STERNBERGS group would be able to locate and propose a suitable military figure as leader for all Kurzeme partisans. Sternbergs group had, at that time, practically decided to propose Maj. Aknenkals who was with the Talsi partisans in the vicinity of Valdemarpils.

(48) The 2nd partisan meeting, which was scheduled for 24 Sept ^{1945?} ~~1952~~ did not take place because of the aforementioned incident with LAIVA. The cancellation was not known to H who proceeded from the vicinity of JURKALNE to lake USMA taking along Col. Rudolf Opmanis (142/ who, H believed, could also be considered for the position of leader of the KURZEME partisans and undergrounds. Arriving at lake USMA, H was informed about the Laiva incident, the cancellation of the meeting, and participated in the final interrogation of LAVIA. Between H and Sternbergs group it was then decided that Col. Opmanis was not quite the ~~right~~ individual for the position of leader; though Opmanis himself, was quite willing to undertake the assignment, it was felt that he did not possess the needed qualifications.

H then saw Sternbergs off to Riga and returned to the vicinity of JURKALNE, bringing Opmanis with him. At this time, in preparation for H's trip to Sweden, the radio man Janis (Last name unknown) prepared a signal plan for H's use.

(49) In the end of September 1945 H was visited by ZIEDAINIS who wanted to discuss partisan support activities. He also reported that an employee of his Seed Central had been arrested, which H viewed as a warning, but which Ziedainis dismissed as insignificant. At that time H began to feel that Ziedainis was lacking the necessary personal security in that he wrote down all names of contacts, etc. Though Ziedainis was warned about this, he felt that there was nothing to fear, because the Russians would never catch him. On 3 Oct 1945 Ziedainis and Damans were arrested in the office of the Seed Central. This was reported to H by Mrs. Jansons. H then instructed her to return to Ventpils and warn all persons who the Ziedainis and Damans may compromise, particularly Dr. Irene ~~Opmanis~~ ^{Opmanis} before the capitulation instructed

SECRET

Security Information

~~SECRET~~ 80

stay-behind personnel in first aid, and who after the war clandestinely provided the partisans with medicine which she procured from her place of employment, the Ventspils hospital. Valdemars was also to be warned, though he had very ^{little} ~~letter~~ connection with Ziedainis and was known to the latter only by an alias.

On Mrs. Jansons return she and another female contact was arrested just as they were preparing to enter the woods. At that same time, in Ventspils, the Russians also arrested Mrs. Valta Skobe when she attempted to contact Ziedainis.

These arrests resulted in Russian patrols through the woods where H and his group was located, though apparently the Russians did not know their exact location. Because of this it was decided to unite the 3 groups which were located in this forest, the other two groups being led by Skobe and 1st Lt Karlis Straume. This united group then moved toward Alsunga where Skobe's group was located in an area unknown to Ziedainis. Two days prior to H's and Straume's arrival at Skobe's camp the latter's wife arrived and related how -- under very dramatic circumstances -- she had been able to escape from the Russians by using the same ruse that EMILIJA GRINTALS had used and which was known to her. She claimed that she had informed the Russians that she was a contact for the partisan leader Janis SLAUCITAJIS (who only existed in her imagination). The Russians believed her and in their desire to catch such a "great leader" followed her into the woods where she managed to escape. The Russians then combed those woods the entire night in their attempt to find her, however to no avail. The fact that they were actually looking for someone, was confirmed by H who observed this activity while on his way to Skobe's camp. Mrs. Skobe further informed that during her interrogation she was confronted by Ziedainis who was asked whether he knew the partisan leader Janis Slaucitajs. To Ziedainis reply that he did not know any one by that name, Mrs. Skobe remarked to the Russians that Ziedainis was not big enough to know all about Kurzens. Regarding Ziedainis Mrs. Skobe said that the former had been beaten so much that he offered no resistance whatsoever and revealed everything, often even adding a great deal of triling.

Security Information

(50) This situation caused ~~H and Skobe~~ to begin investigating the boat

~~SECRET~~

Security Information

SECRET

81

situation more intensely. Though they did send two female cut-outs to Valdemars to check on the progress of the boat he was having built, the cut-outs never returned. Hahn claims that the reason they were somewhat reluctant about leaving till then were the persistent rumors that soon the western allies would arrive in Riga. These rumors were apparently originated by the NKVD so as to raise the general morale and to cause the partisans to leave the woods which some groups actually did because they believed that, since an order was given to all janitors to clean their premises, the western force could not be long in coming.

SKOBE was of the opinion that he and Hahn must leave Kurzeme as quickly as possible because the Russians would, no doubt, find them sooner or later, and must also be knowledgeable of their plans to flee to Sweden. The only difference of opinion between Hahn and Skobe consisted in the way the trip is to be undertaken the former felt that a boat and crew must be procured by force, at gun point since one or two members of a crew would no doubt desire to flee, but all four necessary crew men would surely not have this desire. The latter, however, believed that they must all claim to be NKVD men who would order some fishermen to take them out to sea so as to catch a boatful of spies that is reportedly on its way to Latvia. In this plan one man was to be in Russian uniform

The latter plan was used and Skobe was unanimously appointed leader of the entire undertaking. It was felt that should their deception be discovered, Hahn's idea of force could still be employed. Procuring a uniform of a Latvian who had been discharged from the Russian Army because of tuberculosis, Hahn began to seek gasoline for the group and to convince a segment of their group which opposed their plan to flee and desired to remain in Kurzeme, to cover the embarkation of the fleeing group. Hahn successfully completed his assignments, while Skobe used his group to reconnoiter the sea shore, find the best boat available, choose the approaches from the forest, and assign specific tasks to all participants.

Security Information

SECRET

SECRET

88

Hahn claims that after Ziedāinis arrest when the Russians began to bomb the woods and his group joined Skobes, the total number of persons in both groups was 23 plus 4 or 5 farmers who later fled to the woods, but left as soon as the Russians ceased their intensified raids of homes; of this group 17 were in favor of fleeing, while the 6 opposing this, remained and covered the embarkation of those leaving.

(51) In September of 1951^{Should this be 1945?} Hahn heard from a teacher, from KALVE, that the NKVD had quite openly informed the fishermen in the vicinity of JURKALNE that they (NKVD) were awaiting a boat from Sweden in which "Arnitis" was to arrive. Regarding Arnitis, Hahn only knew that he had been famed throughout KURZEME as one of the most active worker in aiding persons to flee to Sweden. However, the infiltrators were not caught when landing as they landed at another site, debarking in the vicinity of JURKALNE, but did leave behind a rubber raft which they were forced to use since the boat either sank or was sunk on purpose. About a week later the Latvian militia arrested Arnitis and Pebersons (or Saits) Hahn is not certain which one) who had gone to Ventspils together as the group worked in pairs. A week prior to Hahn's departure he was informed by his reporters in Plani (Majas) that Andersons would like to meet him. Unable to do so because of his decision to go to Sweden H instructed the leader of the remaining group, Makels Kirps, to meet Andersons. Later, in Sweden, Hahn was informed by Valdemar that Andersons was also arrested, interrogated, and tortured; for awhile Andersons was held in the Ventspils jail occupying the same cell with pastor Grivans. According to Valdemars in 1948[?] Andersons was in a special camp in Russia and could not be contacted.

About 2 weeks before leaving, Mrs. Alise Lejins, a coworker of H's group, was arrested at a house in PLANI. On the way to Ventspils, she escaped from the NKVD during the night and returned to Hahn's group in the woods. She then related that she had seen Arnitis and another man (Pebersons or Saits) who were being led toward Ventspils under guard.

SECRET

Security Information

SECRET

83

(52) All preparations were made for the boat to leave on 31 October 1945. The departure was successfully completed at 8PM and was covered by the remaining group which consisted of: (1) MAKSIS KIERPE, group leader who did not desire to leave because his wife was working in Riga as a teacher, having participated with her husband on the ill-fated attempt to flee to Sweden on the ROTA. She as a woman was released, while her husband later escaped from confinement.

2 VALDIS UMURS, alias STANISLAVS.
4 LIZITE (true name unknown)
3 JANIS (last name unknown) radio operator
2 EDUARDS (last name unknown) former policeman
6 ALBERTS (last name unknown) former policeman

D. Hahn's Post-war activities

(1) On 31 October 1945 Hahn along with other Latvians arrived in Sweden from Kursene in a fisherboat, having left Latvia from a ^{FISHING} wharf near the village of JURKALNE, four kilometers from the village proper. They arrived in Gotland at the fishing village of Ljugarne (south of Slite) after a 20-hour trip without any difficulty. The other persons in the boat were:

Mrs. ALISE LEJINS /144/
Mrs. VELTA SKOBE /145/
1st Lt. ELMARS SKOBE /146/
1st Lt. ERIKS GOREZGRUNTNIERS /147/
1st Lt. KARLIS STRAUME /148/
2nd Lt. NIKOLAJIS ZIRNIS /149/
Police Lt. ROBERTS SMITMANIS /150/
Sgt. ALFREDS CIPARSONS /151/
Cpl. PETERIS VIRSIS /152/
JANIS VZALCHMANIS /153/ War correspondent
VILIS ZVANITAJIS /154/
Cpl. JANIS KRUMS /155/ - 300
VALDIS LANDMANIS
PNU...
Sgt. KARLIS SKOBE /156/
JOHANN BUEDA /157/

Hahn and Skobe came out of Kursene with the assignment which was in part self imposed, to seek contact with a friendly Western nation so as to organize a return, if possible during that same year, or at least no later than the following year. They had arrangements for contact with the three radio sets remaining in Kursene

SECRET

... which was in the forest near the Lake Usma , the second being with the group that covered Hahn's departure, and the third being in Ventspils operated by the aforementioned JAUNZEMS . Hahn was also to find shoes and clothing which he was to send back with the infiltrating group. Although Hahn a signal plan for the radio set held by the group which covered his departure, it was feared that this set may be too weak to send, and therefore arrangements were made that in such case this group would transmit ~~////////~~ to Hahn through one of the other sets. On two previously arranged days of each month a reception committee would await the boats until the following year; this was a precaution in case radio contact could not be established. Later Waldemar reported that the group which covered H's retreat was arrested at night in January 1946, and completely liquidated. The leader of this group, Maksis/Kierpe, fell into Russian hands after being wounded.

31 Oct 45

(2) Shortly after H's arrival in Sweden the first Latvian who visited him was Hugo Ginters, Secretary of Latvian the YMCA in Stockholm, and Latvian pastor Janis Sviki. Both of these individuals had flown to Gotland from Stockholm and therefore had arrived one day before Karlis Ziverts of Tepfers group. Sviki and Ginters viewed the arrival of these seventeen persons as the follow up of an infiltration operation which they (Sviki and Ginters) had organized two weeks before. This infiltration consisted of : Armitis, engineer, Anderson, sailor, and Petersons and Smits, and was financed by Swedish church funds, the church being interested in removing from Latvia as many clergy men as possible. As mentioned previously this operation was known to the NKVD already in September of that year ¹⁹⁴⁵ and Hahn had heard about it through his underground channels.

(3) Informing Ginters of the arrangements of reception as well as possible radio contact, Hahn and Skobe prevailed upon him to aid them in their assignments. It should be noted that neither H nor Ginters were certain who the other was and therefore after some preliminary skepticism did find finally a common friend Heinrichs Urkis, re-
Security Information
garding whom Ginters expressed that "We are from the same camp". It was then that

SECRET

85

Ginters warned H of a second group operating in Sweden, which however, had another political direction — meaning Tepfer's group, which at that time could hardly be called that, but was rather known generally as the LCP LATVIJAS CENTRALS PADOME Latvian Central Council; the concept of a "Tepfer's group" as an entity only came several years later. Hugo Ginters also warned Hahn and Skobe of another organization which may attempt to contact them. This organization the Latvian Assistance Committee (LATVIESU PALIDZIBAS KOMITEJA), was primarily staffed by members of the LCP, though a ~~minority~~ minority of its membership consisted of right wing and other elements.

The reason H Ginters considered these two bodies as having another political direction, was because at the helm of the LCP was Bruno Kalnins who, many Latvians believed to be much too radical and some even ventured to call him a communist. To Hahn and Skobe Kalinns, at that time, was very distasteful because during the first occupation of Latvia Kalnins had been the political commissar of the Latvian Army.

Regarding the LCP H. Ginters further stated that, Hahn and Skobe be very careful so that the LCP does not discover their plans for an infiltration, because the LCP has in the past and will in the future endeavor to disrupt any and all such operations. Regarding the Latvian assistant committee H. Ginters stated that the aims of this organization were to aid and assist those ~~Latvians~~ Latvians who had up to that time already been able to flee from their occupied country to Sweden; this organization had no provision to aid those still remaining in Latvia. In this meeting Ginters also expressed the thought that the only source of support for an infiltration was the Swedish church. Fearing that Hahn would possibly be persuaded to cooperate with another group (this, incidentally, is Hahn's belief) Ginters requested that Hahn provide him with the signal plan, which Hahn did, however only in part, so as to insure that H Ginter undertake no separate contact with Hahn's plan. When Hahn informed Ginters that he was seeking in Sweden a friend and co-worker, (Dr) Valdis Ginters, Hugh Ginters apparently felt that he would lose control over the ~~secret~~ ~~discussions~~, particularly H and Skobe, and asked the two to take an oath that their discussions would be held secret.

SECRET

(4) The following day the exfiltrates were visited by Karlis Ziverts from the Latvian Assistance Committee. Because they had been warned by Hugo Ginters of this group, it was Mrs. Lejins and Janis Zalcsmanis who talked to Ziverts, while Hahn and Skobe remained in the background. In this conversation it developed that Mrs. Lejins and Ziverts were of the same underground organization (LCP), knew certain paroles, and in general seemed to have been working together; it also developed that Mrs. Lejins was working for Swedish intelligence and had a Swedish intelligence identification number. She then related that her work for Swedish intelligence consisted of enciphering and deciphering messages which were transmitted to Sweden from the location of the LCP commo section in the vicinity of Jurkalne. She further related that during the war she had sent military information to Sweden, which H later, being in Sweden, found was undoubtedly transmitted to the British, who in turn transmitted this information to their allies the Russians. (Incidentally, later Dr. Ginters told Hahn that it is unwise to build any operational organization upon the old LCP, because during the war when this organization was in contact with Latvia its production was not only turned over to the Russians through the British, but also Ginters suspected that LCP was quite heavily infiltrated by Communist elements. Also worthwhile mentioning is the fact that one of the German SD officers fnu Bruns, had told Hahn on the seventh to eight of March 1945 that the Germans really were not opposed to the departure from Latvia of true Latvian nationalists. However inasmuch as among those fleeing Latvia at that time were many Communist agents the Germans could not permit such unless they were absolutely sure of the person departing.) It was the opinion of Mrs. Lejins that Gregorijis Kikulis, /158/ whom she was now desirous of meeting, was the person best able to assist her; in assisting those remaining in Latvia. From her narrative, Hahn draws the conclusion that it was, no doubt, Kikulis with whom she was in radio contact during the war.

After these two visits from these two opposing political elements this exfiltrate group dissolved.

Security Information
SECRET

~~SECRET~~

(5) Prior to releasing these 17 persons they were thoroughly interrogated under the direction of a Swedish coastal defense officer who used a German-speaking lady as an interpreter. This lady, whose name Hahn has forgotten, was indeed a very helpful, sympathetic and understanding person. She advised the refugees that their position was precarious because two days after their arrival in Sweden the Russian authorities had requested their return, because they were "war criminals" who had caused disorder and had stole some property (the only true part of this according to Hahn is that they did steal the boat with which they came to Sweden). According to the lady interpreter this case was being studied by the Swedish Government and, in case of the group was forced to return, she advised that the refugees attempt to proceed through international waters to Lubeck, Germany. It is noteworthy that this lady informed the group as to where in Gotland they could receive aid and also taught them certain phrases in Swedish which would enable them to get by temporarily.

Later the group found that the Swedish Government had asked Bruno Kalnins for recommendations which he had supplied stating that though he didn't know these individuals personally he could only vouch for them because any Latvians escaping from Latvia at such a late date must be patriots. Janis Zalcmans later personally thanked Kalnins for this act.

After approximately one week the group as such was permitted to proceed to the mainland of Sweden, the two fishermen, who ferried the group across to Sweden under duress, were permitted to return to their homeland by the Swedish authorities having been given a certificate which stated that they were voluntarily returning. Arriving on the Swedish mainland all 17 persons were placed in the refuge camp in Kumelans, where all eventually were informed of some employment possibility or other.

Staying in this camp from 8 November 1945 until 10 January 1946, H kept up his contact with Hugo Ginters who during this time informed him that his radio operator in the vicinity of ESKILSTUNA was constructing a radio set with which they could contact his homeland. In the end of November Ginters informed H that the construction of the radio was completed and H gave him his first message to Latvia.

~~SECRET~~

Security Information

~~SECRET~~

88

which stated that attempts were being made to send a boat to Latvia in the next two months, and that the current international situation was contrary to what H had expected to find, i.e. that the battle with Communism was a long way off, and that the partisans in the woods should prepare for a lengthy stay.

During their stay in this camp H personally was also visited by KARLIS ZIVERTS and Dr. ^{HUGO} Ginters who, having found out from Mrs. Lejins that H and Skobe were the possessors of a signal plan, requested this plan, as they claimed to have the possibility of transmitting to the partisans. Hahn did not give them this plan because he felt loyal to ^{VALDIS} Hugo Ginters but gave them an erroneous code with the proper call letters so that they could contact the partisans, send an undistinguishable message, yet receive a message which, if brought to Hahn, could be deciphered by him. It should be noted here that this activity of the LCP was at this time—in ^{the} opinion of Hahn — not ^{known} ~~known~~ to the Swedish intelligence service, though during the war such activity ^{was} ~~was~~ conducted by the LCP for Swedish intelligence.

(6) Neither Hugo Ginters nor the LCP attempts to contact Latvia by radio using Hahn's signal plan proved successful because the former received no answers to his transmissions and the latter, also not receiving replies (because, as previously stated, Valdesars informed that the group had been apprehended), attempted and was unsuccessful in establishing contact with the radio set in Ventspils with which its operator, Jekabs Arins, /159/ had a pre-arranged signal plan of 1945 vintage. Obviously Hahn never knew the contents of the messages received and sent in this fashion; but was informed of the fact that contact was made by Dr. Ginters.

By December 1945 it developed that support from the Swedish church was either not at all to be expected or at least a long way off. Consequently, Hahn and Skobe, who by that time were associated with H. Ginters and pastor Svilds /160/ to the extent that were being viewed as one group, persisted and insisted that the latter two procure this support at all cost since by that time H. Ginters and Svilds realized that support from the Swedish Church would not be forthcoming and since they were continually plagued by Hahn and Skobe to procure such support, they finally informed the latter

Security Information

~~SECRET~~

SECRET

89

two of the following giving this as the reason for abandoning all hope for Swedish church support:

In its attempt to remove as many clergymen as possible from the Soviet occupied Baltic States, the Swedish church appointed pastor Haralds Biezais as the head of this removal operation, covering the Latvian sector. BIEZAIS then procured SVIKIS aid in this undertaking. Upon contacting Hahn and Skobe, Svikis gave them his word, under oath, that he would reveal nothing they told him to anyone, even his closest friends. Svikis, (whom H terms very ambitious), for this as well as personal reasons, never revealed any information regarding Hahn and Skobe to BIEZAIS, as he (Svikis) felt certain that he could procure all the needed support from the Swedish church without the help of BIEZAIS, thereby circumventing the latter completely.

However through Janis Krums, who Biezais as pastor in RUCAVA, confirmed, Biezais found that Hahn had a signal plan, was planning a return trip to Latvia, and was collaborating with Svikis behind Biezars back. Biezais then attempted to procure the signal plan from Svikis by any and all means. Failing to do so because Svikis had given his word to Hahn, Biezais then began a smear campaign, calling ~~XXXX~~ Svikis a communist and making statements that there were communist agents among the 17 refugees. Hahn and Mrs. Lejins therefore visited Biezais and demanded proof of his statements which he failed to produce. However, he stated that although he does not believe Hahn and Mrs. Lejins to be communist, but that there surely must be some among their group. They parted in a very unfriendly manner, Hahn and Mrs. Lejins insisting that had there been communists among them, they would never have reached Sweden.

Shortly thereafter the Swedish Socialist press began a campaign against (pastor) ALAN SVANTESSON who was the actual supporter of the program to exfiltrate clergymen from the Baltic States. According to Hahn SVANTESSON was a great idealist and friend of the Baltic states, aiding ~~XXXX~~ their people as much as possible. The socialist press, at that time, accused SVANTESSON ^{of having} had misappropriated Swedish Gov't funds (the SVENSKA DIAKONISSTYRELSEN, the Swedish church ^{was} government supported.) and was

SECRET

Secret 7

98

engaged in illegal activities which he, as a member of the government had no right to do. SVANTESSON was tried and convicted on a charge of misappropriation of funds, as he never admitted his complicity in penetration operations. He was ~~XXXXX~~ then discharged from his position and "banned" to an insignificant post as pastor in some little village in the north of Sweden. With this the hope of any support from the Swedish church disappeared as SVANTESSON had been the heart and soul of this activity. The majority of Bruno Kalnins opponents blame him for this entire affair.

In December of 1945 H. Ginters informed Hahn that he had been able to contact a representative of American intelligence at the Embassy in Stockholm. According to Ginters(H) the Americans were very interested and promised their final answer within a month; however month after month passed with no work, which led Hahn to believe that H. Ginters may have possibly related an imaginary tale just so he could keep Hahn's contact possibilities from other groups. Hahn supposes H. Ginters tale to be untrue because H. Ginters had told him that the Americans would use the Embassy's radio for transmissions to Latvia, which seems quite peculiar to him. H. Ginters gave H no further info regarding his contacts with the US Embassy except that he had been in touch with one American working there. Hahn, however, believes that H. Ginters contact was with one of two Latvians, fnu PALMS and ARTURS DREIMANIS, who both were employed by the Embassy's information section. Dreimanis had known Skobe from their high school days in Latvia and hence, upon Skobe's arrival in Sweden, he often visited him. As far as Hahn knows, Skobe never asked Dreimanis about H. Ginters because at that time Skobe and H had no reason to doubt H. Ginters claim that he was in direct contact with the Americans.

In the beginning of December 1945 a documented Swedish intelligence officer, EM Jehanson, contacted Mrs. Lejans asking if she knew anyone of her group of refugees who would be interested in undertaking a mission to Latvia (checking with Hugo Ginters Hahn found that according to him such a person as Jehanson does exist). Mrs Lejans replied that such persons were available. ^{Security Information} upon Jehanson stated that he would return

SECRET

Security Information
~~SECRET~~

91

within two weeks to discuss this in detail. Johanson never returned, leading Hahn to believe that his visit had one of two aims, (a) the Swedes were either interested whether or not there was any truth to the talks that these people were in contact with the partisans and are delegates who may later attempt to return with aid, or, (b) the Swedes were merely attempting to check the authenticity of rumors that these refugees were NKVD agents.

(7) Failing to get Swedish church aid as well as American aid, Hahn and Skobe procured a name (which Hahn does not recall) in the British Embassy from Ginters and attempted to interest the British in their behalf. (Skobe spoke ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ ~~XXXXXX~~ some English.) This particular individual was not available and hence Skobe spoke with someone else who replied that although they (The British) were sorry for the Latvian nation they could undertake nothing at that time.

(8) On one of his visits with Hahn, Ziverts requested Hahn to give him a situation report which Hahn had written in cooperation with Zalcmans and which depicted the situation in Latvia subsequent to the cessation of hostilities. Ziverts promised Hahn that by the most direct means he would send this report to the Latvian Ambassador in London, Karlis Zarins, whom H. Ginters also separately notified of the arrival of this refugee group and of the fact that Ziverts would be sending Zarins this aforementioned report. Later Zarins informed Hahn that he had never received this report whereupon Hahn sent him another copy.

On 10 January Hahn had the opportunity to be gainfully employed as a laboratory assistant for the Rockefeller Laboratory in Lund, and therefore left the camp but kept up his contact with Hugo Ginters and Skobe, who remained in the camp.

Prior to leaving for Lund, H. Ginters warned Hahn that there were two Latvians in Lund who were suspected of working for the Soviets. Arriving in Lund Hahn found from his friend Punnenovs and from others, that such suspicions were actually held against (from VOSENBERGS and ALFRED'S GILDERMANIS /161/. In Punnenovs opinion these suspicions were baseless and that these two persons were no doubt victims of a spy mania inherent in the emigre society which readily makes various accusations against persons who do not

Security Information

~~SECRET~~

participate in the society functions and in general keep to themselves rather than enter into all emigre intrigues. 93

In Feb 1946 Hahn held a speech at the YMCA in Lund where he talked about his experiences in Kurzeme subsequent to the surrender. (Hahn gave this speech on a total of 5 occasions, in Lund, Goteborg, Boras, Jonkoping, and Helsingborg.) After this speech in Lund, Hahn was approached by CILDERMAN/who expressed the desire to have a chat with Hahn as he (CILDERMANIS) is very interested about the activities in the Kurzeme forests. CILDERMANIS approach to Hahn was noticed by Janis Celmainis /162/ and (Dr.) Augusts SKOSTE /163/ who then warned Hahn not to reveal anything to CILDERMANIS and OPSENBERGS because of the aforementioned suspicions. Hahn, after a talk with Punnenovs, nevertheless met CILDERMANIS at the appointed time and place. Since both Punnenovs and Hahn were very careful about this meeting they agreed upon a certain length of time for the duration of the meeting which ~~XXXXXXXX~~Hahn would observe. Punnenovs then accompanied Hahn to the meeting place and awaited his return no later than the time they had decided upon.

During the conversation it developed that CILDERMANIS had been active before the end of the war, in 1945, in the activities against the communist partisans. In this activity he worked with the SD in LIEPAJA under HUGO/PURINS /164/ and Herberts/TEIDEMANIS /165/. Hahn then remembered that he had met him in Kuldiga in connection with exchange of information between Purins and the info section of the PPS regarding communist activities in Latvia. Cildermanis then also recalled this casual meeting. After some talk about the "good old days", CILDERMANIS wondered if Hahn had any intentions of returning to Latvia. To this Hahn replied in the affirmative and indicated that it is difficult at the present time from a material and strictly nationalistic standpoint. CILDERMANIS then also expressed his readiness to return to Latvia and settle some old scores with some former communist partisans. CILDERMANIS also stated that he was aware of the rumors about his pro-communist attitude, but he based this on some previous comments made by him, when, working in Swedish swamps as a menial laborer, he, fearing possible deportation from Sweden because of his previous activity with the SD, had made some leftist statements so as to erase any ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ belief that he

SECRET

had been a NAZI.

When Hahn's appointed time had elapsed, he departed and related all the foregoing to Punnenovs, who was then more convinced than ever that there was no basis for all the suspicions regarding Gildermanis. In the summer of 1946 Hahn again met Gildermanis and requested that he furnish him some Latvian maps which he claimed he needed for his boy scout activities in Lund (Hahn then was a ~~xxx~~ scout leader of the Latvian boy scouts at that time just organized in Lund). In reality Hahn needed such maps for Lukins operation for which he prepared all maps. Gildermanis did furnish Hahn a few maps.

In the fall of 1946 Celmainis stopped Hahn on the street in Lund and informed Hahn that his (Celmainis') suspicions of GILDERMANIS were no figment of imagination as he had proof to support his suspicions. Celmainis then related that he had an old friend, a former Latvian officer, who is working for the Russians in Stockholm, and who at the same time is reporting to the Latvians. This friend, according to Celmainis, had written to the latter and requested that he warn Hahn that the Soviets are knowledgeable of his plans, as he (this friend of Celmainis) had read GILDERMANIS report of the meeting with Hahn. Celmainis further mentioned the time, date, place, and duration of Hahn's meeting with GILDERMANIS, which convinced Hahn of the authenticity of Celmainis information. According to Celmainis, his friend had informed that Gildermanis in his report had stated that Hahn and his friends are planning a return mission to Latvia and had suggested that Hahn be either recruited and "drawn to" the Soviets or be denounced and smeared as working for them because he (Gildermanis) considered Hahn dangerous. GILDERMANIS final suggestion in this report to the Soviets, was, that since he felt it impossible to recruit Hahn, the second alternative, that of spreading the rumor that Hahn is already working for the communists, be used.

Hahn then reproached Celmainis for not having told him this sooner as he had had the letter from his friend for a month, to which Celmainis said that he did not want to destroy Hahn's happy family reunion. During this time Hahn had been able to

SECRET

94

locate his wife and child in Germany and bring them to Sweden). When Hahn requested that Celmainis ~~xxxx~~ reveal his friends identity so that Hahn may talk to him personally, Celmainis refused, say that he had sworn to keep that a secret and had already revealed too much to Hahn. Later when Celmainis was in Canada, in 1950, Hahn, in a letter asked him whether he could not reveal his friends identity, particularly since GILDERMANIS too had emigrated to Canada. Celmainis replied that he could not reveal this friends identity, and said that "there are things that you cannot reveal, and there are things that I cannot reveal".

(9) In the begining of May 1946 Dr. Ginters wrote Hahn the he (Dr. Ginters) had found a possibility for a return trip to Latvia and Hahn immediately should come to Stockholm. Informing Hahn that on arrival in Stockholm that he has received sufficient funds for an expedition, and that he through radio operator Jakabas Arins is now in contact with the homeland, Dr. Ginters requested that Hahn procure one man from the 17 refugees who would undertake this mission; (Hahn himself did not care to go on a mission since he had just located his wife in Germany.) Dr. Ginters further stated that it was planned to execute this operation by airdrop, the pilot for such ^{an} operation being ~~from THOMPSONS (or THOMPSONS) [REDACTED]~~

~~XXXX~~ Later Hahn found that the truth of this matter was that it was actually Janis Lukins who received financial support from an unidentified source and who had contacted Ginters with the request that he procure the necessary personnel for a penetration operation. Lukins requested of Ginters that he not inform the LCP of this operation and as a test and cover measure told Dr. Ginters that this operation would be an airdrop. It later developed that Dr. Ginters did, nevertheless, inform the LCP of this, through Karlis Ziverts. Because Dr. Ginters had not kept his word to Lukins and revealed this plans of an operation to Hahn and Ziverts, Lukins discontinued all contacts with Dr. Ginters and contacted Hugo Ginters for support purposes.

In May or June 1946 Hugo Ginters put Lukins in contact with Skolney who then became the operations chief for Lukins in his planned sea-dispatch. Out of necessity Lukins himself later also participated in the operational preparations. Hahn was asked to

Security Information
SECRET

Security Information

SECRET

95

aid in the preparation work by Skobe and participated to the extent that he located a suitable boat, prepared the necessary maps, found one of the crew members, the machinist, and furnished all of his support points, contacts, addresses and virtually all that he knew about the partisans in Latvia. Hahn claims that two names, ^(Carmark?) Agils Olins and Mrs. Baumanis, furnished to the Lukins operation, were also given to our operation.* As far as Hahn knows Luking had received for this operation 35,000 Swedish crowns, 17,000 crowns being spent for the purchase of the boat.

* to Carmark
3.

The operation took place on Christmas 1946, but because of the severe storm and the discord of the crew the boat did not reach the Latvian coast and returned to Sweden. Having created some alarm when leaving Sweden, as well as when refueling in Gotland, the boat was picked up by the Swedish authorities when it returned. The Swedish customs officials found the weapons and other supplies in the boat of which then the Swedish communist press became knowledgeable, creating a tremendous uproar and excitement. Most of fault in this fiasco was Skobe who acted somewhat incorrectly and undiplomatically when the boat returned, by failing to talk to fm Bonde /166/ as previously arranged. Bonde could easily have taken the entire situation in hand and covered the presence of weapons and other supplies to the satisfaction of the Swedish officials. However, Skobe chose to deal with the Swedes directly, disregarding Bonde's presence. If he had acted properly, another possibility existed as well, in that the Swedes could have been delayed from boarding the boat and all damaging evidence could have been thrown overboard. As a result all participants in this operation, 1st Lt. Skobe, 1st Lt. Robesgruntnieks, air force Sgt. Thompsons, (or Tomsons), Fricis Knorads, Fonzavs, and the actually infiltrator, Alberts (?) Jurevics, were incarcerated for 9 months and as a result three of them, Skobe, Robesgruntnieks, and Thompsons were declared persona non grata in Sweden. The first two individuals went to England, the last one remaining in Sweden since he had no place to go and could not merely be sent away by the Swedes. Just prior to departing from Sweden Skobe informed Hahn that during the interrogations nothing regarding his (Hahn's) participation had been revealed.

Security Information
SECRET

~~SECRET~~

Skobe advised also that Hahn should continue to cooperate with LUKINS so that his striving to aid the partisans not be discontinued; at the same time Skobe also promised to continue to work toward their mutual goal, ~~the~~ i.e. assistance to the partisans, as soon as he would arrive in England.

(10) In the spring of 1946 two fishing boats arrived in Sweden from Latvia. The first one arrived in March 1946 and carried 5 fishermen from Ventpils. Two of these had come to Sweden before the end of the war, about fall 1945, when they fled from the Germans. They returned after the end of the war as they believed the Russian propaganda that Latvia was free. Having seen this "freedom" they decided to flee their homeland once more. Hahn only recalls the name of one of these five-PRIEDOLS (or PRIEDOLINS). Hahn does not recall if he was one of those two who came to Sweden for the second time. These five were first contacted by H. Ginters who debriefed them and gave Hahn a copy which he in turn sent to Zarins (Lat. Ambassador to England). Hahn made a copy of this debriefing which he gave to Kalne who incorporated this into his book "Total Terror". These men related that MAKSIS KIERPE fell into Russian hands in the vicinity of his father-in-law's house in the district of ZIBAS. Another interesting fact they related was that after Hahn and his friends left Latvia they caused a great deal of excitement which resulted in the removal of the respective border guard ^{command} commandant, that the group covering their retreat had remained at the shore until four o'clock in the morning (making it a total of 8 hours that they covered those fleeing) and that this group, during their shore watch, captured a Russian soldier on patrol duty.

The five fishermen remained in Sweden and to Hahn's knowledge have not been active operationally.

The second boat arrived in Sweden from LIEPAJA carrying four (4) youths, 3 boys and one girl. Hahn remembers the following names: FRICIS KONRADS/167/, BORIS BURVIS, ALEKSANDERS LIEPINS, and the girl, VELTA (last name unknown).

These, two were first met by H. Ginters, and made the 3 boys take an oath to cooperate only with H. Ginters, Skobe, and SVIKIS. Despite this oath two of them

~~SECRET~~

BURVIS and LIEPINS began to sway toward the Latvian Assistance Committee, and later decided they would have no part in any operations, but would rather work and study in Sweden. Hahn claims that he never received the debriefing of these; he does not know whether Ginters merely did not wish to give him a copy or just failed to debrief them. Shortly after their arrival, KARLIS ZIVERTS visited these 4 refugees, and despite their oath to H. Ginters not to talk to anyone else, they furnished ZIVERTS a sketch of the fortifications of the port of LIEPAJA. ZIVERTS also advised them to abandon all hope of returning because the best Latvians had already been brought out of there and there is no interest in those who have remained.

The boat with which these four fled was built by them on the LIEPAJA lake, and was exceptionally well constructed. Because of this Skobe tried to steal this boat, but in the process he ran it onto a cliff and the boat sunk.

One of these 4, Fricis Konrads is the same who participated in the abortive LUKINS operation as the machinist. Despite his deportation order, he still lives in Sweden and according to Hahn, is still desirous of participating in an expedition to Latvia.

(11) In approximately August 1947 Hahn first ^{contacted} LUKINS personally who, together with HUGO GINTERS then related the entire abortive ~~EEEE~~ Christmas 1946 operation to him, expressing also the opinion that Skobe was at fault in this fiasco.

Luking then further related that in a radio (RICHARDS ZANDE) operator to Latvia. ZANDE established radio contact with LUKINS operator in Sweden JEKABS ARINS. This contact then formed the basis for the second, abortive, LUKINS operation, which is described ^{above} previously. LUKINS claimed that the cost for this operation was the comparatively small sum of 5,000 Swedish crown. The helmsman for this operation was the same as for the following Christmas 1946 operation, ~~for~~ FONZAVS. Hahn claims LUKINS never mentioned where he got the 5,000 crowns but Hahn believes that such a sum could at that time easily have been procured from local Latvians.

According to LUKINS, ZANDE was landed at the fishing wharf of the fishing village SKULTE. This Hahn explains ~~not~~ ^{security information} ~~for~~ the Kurems, but on the Vidzeme shore, ~~near~~

SECRET

SECRET

98

which required the boat to pass through the Straights of IEBE. ZANDE was quite active in Latvia for approximately one year, during which time he travelled a great deal and sent very unsatisfactory messages, about which LUKINS was quite angry. On one occasion ZANDE requested that LUKINS furnish the UN all information that he (Zande) had sent from Latvia. This obviously could not be complied with as Zande's messages were not of the type and caliber to bring before an international body.

In approximately summer 1947 Zande was caught by the Russians. Hahn claims that Lukins had good possibilities for corresponding with Latvia through Czechoslovakia. Through this mail channel Lukins heard that Zande escaped from the Russians, but was later arrested and has not been heard of since.

Valdemars later informed Hahn that ^{his} organization was aware of Zande's arrival in Latvia, but because of his unsatisfactory and insecure conduct decided not to contact him. On their first and only meeting Valdemar told Lukins that Zande along with 20 others was arrested when they were awaiting the arrival of the Christmas boat. According to Valdemars, they were arrested because a woman whom Zande had promised to take to Sweden was deleted from the list and another woman substituted. This caused the original woman to report Zande to the NKVD. Lukins did not believe Valdemars' account to be correct as he (Lukins) was still in radio contact with Zande after the Christmas expedition fell through. He was asked whether Lukins did not realize that Zande could have been under control. To this Hahn answered that Lukins felt that such could not have been the case because there had been ^{no} significant break in the radio contact to indicate this.) Hahn does not know whether or not Lukins had arranged control and compromise indicators with Zande. Furthermore Hahn claims that Lukins' radio operator Arins who was familiar with Zande's first did not note anything unusual or out of place in Zande's transmissions.

In his talks with Valdemars, Hahn learned that in Valdemars' opinion there were actually two men infiltrated in the ^{Security} operation "Rainis" and "Dainis". Lukins never mentioned either of these names to Hahn and continually spoke of only one. Now

SECRET

Hahn is not certain whether there were one or two agents landed at that time, though he also questioned CAMUSO 2 who knows Arins well, and whose opinion there were actually two involved in this operation. Hahn believes it quite possible that two cover names could have been used by Zande so as to confuse the Soviets.

(12) The following two indications lead Hahn to believe that the abortive Lukins operation of Christmas 1946 would possibly have been supported by French intelligence; Hahn has no further substantiating evidence.

a. In 1948 in a conversation the general trend of which Hahn does not recall, Lukins informed him that he is knowledgeable of a French penetration operation. Though Hahn could not recall the date of this operation, he believes it to have been said to have occurred in 1946. The operation was a submarine infiltration which intended to land one or more Latvian agents on the Lithuanian coast from whence they were to proceed to Latvia. The Latvian agents were recruited in Sweden, their recruiter or their training area not being known to Hahn.

The operation was unsuccessful because the submarine was forced to return since it was believed that the Soviet coastal defense guards had noticed it.

b. Estra Alberings, daughter of former Latvian Minister of Agriculture, was and is still today very interested and very active in partisan support and assistance work in Germany, she recently visited Silde a former underground member in Latvia. In general she is known to travel a great deal). Her previous back-ground consisted of attending the French Lyceum in Riga which was an institution of grammar and high school levels in which the French language was used exclusively and in which the French influence was great. Estra Alberings was the mistress of Eriks Hebezgrundnieks, Skobes operational assistant.

It may be of some significance that in the summer of 1947 Lukins participated in a boy scout jamboree in France, as he had been the Latvian boy scout leader in Sweden.

(13) During the aforementioned meeting between Hahn, H. Ginters, and Lukins,

H. Ginters informed them that he would have to disist from active participation in operational work because the last operation had brought him into serious financial difficulties. It was therefore decided that in order to renew this operation, Hahn would seek financial support from Swedish nationals in the Goteborg area while Lukins would do the same in Stockholm. They did not succeed in this attempt. Lukins, finding himself in a precarious financial situation because he too had gotten into debt as a result of this abortive operation, became quite desperate and among many other possibilities mentioned the fact that possibly assistance would be procured from the Spanish Consulate in Stockholm with which he had no contact. Hahn thought that the contact could be precured through a casual acquaintance of his, (Baroness) Rene von CAMPENHAUSEN, whose previous husband fru SERRANO was a Mexican diplomat in Germany before the war. Erroneously believing that having been the wife of a Mexican diplomat she could have Spanish contacts, Hahn by mail contacted her son-in-law, his former friend George PUNNENOVS whom he merely asked if his mother-in-law had Spanish contacts. His reply was in the negative and Hahn having informed him of nothing regarding the operation, discontinued the correspondence.

It is noteworthy that during this time, when Lukins and Hahn were seeking financial aid, the former told Hahn that if this planned operation were to succeed and he (Lukins) could prove that radio contact was established with Latvia, there would become available unlimited resources for futhers/ activities from the backers of his previous, abortive operation.

In October 1947 Hahn, ~~XXXXXXXX~~, ~~XXXXXXXX~~, and Lukins discussed the possibility of creating a new, clean operations organization. This was agreed upon with no definite arrangements and concrete plans as no funds were available. During the discussions RN PILLOW Brought out the fact that the Lukins-purchased boat was unusable for further operations because pictures of it had appeared in the Swedish press, and suggested that some fishing boats belonging to Latvians in Sweden could easily be precured with the entire crew. At this time Hahn also met Kalme for the first time and gave him all

SECRET

SECRET

his material regarding the partisans that could be utilized for propaganda purposes only, since Kalne had at that time begun to work on his book "Total Terror" which was to be originally published in Swedish. Hahn claims no operational information whatsoever was given to Kalne. Since Kalne was at that time preparing to immigrate to the US., Hahn gave him the assignment to attempt to procure aid for the partisans in Latvia, explaining to Kalne the situation in general. In January 1948 Kalne departed for the US with the promise to do all possible to procure aid.

(14) In the beginning of 1948 Lukins informed Hahn of a new project which consisted of infiltrating ~~of~~ one Latvian who was a trained radio operator and who desired to return because of his little daughter who had remained there. His (Lukins) plan was to use a small aluminum boat with an outboard motor. For this operation the minimum financial need was 5,000 crowns which it was felt could be procured without too much difficulty. Hahn's assignment was to ~~of~~ procure the finances which he felt he could procure through Lindress, the owner of a plumbing (engineering) concern in Goteborg whom Hahn contacted and who besides promising to furnish 3,000 crowns personally because of humanitarian reasons also recommended Hahn to several other Swedish business men who Hahn believed would furnish some aid. During this period of time Lukins had purchased this boat, while Hahn by correspondence discussed with the former the need for clear operational responsibilities which must be assigned to the members of their newly created group, to which ~~of~~ Lukins agreed.

It was then agreed upon that Lukins would be the technical chief responsible for all preparatory activities. ~~of~~ RNPILLLOW was charged with the training of all personnel. Hahn claims that neither he nor RNPILLLOW were given specific responsibilities or tasks. The question of a leader was then discussed and though Lukins was opposed to Dr. Ginters, he finally agreed to abide with the decision of the majority that Dr. Ginters, who was sufficiently esteemed in Sweden, became the leader of the groups. In order to inform Dr. Ginters of this decision and request him to accept the position of chief of the group, Hahn contacted him in March 1948, but found that Dr.

Security Information

108

Ginters, though sympathetic, related that conditions had changed for the better, in that contact had been made with the Tibars who again seemed to be interested in the Latvian area. This seemed to solve the financial support problem and therefore Hahn acquainted Dr. Ginters with Lukins new project (Dr. Ginters knew Lukins well from previous days as well as all the details of the latter's abortive operation). In the interim Lukins had procured sufficient funds to purchase the needed boat and also contacted the Swedish state police (Statspolis) among whom he had many ~~fix~~ friends who promised him technical aid. However, since in the same month of that year an agreement between the Tibars and Tilbury was signed stipulating that Tilbury is to be the sole Latvian in charge of Tibars operations in the Latvian field; only on this condition did Tilbury consent to work for the Tibars who accepted this condition. This Tibars/Tilbury agreement was told to Lukins by his contact in the state police who further told him that he is forced to withdraw all promises because of an order from the top and that henceforth the Swedish authorities would cooperate only with Tilbury in any and all Latvian operations.

(15) Although Dr. Ginters had originally stated that he could procure support for Lukins planned operation, it later developed that Tilbury did not agree to this, forcing Dr. Ginters, who Hahn later found was subordinate to him, to accept Tilbury decision, which caused Lukins to believe that Dr. Ginters had evil intentions and therefore Lukins (who is very temperamental) broke with Dr. Ginters-- therefore also with Tilbury because he not only felt deceived by Dr. Ginters but also did not agree with Tilbury political views as these were the views of the LCP. Lukins having left, Hahn, RNPILLON, & RNPOTAL decided to await further results of this new Tilbury/Tibars arrangement.

In July 1948 Dr. Ginters contacted Hahn in the hopes that he (Dr. Ginters) could persuade them to work with the Tilbury group. In Hahn's opinion ~~the main~~ reason for Dr. Ginters desire to have Hahn and his friends join Tilbury group was

SECRET

their ability to procure recruits for operational missions. According to Hahn, the LCP (ie. TILBURY) never had been, is not new, and will never be able to procure recruits for penetration operations. During this meeting, Dr. Ginters informed Hahn in detail about the Tibars/ Tilbury agreement. His entire narrative was known to Hahn who had been informed of it by Lukins, though Hahn was somewhat skeptical about its truth until Dr. Ginters confirmed it. One additional point which Ginters possibly brought out to quiet Hahn's fears was emphasized, this being the fact that in this arrangement the situation was such that Tilbury will not be influenced in his position by internal Latvian politics, ie. the LCP political lines but will leave all politics aside in his operations.

Dr. Ginters next asked Hahn, if he and his co-workers, whom Ginters considered to be politically clean, would desire to join Tilbury group whereby he mentioned that at the same time-- is he ~~not~~ accepted-- Hahn was to compile a list of friends and acquaintances whom he was to classify in the following manner depending upon each individual's desire:

- a. Those ready to undertake a penetration mission at any time
- b. Those interested in undertaking a mission to Latvia only in time of war.
- c. Those interested in remaining in Sweden so as to be able to fight as partisans in case of a Russian invasion of Sweden.

The applicants for the above assignments ~~will~~ ~~in~~ accordance with Dr. Ginters wishes, to write a personal history of themselves, paying particular attention to education, language qualification, and their opinions re communism as well as any activities in opposition to communism (anti or pro-Germanism was not of interest). These applicants with families could be assured that their families would be cared for and would be placed in a safe place outside of Sweden in case of war. Hahn indicated doubt that the Swedes would be able to accomplish all this and that their own house was clean, ie. Hahn believed that the Tibars were penetrated by communist agents.

Security Information

SECRET

Security Information

104

~~SECRET~~

Lengthy debates ensued which lasted far into the night and then in the early morning Dr. Ginters finally revealed to that the Broadway was behind all this. Dr. Ginters further amplified this by saying that the Broadway was behind Tilbury group unknown to the Tibars and that this fact must not only be withheld at all cost from the Tibars but also from all other Latvians. From the Broadway contact with Tilbury the following Broadway interests and opinions could be evidenced:

a. Broadway believed that in case of Russian invasion of Sweden, the Swedish people would be poor opponents to the Russians while the Latvians, who were experienced and would surely oppose the invaders would make much more suitable partisan leaders whom Broadway could then support.

b. Broadway would be able to support Latvian partisans much more satisfactorily than the Tibars.

c. Guarantees for families of Latvian participants have been given by Broadway (and not by the Tibars as stated before).

d. Broadway would judge by the biographies which individuals would be acceptable to them.

Though at first Hahn felt that it was unwise to furnish biographies to the Tibars he agreed to furnish them to Broadway because he felt that this was sufficiently secure. To this Dr. Ginters added that the biographies were to be furnished as soon as possible because it was intended to begin training very shortly. Hahn feels that this urgency had some connection with the current international situation at that time (the Berlin airlift ~~is~~ had just begun). Furthermore Dr. Ginters felt that Hahn should personally meet Tilbury with whom he could then discuss this matter.

Discussing this matter with ENPORTAL an RNPILLOW in detail the still felt uncertain and refused to believe that Tilbury and the LCP had political ambitions. RNPILLOW being interested, particularly in the training phase, completed a very general biography along with Hahn; ENPORTAL refused to do this.

Security Information

Security Information

SECRET

105

On 19 August 1948 Hahn met Tilbury in the presence of Dr. Ginters. Tilbury also assured Hahn - who specifically requested such assurance - that he Tilbury had no political interests in this operational work and that he Tilbury could vouch for no LCP connection and interference in this matter. Regarding training in Sweden, Tilbury felt it would present a problem in that it would be difficult to conceal this; until that time no solution had been found.

~~THE~~ Tilbury also mentioned during this conversation that this work had been begun by him, Dr. Ginters and former Latvian Ambassador to Sweden Voldemars Salnajs; Tilbury further stated that since Salnajs had just died, the two remaining, he and Dr. Ginters, would have to continue alone.

During the following months Hahn furnished three further ~~ex~~ biographies about Dr. GEORGS PUNNEVOVS, JANIS GULBITIS, and (Lat. Army Capt. JANIS JANKAVS). All these applied for the aforementioned C group (See para 15) on Hahn's advice. These and the biographies of Hahn and RNPILLOW were the only ones furnished Tilbury by Hahn, as the latter-influenced by RNPORTAL suspicions - also was somewhat uncertain as to whether or not Tilbury political ambitions would again come to the fore. Later, writing to Dr. Ginters, Hahn used the excuse that he did not possess the means to travel extensively and hence the small amount of biographies; the truth of the matter was that Hahn decided to await any substantiation to his belief that Tilbury would again begin his political meddling.

(16) The following indications lead Hahn to believe that VOLDEMARIS SALNAJS, former Lat. Ambassador to Sweden who died in the summer 1948 in Sweden was Tilbury contact with the Broadway.

a. Tilbury in his talk with Hahn mentioned SALNAJS as one of the three leaders in this group, the others being Tilbury himself and Dr. Ginters.

Security Information

SECRET

SECRET

105

b. SALNAJS, according to TILBURY was very active during the war in continuing contact with Latvia.

c. Just prior to the German surrender Hahn was informed by OSWALDS BILESKALNS, that in case Hahn did indeed proceed to Sweden, BILESKALNS would furnish him the name of one of the foremost Latvians in Sweden who is in a position to put Hahn in contact with a western democracy which would be able to aid the partisans. This BILESKALNS never had the opportunity to do.

On the other hand, VALDEMAR related to Hahn in 1948 that BILESKALNS has informed him, that TILBURY has been in contact with BROADWAY since 1936. (Later, in March 1950, the BROADWAY case officer who contacted Hahn in Sweden replied to Hahn's question as to whether it was true that TILBURY has been in contact with BROADWAY since 1936 by brushing it off and saying, that it is true, but that this was not a very serious, but rather just a "routine" contact which BROADWAY has been in the habit of undertaking and keeping with many important and well-known Latvian high-ranking officers.

(17) In October 1948 Hahn received a phone call from HUGO GINTERS who informed Hahn that an acquaintance from Latvia had arrived and that HUGO GINTERS would do all possible that this acquaintance get to see Hahn. After one week Hahn received a letter from VALDEMAR in which he told Hahn that the battle in his homeland is continuing and that one of the leaders there (it later developed that this was OSWALDS/BILESKALNS) still holds Hahn in high regard because of his excellent activities in Kurzeme.

In the beginning of November 1948 VALDEMAR arrived in Hid, Sweden, Hahn's having received money for the trip from BONDE and instructions how to reach Hahn from GINTERS. According to VALDEMARS, the Swedish authorities did not attempt to detain him in any manner and, after a thorough debriefing conducted by an TIEBARS staff member in German as well as by TILBURY himself, Voldemar was permitted to visit Hahn. The reason this permission was so readily granted, Hahn believes, is the fact that TILBURY, no doubt, then considered Hahn to be a member of his group and hence believed that Hahn

Security Information

SECRET

Security Information

would only bring Valdemar closer to TILBURY.

SECRET

107

Just prior to leaving Stockholm Valdemar was informed by HUGO GINTERS that he (H. GINTERS) had seen to it that VALDEMAR's dossier was completely removed from the general files of the Aliend Commission and placed in a very special file to which only one Swedish official had access. Later, in Hid, Hahn helped VALDEMAR procure a ration card which, along with his identity documents, was in his true name, although whenever possible VALDEMAR used the alias VALDEMARS JANSONS.

Remaining with Hahn until the end of January 1949, VALDEMARS related that he (VALDEMARS) has agreed to cooperate with TILBURY giving TILBURY his word of honor that he would work with no one else. Hence VALDEMARS had been forced to reject HUGO GINTERS to put him in touch with AIS. HUGO GINTERS claimed that he had such contact with an American who is quite anxious to meet him. HUGO GINTERS then described the meeting place which to Hahn sounded like the US Embassy in Stockholm. HUGO GINTERS did not reveal any further details about his US contact, except to say later, after VALDEMARS had declined, that HUGO GINTERS' American friend could not understand why VALDEMARS would not seek contact with the US.

During his stay with Hahn VALDEMAR expressed regret the he had been unable to fulfill two wishes requested by the partisans in Latvia:

- a. To work only directly with foreign intelligence agencies.
- b. To seek particularly US contact.

Hahn told VALDEMAR that he felt that VALDEMAR had been affected by the high rank of TILBURY to whom he could not show insubordination as a former enlisted man. Be that as it may and whatever the reasons may be behind it, VALDEMARS felt he could not break the promise he had given TILBURY. Valdemars also expressed regret that the letter that Hahn wrote in reply to VALDEMAR's letter did not reach him before he made his promise to TILBURY. In this reply Hahn warned VALDEMARS not to reveal anything prior to studying the entire situation. Hahn had further explained to VALDEMAR that

Security Information

SECRET

Security Information

SECRET

108

in Sweden there are numerous groups all motivated by ambition and that VALDEMARS, should be careful lest he be misled.

Seeing the lack of political harmony in exile which disappointed him greatly, and seeing no possibility to find suitable infiltration candidates, VALDEMARS, who had originally decided to remain in Sweden and Hahn (considered as a reserve candidate) volunteered to DR. GINTERS in December 1948 to return to Latvia.

So as not to lose the possibility of procuring US aid in the future, Hahn and VALDEMARS worked out a signal plan and an operational plan which would be completely divorced from and never revealed to the Swedes and/or TILBURY. At first their plan was to procure US aid through H. GINTERS, however, this was later changed because LUKINS claimed that it was he and not H. GINTERS who had contact with the US. In fact H. GINTERS was claiming that he had contact with US officials when, according to LUKINS, it was LUKINS who had the actual contact on which H. GINTERS based his claim. LUKINS then revealed that it was the US Naval Attache in Stockholm with whom he was in contact and who had supported the abortive Christmas 1946 expedition.

18. In the end of January 1949 VALDEMARS, Hahn and JANIS KRUMS began training in radio Russian Army OB, tradecraft, and firing in preparation for a Spring infiltration. The training was conducted by the following TIEBARS case officers in German Language: encoding and decoding instructor- JAMBOR, Radio Chief Instructor - SIMANSON, Tradecraft (2 hrs.) ~~1/16/49~~ OB and firing instructor who also was in charge of all training, - Capt. ANDREASON, (a third, another radio instructor, Hahn cannot recall.

This training was conducted in the safe house for Estonians who were simultaneously being trained for this mission. The Lithuanian candidates also participated in this training at the living quarters of the Estonians. All three safehouses were located on the Island of LIDINGO, the Latvians being located in the summer home belonging to Swedish archeology lecturer GELJVALL.

Security Information

SECRET

SECRET

On one occasion an American archeologist was visiting GEIJVALL. This gave Valdemars some idea that possibly this man could be approached to furnish U. S. aid, but nothing came of it.

Since in the beginning, when Hahn was recruited, there was some reservation in Dr. Giuter's mind that Hahn should be used for this mission, and ~~since as training should be used for this mission, and~~ since as training progressed it developed that JANIS KRUMS was unsatisfactory for such an undertaking, TILBURY requested that Hahn come to Stockholm where TILBURY then stated that his superiors desired some clarity as to how many Latvians would participate in this operation. Hence TILBURY desired a final answer from Hahn. Hahn claims that he then declined to participate in the infiltration because of the following reasons:

a. In a discussion with Valdemars, Hahn and he both felt that, had the landing site been somewhere on the Latvian coast, Hahn would have been of great help. But since it has been decided to use the Lithuanian coast, Hahn could not be as useful.

b. Valdemars claimed that his organization was having enough difficulty legalizing those Latvians coming out of the woods or returning from Russia proper, that Hahn would only be an additional burden; furthermore Hahn never having had experience in illegal living would, no doubt, have to be "led by the hand" and would "jump every time he saw a Russian".

c. TILBURY's lack of security, as well as the fact that one of the Lithuanian trainees had, when inebriated revealed that an operation was to be undertaken, caused Hahn to reconsider. Furthermore, a meeting with LUKINS not only strengthened his fears of lack of security, but also revealed that this operation had political overtones because LUKINS stated that all LCP members were saying

Security Information

SECRET

107
SECRET
110

that "now they really had the right men going over". Relating this evidence of political overtones to Dr. Guiters (Hahn did not reveal the source), Dr. Guiters said that such could not be the case and that this was only "the talk of the LCP opposition".

d. Valdemare also desired that Hahn remain in the western world, because he (Valdemars) then felt that then a capable person would remain this side of the iron curtain who could not only be depended upon, but also could attempt to activate the underground organization which was to a great extent divorced from Valdemars group.

19. The course lasted two months, was very general in nature, and lacked proper control and security, although the instructors were quite satisfactory.

So that the Latvian partisans would not lose the possibility of U. S. aid, as already mentioned, Valdemars arranged a signal plan and contact chain with Hahn which was completely divorced from that arranged by TILBURY with Valdemar. In addition KALME, in the U. S. was notified that representative from the homeland partisans had arrived and that he should do all possible to arouse U.S. interest in this divorced and separate operational plan of Hahn's. KALME answered only 6 months later, which caused Hahn and Valdemar to decide to contact in order that radio contact with Sweden (Hahn) be arranged in the presence of Valdemar LUKINS, who had a radio set at his disposal. It was arranged that LUKINS, whose radio operator JANIS DAIGA (now in U.S. since 1949) would not be knowledgeable of the code, but rather would become the "technician" in charge while Hahn would encode and decode all messages; no conditions

Security Information
SECRET
10-84

SECRET

111

that LUKINS would see the traffic were made.

20. JANIS KRUMS, the 3rd trainee, formerly of SKOBES group, wrote to SKOBE in England and among other items, mentioned the fact that a person had returned from Latvia. SKOBE thereupon wrote to Hahn, requesting the latter to confirm this information and also informing Hahn that he is working for BROADWAY. Hahn replied that KRUMS was imagining things which, incidently, he often did and for which he was well known. The fact that SKOBE was working for BROADWAY was revealed by Hahn to TILBURY, who showed dislike that such was the case, though Hahn thought that some coordination was now needed.

21. Shortly, before the operation Valdemar showed Hahn a written document which TILBURY had given to VALDEMAR. This document which was destined for VALDEMARS organization in Latvia and which TILBURY requested VALDEMAR not show to Hahn, contained the general as well as internal Latvian emigre situation, the latter clearly indicating that LCP had supremacy in Latvian politics and stating quite falsely - that the LCP is the only organization which is new and has ever done anything for the liberation. This declaration was signed by MINTAUTS CAKSTE, one of the LCP leaders and son of the first Latvian President JANIS CAKSTE; signing this document he used the pseudonym "ZIEMELIS". In this declaration VALDEMARS was called "VALTERIS". According to Hahn, VALDEMARS was documented as VALTERIS RIEKSTINS in 1944/45 in Kurzeme.

22. The VALDEMAR infiltration, having been delayed from 7 April 1949 - 30 April 1949; took place on 30 April 1949, with the following persons participating as far as Hahn knows:

- a. Latvians - VALDEMARS
- b. Estonians - MAX - wd later, on his way from Lithuania

SECRET

to Estonia -- died of pneumonia. The second is not known.

c. Lithuanians - BRIEDIS - half Lithuanian, half Latvian, who in this operation used the alias QIS.

HEKTOR - who was Lithuanian chief of Swedish operations. After the operation he was replaced as chief of Lithuanian operations for TIEBARS by a Lithuanian professor who arrived in Stockholm from London.

Third name not remembered, but Hahn does know that he was comparatively recent partisan arrival from Lithuania.

The group was successfully landed somewhere on the Lithuanian coast. However, as it later could be deduced from VALDEMARS letters to Hahn and from some of Tilbury utterings, Valdemar had lost either all or at least a majority of his supplies and equipment including either his radio or his crystals. (These letters to Hahn contained no secret writing though VALDEMAR did have a special type of secret writing pencil which he received from TILBURY who said it came from BROADWAY and which he used for communications with TILBURY to whom VALDEMARS wrote addressing his letters with his true name and real address). (Later, when Hahn talked to BROADWAY representative, George Kilgour, the latter requested that Hahn furnish him all letters he had received from VALDEMARS so that the BROADWAY could ascertain whether or not these letters did not contain S/W. Hahn claims that TILBURY too had asked for these letters, but was told that they had been burned.)

22. After VALDERMAR had left, Hahn wrote to SKOBE in England informing him that someone from Latvia had arrived after which SKOBE began to request all sorts of direct questions regarding latest information

on partisan activities in Kurzeme and if there exists the possibility of establishing contact with such partisans independent of SIS. This correspondence, though secure, was, Hahn feels, too frequent. SKOEBES intelligent questions and general content of the letters as well as the urgency which was indicated, led Hahn to believe that he truly was in contact with BROADWAY. In these letters SKOEBE informed that BROADWAY had a great deal more information about the LCP's machinations than could be imagined and therefore BROADWAY was extremely interested in assuming a new contact, completely divorced from TILBURY. In answer to SKOEBES query whether HAHN had the possibility for contacting VOLDEMARE separately, the latter replied in the affirmative, bringing about a request from SKOEBE that Hahn turn this entire matter over to him because it is a great deal more insecure to operate in Sweden than in England. Hahn replied that he felt that he should encode and decode and thereby retain control to which SKOEBE assured him that he would only be lending his codes to BROADWAY until they could assume contact after which the code's would be returned to Hahn. (It should be mentioned here, that there was no possibility of utilizing LUKINS radio because of a lack of funds.)

During this time Hahn's contact man in the US, KALME, wrote to Hahn and informed that he had established contact with DYCLAIM and was in need of information about the partisans, which Hahn sent him. Somehow SKOEBE found out about the fact that Hahn was sending Kalme this material and chided Hahn that he was cooperating with the wrong man (meaning KALME). SKOEBE further mentioned that the US will never fully understand Latvia

114

and the Latvian people and that BROADWAY's approach to the problem would be a more realistic one in that they could be more interested in saving the Latvian people.

Since Kalme was unable to give more concrete data about cooperation with DYCLAIM, Hahn agreed to SKOBE's proposal to cooperate with BROADWAY, but not via the mails as SKOBE proposed but rather in person.

In the beginning of September 1949, George Kilgour, BROADWAY representative arrive in Goteborg using the alias Viktor Sandersons, to whom Hahn turned over the Valdemar signal plan and code books. Incidentally, Kilgour mentioned during his one day stay with Hahn that he had served in Sweden during the war and indicated a strong dislike for the Swedes. Kilgour, prior to departing, left Hahn an address to which he could write c/o Mrs. M. Kristliebs, London.

The entire conversation with Kilgour indicated that BROADWAY would use this possibility to undertake a penetration mission which would originate in and be prepared in England, since it was feared that Sweden was too insecure. Kilgour also promised to give Hahn a summary of the news which he would receive from Latvia via Hahn's furnished plan. Also touching upon Hahn's desired and attempted contact with the US, Kilgour stressed that the US is a beginner in this work while BROADWAY has a great deal of experience and through its information network has its finger on all occurrences in the entire world which have any meaning whatsoever. He further mentioned that the US acts too impetuously and insecurely.

In the beginning of October 1949, Kilgour arrived unexpectedly and requested from Hahn information how through Hahn's contacts the new,

117

independent underground organization could be contacted; he also wanted a good landing point which Hahn indicated would be the JURKALNE vicinity which was known to SKOBE and his wife. Stating that he had two fully prepared agents which could be dispatched in the next few days, Kilgour asked Hahn for a letter which would indicate that these men were sent by Hahn, who willingly gave such letter. The reason for the urgency Kilgour explained, was the fact that the TIEBARS were again, just as last spring, beginning to act peculiarly -- fearing conflict with the Russians -- and might possibly cancel their operation planned for that same 1949 - Fall. Kilgour compared this with the TIEBAR indisision and uncertainty in the previous spring Valdemar infiltration in which Broadway was forced to take a hand in the last minute. Kilgour claimed that BROADWAY boat with a German crew actually landed Valdemar. This fact was confirmed in every detail by Dr. Ginters whom Hahn met in the beginning of December 1949 for the first time since Valdemar's departure. In this meeting Dr. Ginters also told Hahn that on 17 October 1949 W/T contact by the TIEBARS with Valdemar was finally made. (Hahn states that in the lat. case, the TIBARS receive and send all radio messages while the texts are given to and outgoing ones prepared by TILBURY). TILBURY himself informed Hahn that radio contact with Valdemar has only become a reality because TILBURY was able to send to Valdemar "the missing (items) in some round-about way." At this same meeting Hahn volunteered for the next mission to which TILBURY replied that "this is out of the question."

In approximately the end of January 1950, Dr. Ginters, in writing, requested Hahn to suggest a person to undertake a mission in the Spring of that same year. Hahn replied that because of the very confused situation at that time he would not look for nor suggest anyone but himself. By confused situation, Hahn meant the Latvian political situation and all the difficulties that had arisen in connection with Valdemar.

At first Dr. Ginters, in the middle of February 1950, replied that Hahn himself was unacceptable, but a little later, TILBURY wrote to Hahn accepting his application and requested Hahn that he arrive in Stockholm soonest so as to take some radio instruction. However, a certain waiting period developed, the cause of which as Hahn later found, was the fact that one Lithuanian ^{Army} VYTAUTAS, alias Albert, who had been trained in the spring of 1949 had defected to the Russians in Sweden many personnel and training details.

In the beginning of March, Hahn informed Kilgour via mail that he is planning to go on a mission himself, to which Kilgour replied that Hahn should not undertake anything until his arrival which occurred on 14 March 1950.

Kilgour persuaded Hahn not to undertake the mission because he (Hahn) was too knowledgeable of too many details; furthermore because of VYTAUTAS' defection the Russians had become too knowledgeable and hence it would be advisable to wait a while.

Another reason for Kilgour's request that Hahn not undertake this mission, was Kilgour's desire that Hahn attempt to get contact with the TIBARS so that he could begin cooperating with them and then slowly assume

TILBURY's role, thereby eliminating TILBURY whom BROADWAY believed too insecure, too blown and too shrewd. Through Dr. Ginters, whom he, of course, did not inform of his real intentions, Hahn contacted Swedish Capt. Andreason to whom he expressed his desire to cooperate enumerating all his qualifications, as well as stating that he has many persons in Sweden who are cooperating. Andreason advised Hahn to forget his differences with TILBURY whom the former described as a likeable person with whom he had cooperated for 6 years. Nevertheless, Hahn stated that because of political differences they would never be able to come to any agreement. Kilgour's idea that Hahn become the new "TILBURY" -- obviously a BROADWAY penetration of the TIBARS -- never materialized because Andreason requested that Hahn turn over to him a complete list of all names of persons who are either in Hahn's group (which incidentally is known as the SC) or who are or would cooperate with Hahn. This Hahn refused to do thereby eliminating his chances of cooperating with the TIBARS.

23. In 1950 Hahn was first contacted by [redacted] of DYCLAIM resulting in a series of discussions, uncertainties, and indecisions which finally led Hahn to what he believes is the fulfillment of the desires of the partisans, cooperating with the US which has promised him that aid to the partisans would be forthcoming.

During his discussion with DYCLAIM Hahn was also contacted by JURGEN HVID of the Neckerchiefs who has heard about Hahn from Lambers in Germany. Lamberg had come to see Hahn in connection with his desire to procure information about conditions in Latvia for this newspaper "Latvia" which was published in Germany.

Hviid, who had lived in Latvia for a number of years and whose father had owned a bathroom fixture firm in Riga, could still converse in Latvian with some difficulty. Requesting recruits for an operation which the Neckerchiefs were desirous of undertaking, Hviid informed Hahn that his operation will be a very secure one and will entail one year's training. All in all the proposal sounded very good to Hahn, who, however, turned it down because of acceptance by DYCLAIM. In order to avert suspicion Hahn used illness as an excuse and suggested Hviid contact PORTAL who thereupon considered sending PILLON as an agent candidate to HVIID. Interesting to note here is the fact that PORTAL originally considered CAMUSO as a candidate, who, however, refused when he heard that he would be sent by the Neckerchiefs who, in his opinion, are not those who could help the people closest to Camuso's heart, the Latvian partisans.

The Neckerchief episode ended when Portal too was accepted by DYCLAIM.

As Hahn later heard from a former girl friend of Hviid's in Latvia, (Mrs.) Spade, wife of the Latvian Admiral who remained in Latvia, Hviid is a very shrewd, egotistic and calculating person who would let no morals stop him to achieve his own personal aims.

SECRET
SECURITY INFORMATION

119

1. Janis Mezciems

Hahn's mother's brother -- Former Captain in Latvian Army. Now in Varel, Germany.

2. Aleksandrs Mezciems

Hahn's mother's brother. Now surgeon in England.

3. Margita (Hahn)

Born in Riga in 1911. Hahn's sister. Married FNU Olins, who died in 1940 just before the first Russian occupation of Latvia. Margita's husband, a former Lt. in the Latvian Army in the 1920s, while under influence of alcohol, attempted to execute what was legally termed a "coup d'etat" in Valmiera, Latvia. Although this act was in later years described as having fascist overtones, Hahn himself is convinced that it was nothing but a harmless outburst and emotional reaction while under the influence of alcohol. This so-called "coup d'etat", having gained notice in the press, was actually to be punished by court-martial; however, in order to escape such a disgrace, Lt. Olins, on the advice of his family and friends, claimed insanity, which was accepted by the legal authorities. Margita (Hahn) was last heard of by Hahn in 1948 at which time she was living in Riga and working as a lecturer at the University of Riga.

4. Ingrida (Hahn)

Born in Riga in 1913. Hahn's sister. Married agronomist Vitols, by whom she has had five children. The family is at present residing in Australia.

5. Janis Jansons

Son of Department-Director in the Latvian State Agency for Internal Land Reform Matters. Deported by the Russians in March or April 1941.

6. Martins Kreslins

Son of the Prosecuting Attorney who prosecuted the Perkonkrusts (swastika League) and Bruno Kalnins in 1934.

7. Eduards Busers

Later joined the Savkana Gvarde (military translation: Red Guard; true meaning: industrial and political police.). During the German occupation, Busers joined the German-sponsored police unit since he felt that his other three friends in Hahn's original group thought he had possibly become a Communist.

SECRET
SECURITY INFORMATION

SECRET
SECURITY INFORMATION

120

- 8. Janis Creste
Son of the famous Latvian Natural Science teacher. Arrested by the NKVD and was never heard from.
- 9. Valdemars Petersons
Member of Hahn's first anti-communist resistance group in Jelgava. Now a doctor in Sidney Australia.
- 10. Mrs. Janson
Hahn's Godmother, wife of the Latvian ship-owner Janson. Both were deported in 1941.
- 11. Professor Birkhans
Deported by the Russians in 1941.
- 12. Judge Teikmans
Deported in 1941.
- 13. Druggist Cerbulis
Now in the United States.
- 14. Pavils Vipers
(Boris and Roberts Vipers were father and grandfather of Pavils, though it was not remembered which was the former and which was the latter.) Boris was professor of History and Roberts professor of Art at the University of Riga, having arrived in Latvia in 1920. The entire family managed to infiltrate Latvia so far that they were though of very well, attended numerous social functions, and were considered to be excellent scientists. There were two sons in the Vipers family, Juris and Pavils. Juris studied languages at the University of Riga and Pavils studied forestry in the Academy in Jelgava. Two or three years ago, Pavils' brother, Juris, was mentioned in the Communist newspaper Cina as having given some speech regarding the Latvian SR Theatre. When the Communist affiliation of the Vipers family came out into the open, the acquaintances and friends were extremely surprised about their ideology, which they had certainly been able to hide during all the pre-occupation years with great success.
- 15. Janis Jekabsons
Now in Australia
- 16. Aizsargi

SECRET
SECURITY INFORMATION

Translation: Home Guard. Originally organized in the '20's and consisted primarily of farmers. In 1934, this organization was instrumental in aiding its chief, Alfreds Berzins, in executing a "coup d'etat" in conjunction with the Latvian dictator, Karlis ULMANIS, and his right-hand man, General JANIS BALODIS.

17. A. Talcis

Chief of a rest camp for influential Communists and writers in 1940 in Latvia; the camp was known as RAKSTINIEKU PILS (the writers' castle). Talcis, at present, is the author of articles appearing in CINA.

18. Vera Kacena

Political organizer in the University of Riga in 1940/41. At present, she is a correspondent for CINA.

19. fnu Gildermanis

Political organizer in University of Riga, 1940/41.

20. Uldis Priede

Retreated to Russia in 1941 with the Soviet forces and returned with them in 1944. At present, he is a famous painter in Latvia.

21. fnu Sapiro

Was of a good family in Riga, had expressed pro-Communist sympathies, was a pianist in the Riga Conservatory.

22. Ilja Hanins

Of a rich Latvian family; was a good violinist, studied in France. During Russian occupation studied agriculture. Supposedly was an informant. Hanins, as an orchestra leader, was under Hahn and was convinced Hahn was a good Communist. Later shot by the Germans.

23. Stanislavs Gulis

From Latgale; was a candidate for the Party.

24. Jazeps Lipskis

From Latgale, was a candidate for the Party.

25. A. Kravis

Studied architecture in Riga. In the fall of 1944, left Kurzeme for Sweden. Worked in Jönköping as an architect with Lauma, who was said

to have shown pro-Communist tendencies in Sweden. Was a masseur. Went to Canada in 1949. Peculiar circumstances: Prof. P. Kundzins told Hahn that Kravis isn't and wasn't Communist.

26. Velta Cukaine

Was professor of philology in Riga University. Was an attractive woman, the mistress of Paul Vipers. Remained in Riga, and according to Hahn, went around with German officers, no doubt as an assignment for the Communists.

27. Monita Reksane

Was from the Riga University. Was caught by Germans in Communist underground work and shot. Distant relative of Valdemars, who says she was only black sheep in family.

28. (fnu) Pauluks

From the Art Academy.

29. Janis Mikelsons

Chief of all rest areas and camps. He retreated with Russians in 1941 and returned in 1942. Arrested by Germans and sent to Valmieras Ersatzgefängnis where Hahn was already imprisoned. After Valmieras jail was liquidated, Mikelsons was sent to Salaspils concentration camp and not heard of since.

30. Prof. Pauls Galenieks

Today is in the faculty in Riga. Was a botany lecturer at that time, also a deputy to Russian Soviet Council. Was a fanatic Communist who truly believed ideology. In early February 1941, he called Hahn to him and ordered him and another man named Goldins to report to the city executive committee at the former city hall. Talks with Galenieks were short and Hahn felt that Galenieks felt odd. In answer to why he must report, Galenieks replied he did not know, possibly some job must be done, but he'd find out.

31. Melnikovs

Chief of Jelgavas ^{Latvia} ~~cheka~~. Spoke fair Latvian, with a Russian accent. Rumor is that he is from Latgale. Interrogated Hahn for 3 hours. Two points which Melnikovs did not like about Hahn were his membership in the "Celanijs" and his activity within the "Mazpulks". After a half-hour wait, Melnikovs returned and told Hahn to go, he would be notified later.

32. Edvins Bumanis

SECRET
SECURITY INFORMATION

123

Was a law student. Arrested by Russians in April or March 1941.

33. Hugo Vergs

Was a veterinarian student. Arrested by Russians in March or April 1941.

34. Janis Vanags

Was a veterinarian student in Riga. After end of the war, it appeared that Vanags was a member of Rikards group, the (Swastika League). During German Occupation, he was chief of 1st. precinct of Kuldiga Police. Left this post in fall of 1944 and went to Sweden, where he worked in Upsala in brick-production, then in library archives. Went to Canada in 1948.

35. A. Jakans

Chief of Communist-sponsored student professional organization. Arrested during German Occupation. Gave Hahn a reference about his work in Academy with which he was able to go to Agricultural Commissariat.

36. (fnu) Stein

Was Personnel Chief of Agricultural Commissariat who gave Hahn an order to Peternieki Experimental Station that he be employed. Was a Social Democrat, arrested during German Occupation.

37. (Prof) Konrad

Was the Chief of the Peternieki Experimental Station. Is now in Riga Academy, is an expert on canalization and a lecturer. Konrad believed Hahn to be a Communist observer and seemed against him.

38. Indulis Grosskopfs

A graduate of French Lyceum. Has a sister called Laima. Beginning of May 1941, Mitievics introduced him to Hahn as a new underground organ leader. At that time was chief of a civilian anti-aircraft unit in support of military anti-aircraft OSOAVIACHIM. It developed that he had connections with the Kirsis group which consisted of members of the riding club at the University of Riga. He gave Hahn the assignment to spread instructions among the farmers on how to protect themselves from deportation, theft of property, etc. Set up a meeting with Hahn and his co-workers when they were supposed to receive instructions sent from Germany on sabotage, military resistance. Instructions did not arrive and project was abandoned. During last meeting with Hahn in the middle of May 1941, expressed fear to him that Chelka (NKVD) was on his trail, and that he wouldn't be able to get away despite his high position. He did not appear for the next meeting, and Hahn determined from his sister, Laima, that he had been arrested somewhere on the outside.

SECRET
SECURITY INFORMATION

39. Valdemars Librechts

The son of the owner of one of Hahn's safe houses at Kr. Barona St. in Riga. Enlisted by Hahn in his group gathering information on Russian troop movements.

40. Ilvars Kilevics

Member of Latvian Legion and a doctor. Active in Hahn's group gathering information on Russian troop movements - May-June 1941 - in Riga. Was last in Berlin.

41. Bruno Smits

Was active in Hahn's group in Riga, gathering information on troop movements - May-June 1941. Was last heard of in Esslingen, but present whereabouts are unknown. Hahn thinks he works for us.

42. Romans Sternbergs

Was active in Hahn's group in Riga, gathering information on Russian troop movements - May-June 1941. He remained in Kurzeme and was caught by the Russians after the war.

43. Karlis Rusovs

A famous champion shot, who remained in Latvia. Was hidden at a "Pioneer" Summer Camp (Communist Youth Group) in Lielupe by Sternberg in June 1941.

44. (fnu) Boris

Member of the Swastika League. During German Occupation was a Riga School Inspector. Came to Germany. Was one of men hidden at the "Pioneer" Camp.

45. Janis Candars

Was an engineer. Is now in the U.S. Was one of men hidden at the "Pioneer" Camp.

46. Visvaldis Dzelzitis

Was an engineer. Is now in the U.S. Was one of men hidden at the "Pioneer" Camp.

47. Georgs Punnenovs

Was one of men hidden at the "Pioneer" Camp. Is now in Sweden in the

~~SECRET~~
SECURITY INFORMATION

48. Harijs Krievins

Member of the Latvian Legion. Remained in Latvia. Was one of men hidden at the "Pioneer" Camp.

49. Olgerts Czols

Is now a doctor in Tasmania. Was one of men hidden at the "Pioneer" Camp.

50. Teodors Zedins

Is now in Sweden. Approached by Hahn and friends and asked to act as leader of operation to strip 2 Russian Supply Trains in June 1941.

51. Anu Lambert

An old Swastika League member. He accompanied Hahn to the Headquarters of the Swastika League after Hahn's organization disbanded.

52. Swastika League

53. Aleksanders Mittenbergs

Was an engineer, is now in the U.S. Was an assistant to Rikards, whose group issued orders for all the opposition work done during the Communist Occupation. Hahn submitted a report of all his activities in Jelgava and Riga to him.

54. Julij Driva (or) (Druva)

Was a member of the Farmers Union. Died in the U.S. Was investigated by the Swastika League "Sandergruppe R" as a possible enemy of the S.W.

55. Arturs Kroders

Was an editor, is now in Sweden. Was investigated by the Swastika League "Sondergruppe R" as a possible enemy of the S. W.

56. Capt. T. Steinbergs

Was later in charge of the Traffic Bureau under the Germans. Investigated by Sandergruppe R."

~~SECRET~~
SECURITY INFORMATION

SECRET
SECURITY INFORMATION

57. fnu/Arajs

Was head of Swastika League "Sandergruppe A" during German Occupation. Was assigned to executions of Jews and Communists. Was always drunk.

58. Aleksanders/Vilumsons

Was a
Member of the 5-man student group organized by SW League for purpose of reaping the harvest of farmers who had been deported. Worked 2 months and reaped and took care of 4 farms in Tukums vicinity. Left for Riga, end of September, and registered with SW League to join a Latvian National-----but Germans did not agree to it. Was later in "SD" in Minsk. He remained in Kurzeme.

59. (Capt.) Rudolfs/Verdemanis

Is now in Sweden. Was the chief of a Latvian Officers Union organized within a section of the "Latvian Card File," under Rickard. It seems to Hahn they were being used as a Latvian Army core which would be activated at the proper moment. They had a secret assignment and function.

60. (1st Lt.) Parups

Is now in the U.S. Was a member and secretary of the Officers Union.

61. (1st Lt.) Fredrichs/Lucis

Is now in the U.S. or Canada. He was a member of the Officers Union.

62. (1st Lt.) Arvids/Endzins

Was a member of the Officers Union. He was killed in the Legion.

63. Harijs/Maldonis

Was a member of the Antisemitic Institute which was in the same building as the R group, Card File, but divorced from it. He stayed in Latvia.

*64. Nuntauts/Plaukis

Was the son of Prof. Plaukis. He stayed in Latvia. He was a member of the Antisemitic Institute.

*65. (Gen.) Dankers

Headed the Latvian Internal and Indigenous Quisling Organization (General Direktion des). When the SW League Card File was outlawed by the German Army in December 1941, Celmins left it and joined the General's organization.

SECRET
SECURITY INFORMATION

66. Janis Antravs

Was a former Latvian Supreme Court Justice. He had been forced to be an informant by the Cheka (MKVD) during the Russian Occupation. Upon interrogation by Hahn, he admitted cooperation with the Cheka and wrote a long, detailed narrative regarding his recruitment, meetings, and activities. He remained in Latvia and Hahn heard in 1947 that he had hung himself.

67. fnu Metra

Director of the Latvian Political Police (perhaps the SD section) in Jelgava during the German Occupation. Was a member of the SW League. He kept F. Rikardu notified of German activities and plans in Jelgava and Zemgale. I have heard, but do not recall from who, that Metra had investigated the V. Lamberga matter during the German Occupation. In connection with which there was found an order from the Jelgava NKVD Director Melnikov stating that V. Lamberg was useless for collecting information and should be arrested and deported with his family. As far as I know, Metra went from Germany to Canada or the U.S. In connection with

I hesitate to give my endorsement for V.

Lamberg.

68. Martins Balodis

Was a Lieutenant in the Latvian Army. A Latvian "Kartabelas" worker. In the early part of 1942 was ordered to the SD III section in Riga on Reimersa Street. In the last of 1942 he voluntarily joined the Latvian Police Battalion. Together with his wife Norn he was a member of the Church movement. His eventual fate is not known. (He was later in the Legion.)

69. fnu Mrs. Alps

Was the wife of Janis Alps who was "Kriminalinspector" during the German Occupation. Worked in the SD III section (Kartotekas Apaksnodala) in 1942, as a typist. The Director was "Hauptscharfuhrer" Fritz Grimm.

70. fnu Mrs. Vidins

Was a typist in the SD III section in 1942 under the Director Kempfen. According to Valdemars information, her husband who had been deported to Russia in 1941, was located in 1948 at the Salikamsk mines, in a slave labor camp.

71. fnu Mazprenciaks

Was one of the first Latvians to work for SD III in Riga in 1941. He left this work about the middle of 1942.

SECRET 128
SECURITY INFORMATION

72. Vilis Bems

Entered the Riga Grammar School #2 in the fall of 1933, which he left in the following year. He worked in the SD III section in 1942, in the Information branch. The Director was Wolprecht. In the end of 1944 and beginning of 1945, worked for Ventspils SD. He stated that he had left his mother (possible sister) in Riga.

73. fnu Rodums

In 1941 was a Latvian "Kartotekas" worker in the property appropriation section. In July 1941

After this he worked in the SD III section. He was one of those that gathered compromising material about the "L. K." In the beginning of 1944 he was one of the founders of the pro-German political organization "Lidumnieki". In the end of 1944 was in the "SS Yogdverband Ost" in Germany, directing the Latvian political section.

74. Olgerts Dreimanis

Attended Riga grammar school #2, 1933 to 1938, then studied Jurisprudence in the Latvian University. Was a member of the "corporation", "Letlonia". Was a Latvian "Kartotekas" (Card file) worker in 1941. In the beginning of 1942 went to the SD III section. In March 6, 1943 he was imprisoned but was quickly freed and continued to work in the above-named section. After the capitulation he was in the free zone in Germany from which he emigrated in 1948 to Australia with his wife Gerdu.

75. Leons Purnalis

Worked for SD III section in 1942. After the capitulation was in Sweden, where in 1946, ostensibly on the orders of the former Criminal Police Commissioner, A. Szolima, he gathered information about Latvian refugees in Sweden.

76. fnu Briedis

Was a worker in SD III in 1942.

77. fnu Zarins

Directed a group of interrogation officials (consisting of 6-8 Latvians) in the SD III in 1942.

78. Bruno Bekas

Finished Riga Grammar School #2 in 1937.

SECRET
SECURITY INFORMATION

Was a lieutenant in the Latvian Army. In 1942 worked as an interrogation official in Zorin group (M 77). Was in the Latvian Legion later on.

79. Janis Bankavs

Son of the journalist, F. Bankava, who was deported in 1941. From 1933 to 1938 attended Riga Grammar School #2. Later was a student at the Latvian University. In 1942 was an interrogation official in the Zorin group (M 77). Joined the Latvian Legion in 1943 and rose to rank of lieutenant. Commanded a company in the battle of Kurzeme. Disappeared after the Capitulation. (Information by Valdemar).

80. fnu Petersons

Finished French Lyceum in Riga. Studied in Latvian University. In 1942 worked as an interrogation official in Zorin's group (M 77). Was a DP in Germany after the capitulation. In 1948 left Germany for Sweden, where he studies in Stockholm. Is a member of a "corporation" probably "Lettonia."

81. ffnu Didrichsons

Studied agricultural teaching in the Latvian University, later in the Yelgava Agricultural Academy. In 1941 worked in the Araja group. In 1942 was an interrogation official in the Zorin (M. 77) group.

82. fnu Geide

Worked in SD III in 1942. He was a "white-German."

83. fnu Popovs

Was a Russian.

8 During German Occupation worked for SD (possibly V section); the Director was STEDRY. Played a particular part in the "Latvian Kartatckas" organization. In 1943 he married my former school-mate Leonbarda Kuzina's sister (she now works as an architect in Dormstat). According to L. Kuzinass information, Popovs was dropped by the Germans by parachute in end of 1944 in White-Russia and has not been heard of since.

84. fnu Lukins

A white-German. During the German Occupation worked in SD V (?)

Later he went to a sanatorium as a TB patient.

85. fnu von Medem

During the German Occupation was a commissar (Gebietskommissar) in the Zemgale "apgabalns" (district) with a seat in Jelgava. After the Russian breakthrough in Jelgava in late July 1944, he fled in panic. (There were rumors that the Latvian Legionnaires had shot him while escaping.)

86. Himmlers and Nedems proposals regarding German colonization of Latvia.

87. Ernests Erastins

(Worshippers of God)

Was a painter and a philosopher. Founded the "Dievturu" organization which strove to revive the ancient Latvian religious cult. In 1940 after the Russian invasion of Latvia, was one of the first ones to be imprisoned.

88. Ernests Nagobads

Was the director of Riga Grammar School #2 from about 1932 to 1944. He was an historian. Member of the "Zemnieku Savienibas" (Farmers Union). Was a lecturer at the "corporation" Talavijs. After the capitulation was a DP in Germany. Was a school director in the Esslingen Latvian refugee camp. He was a noted pedagogue who taught his pupils an intense patriotic spirit. Was a great admirer of French culture.

89. Bruno Kalnins

1942 g. Latviesu Kartoteka no savas puses veda par vinu izzimi; I remember that this resulted in F. Rikards advocating to SD that he be freed lest the restless Latvian labor be aroused. After Bruno Kalnins was freed from jail, he lived in Riga until the summer of 1944, when the Germans arrested him again and sent him to the Stettin concentration camp. After the capitulation in the fall of 1945, he appeared in Sweden, where he works for the Government as a Baltic affairs expert. He was one of the founders of the "LCP" during the middle of 1943. Was the director of the "LCP" in Sweden. Is the head of the Latvian Social Democrat Party left wing. He does not try to reach an understanding with the right-wing immigrants because he expects that after the liberation of Latvia there will be a majority of leftists and fellow traveler elements,

He is a friend and ideological brother of the British left-wing labor leader Bevan. He is a Marxist.

90. Bruno Rugins

Was a friend of Neparts. He remained in Latvia and was, unwittingly, most at fault in delivering into German hands the covert aims and

activities of Rikards group, thereby contributing to its downfall. Rugens was blamed for being too indiscreet and too trusting toward Popovs an SD informant. In the end of 1944 or beginning of 1945, Rugens helped to organize the Kurzeme Partisans. After the end of the war, Rugens returned to Riga where he lived with his father on MIERA iela (street). Rugens father was a foreman at the rubber factory Varonis. In 1948 Valdemars stated that he met Rugens' wife in Ventspils after the war in 1945. She informed Valdemars that her husband had turned communist. Regarding this, Hahn expressed his doubts to Valdemar, who agreed, that no doubt Rugens had been able to cover himself well and that his wife's statements were probably prejudiced because Rugens had deserted her.

91. Frenner, fmu (1st Lt.)

Was chief of the SD unit in Valmiera from 1943 to the middle of 1944, at which time he was transferred to position of chief of the Talsi SD unit. Frenner gained fame as a very brutal individual whose unit was later called MURDKOMMANDO FRENNER (Murder Detail, Frenner). After the cessation of hostilities, Frenner and his unit hid in the woods in the vicinity of Alsung, where they were shortly surrounded by the Russians who killed them all except Johann Burda, whose true last name is not known, but whose real first name was Hans.

92. Sanis Valins

Is now in Australia; was a former Latvian champion speed-walker who still holds several world speed-walking records. Was possibly a member of the Perkonkurts (Swastika League).

93. Dsenitis, fmu (Lt. Col.)

In 1944 with the Germans' permission was the head of the reactivated "Aizsargu" (militia) organization. In the fall of 1944, he maintained his staff in Kurseme, Edale. He tried to get to Sweden but he was not successful in this, since in connection with the transferral of the leadership of the L.C.P., he had been designated an undesirable person in Sweden. After the capitulation, he worked as a brewery worker near Kuldigas, using another name.

94. Rudolfs Turks

Was a barrister at law. During the German occupation was a member of the "SS" Court. After the "Aizsargi" organization were reactivated in 1944, he was the commanding officer of the Communication Battalion of the 5th Riga regiment of "Aizsargi." As such, he was formally considered the chief of the "PPS" but actually he was not. After the fall of Riga in the fall of 1944, he appeared in Liepaja where he issued the newspaper "Tivija" (fatherland). He tried to assume the task of directing the organizing of partisans but ran up against the

resistance of the Chief of the Latvian Operation Staff, V. Yankava, of the S.S. Jagdverband Ost. After the capitulation, he appeared in Sweden, where he directed the newspaper "Latvijas Vards" (Latvian Word). On my arrival in Sweden, he tried to convince me that he was my chief and in this way attempted to secure all information on the Kurzeme Partisans from me which I refused him. About 1946, he left Sweden for Norway, then to Holland, later went to Germany, is now in the U.S.

95. Aleksandrs Akmentins

Was a radio engineer (called "Professor"), was lecturer on technical radio subjects at the Latvian University until the summer of 1944. In the fall of 1944, he worked at "PPS" building radio sets and recruiting operators who were installed in the Vidzemes Partisan groups. He found himself under the control of a tough Frontanflaum Trupp 212, but despite this, he continued, and shortly before the fall of Riga, he disappeared. He was imprisoned in Gen. Kurala headquarters at Dumdagas "Annahute" where he was personally interrogated by the SD Commandant D. Lange. After this he was joined to the Latvian Operation Staff of the SS Yagtverbund Ost. At the end of 1944, he was ordered from Russia to Germany to build the main radio station for the Yagtverbund. He returned from there in April 1945. He devised the signal-plan system for the SS Yagtverbund Latvian Operation Staff. After the capitulation he managed to keep 10 radio-sets. He tried to join the PPS group in the woods but through some misunderstanding was unable to make contact and in May 12, 1945, he was detained by the Russians at the Edales building. His apartment in Riga, in the fall of 1945 was still a ceka (NKVD) trap. According to the latest information, from Latvia, he is now working in Riga "VEF" as a construction engineer. His wife was in a Western zone in Germany in 1945 where she was trying to locate her husband through newspaper advertisements.

96. Krisjanis Kronins

Was a Latvian "Kartatikas" (Rikard's group) worker from 1941 to March 6, 1943. In the fall of 1944, he was a PPS worker in Vidzeme. In October 1944, together with his wife Martu, he attempted to escape to Sweden. In the beginning of December 1944, he was arrested by the SD on suspicion of trying to escape to Sweden. Due to my intervention, he was freed December 31, 1944. After this, he worked until the capitulation in the Ventspil SD, in the section combatting Russian partisans, directed by Hauptsharfuhrer Sutter. He meanwhile carried out PPS assignments unofficially. After the capitulation, he tried in vain to find the "P.P.S." central communication bunker near Lielirbes. He was detained twice by Russian "combing-patrols" but managed to escape. He wanted to join Puses partisan group, but, probably in connection with this, he was arrested for treason. According to Valdemars' information, his wife is living with her mother in Krimuldas pagasta (district).

97. Edgars Ermanis

Was a chauffeur by profession. He was a companion of Valdemars during his service in the Latvian Army and the Territorial Korps. Worked for FPS in the fall of 1944. In October 1944, he decided to escape to Sweden, and together with his family (wife, child and wife's parents), he arrived at the shore of Zemkalves. After the capitulation, he was detained in the "filtration," but was soon freed, together with Valdemars. He worked in Riga as a truck driver and was earning at the end of 1945 about 40,000 rubles a month. According to Valdemars' information in 1948, he was the Latvian champion at the motorcycle races. His father-in-law is named Lebegevs, nationality Russian, occupation tailor. He participated in the fight for the freedom of Latvia and was presented with the "Laiplesa" (Bear-killer).

98. Major General Jekeln

The highest police and SS director in "Ostland." He directed the Gen. Kurala liquidation. This group is responsible for the extermination action in the beginning of December 1945, when they burned down five homes in the Zleku "pagast" (county) and killed all the inhabitants, stating that this was his farewell to the Latvians. After this, he was elevated to a higher position in Berlin. After the capitulation, he was given to the Russians as a war-criminal who publicly hanged him in Riga in the "Vianibas lankuma" (Union Square) in the Esplanade.

99. Provisional Government

It became known in Riga in September 1944, that the Estonians had shortly before the fall of Tallinn managed to set up a temporary provisional government. (They did this with the assistance of the Estonian Legionnaires who fought off German attempts to interfere). In connection with this, there were held secret conferences in Riga to consider a similar step. It was expected to come to a realization September 28, 1944. After discussions with the Legions' leaders, it was decided that on this day the Legion would arrive in Riga (making this move as a rotation from the Vidzemes to the Kurzemes fronts) and take up stations near the Radio Station at the Main Post Office, gain control and send out this Proclamation to the world. Among others, the Provisional Government was to contain: (Professor) MARTINS FRIMANIS - Cultural Minister; (Lt. Col.) DZENITIS - War Minister; agriculturalist JANIS ANDERSONS - Agriculture Minister. This project failed because DZENITIS, while drunk, had revealed the plan to some unauthorized persons. The Germans had found out about it and removed several of the prospective Ministers to Germany (F. Anderson, M. Frimani). They transferred the Latvian Legion to Kursene much later, not allowing it to stop in Riga.

100. Karlis Rusovs, Janis Rusovs and Peteris Rusovs

Brothers from Jaunpiebalgas pagasts (county). They were expert riflemen. Karlis Rusovs was Romana Sternberge's schoolmate in the Riga Teachers Institute and was later a teacher. A short time before the Germans arrived in 1941, they were hiding in the pioneer settlement on

the shore-front of Riga at Lielupe under the leadership of R. Sternberg. In the fall of 1944, all three brothers prepared themselves for a partisan life in the Jaumpiebalgas forest, building bunkers for their families and cattle. PPS sent them a radio set and an operator. Neither during the time of Kurzemes Prison nor after the capitulation was anything heard of their fate.

101. Edgars Ermanis

See No. 97.

102. Raimonds Silarajs

Was a student of Architecture at the Latvian University in the same class as TEODORU JANSONU. During the German Occupation, was in the SD service. In the fall of 1944, he was invited by the Germans to assist in organizing the SS Jagdverband Ost in the Latvian sector. In September 1944, he and about 30 Latvians went to Berlin for this purpose. He appeared in Kurseme in the beginning of October 1944 with the SS Jagdverband Ost Latvian Operations Staff as the director of the political section with rank of lieutenant. About November 1944, he arrived in Danzig, together with a Latvian unit that was scheduled to be dropped behind Russian lines at Vidseme or Latgale, at the jump-training school. Here, during a drunken brawl, he was shot and killed by some Estonian.

103. (Lt.) Augis

A furloughed lieutenant of the Latvian Army. He was one of the first to finish the Latvian War College. He was the owner of a Watermill in Edales pagasta (county) and was the commander of the Edales Aissarg (militia). He was the director of the PPS organized partisan groups in Edale. (According to the Plan he was considered the Commander of the Southern part of the Ventspils district.) He sheltered and fed a great number of refugees in his Mill. After the capitulation, he was arrested for treason and sent to Russia. In the fall of 1945, he wrote from [] that he hoped to be able to return the beginning of winter.

104. Juris Grinvalds

Was the manager of in Zuru pagasta (county) in Ventspils district in 1944, 1945. (His father had escaped to Sweden in 1944). In 1941, he was arrested by the Russians and was in Riga Central Prison, when the Germans occupied Riga. The cell in which he was imprisoned was the only one that escaped getting shot when the Russians fled. He helped the PPS organize a partisan group in Zuru pagast. In the spring of 1945, he declined leadership, hoping the Russians would permit him to live; in this connection, he strove to maintain good relations with the local communists. After the capitulation, he was arrested by the Russians. (News item from Latvian Government Press: The Government has discovered a Mr. Grinvalds

in the Zuru pagasta near Piltenes, who had several sons, and recently (August 1945) they transported all their produce to the woods in order to support the partisan movement. It is known that they bought arms from the German Army and were preparing to fight as partisans*.)

105. fnu Senkovskis

Was Government Secretary in Puzes pagast, Ventspils district. He was the leader of the PPS organized partisan group in Puzes. After the capitulation he was left in his Secretary post by the Russians until about the end of May. Then, together with his group which had met in the woods, he was surrounded and arrested for treason.

106. fnu Zuinacs

Was the police chief in Popes county, Ventspils district. He was the leader of the PPS organized partisan group in Popes county. After the capitulation, he and his group took to the woods. But later, believing one of his relatives Communist promises, he came out. He was arrested and sentenced to 25 years.

107. Valdemars Marklins

In Latvian times was the Elder in the Rezeknes district. In 1944, 1945 he was the Elder in Ventspils district. As such, he greatly helped the PPS organization in its work in Kurzeme. He lived together with the Latvian Chess Champion Mrs. PETROVA (who remained in Russia in 1941). This woman lived in Riga after the capitulation and had told Mrs. MARIJAI STIPRAIS (my father's brother's wife) that she had seen me in a truck under guard by the ceka (NKVD) (Valdemars' information). He participated in the "Tantas Padomus" delegate convention on May 7, 1945, in Kuldiga, but on May 8, 1945, tried to reach Swedenbyboat. He was caught by Russian motor-boats and taken to Klaipedu, from there transferred to Ventspils prison, then to Riga's Central Prison.

108. Osvalds Bileskalns

(recognized by the name OSIS). Was an agricultural student. He worked in the anti-Communist underground as early as 1940 and 1941, during which time he managed to secure a responsible position in some Government Agency in Riga, whose chief was AUGUSTS DELOVS. During the German Occupation he worked in "O.M.B.H. Ostland Fasergesellschaft." In 1944 and 1945 he was one of the most able and energetic workers in the illegal boat traffic to Sweden. At this time he was formally considered the Plenipotentiary of the "Dzintarkrasts" association in Kurzeme. When, in the end of 1944, no more boats came from Sweden, he organized on his own initiative the escape to Sweden of the largest group of refugees on the ship "Zvejnieks." He was not satisfied with the mode of operation of the "LCP" towards the refugees and that they showed no regard or support for their supporters left in Latvia and did not have any plans for the expected future struggle.

He had decided to remain in Latvia, as he still had very good relations with Communist circles, and he hoped that he could continue to play the double role. He had discussed methods of contact with the "PPS" in the event of a second Russian Occupation. On May 8, 1945, he attempted to reach Sweden with a boat caravan from Ventspils but was caught by the Russians. He was sent to Klaipeda and later to Russia for reconstruction work. On returning to Latvia, he received comparatively safe work; he is the Chief of Valtera. He has married and his wife is in Sweden whereas she lives in poor circumstances. After the capitulation, he married for the second time. In 1944 and 1945, two able workers in the boat traffic were the SIGOLDES sisters (one of whom was studying medicine); they were also caught by the Russians and taken to Klaipeda, and then released.

109. Karlis Frišenfelds (also known as FRIŠINS or KARLIS)

One of the principal helpers in the port refugee-smuggling work in Kurzeme in 1944 and 1945. He was an energetic and persevering lad. He was imprisoned in the last of 1944 by the SD, was tortured but without results and freed. He was also opposed to the L.C.P. actions ("The leadership escapes, not thinking about the fight."). After the capitulation, he was arrested near Yurkalves on May 13, 1945, and taken to Riga. According to Valdemars' information, he was in a concentration camp in Russia in 1948, from which it was possible to buy him out. He is married. His wife, Vera, who left in the fall of 1944, is in Stockholm, Sweden.

110. Imu Nadolskis

Was a football player from Ventspils. Was Oswald Bileskalns helper in smuggling refugees in Kurzeme in 1944, 1945. Was a member of the PPS organized Ventspils-Ventas county partisan group. According to agreement, he was to remain in Kurzeme and assist in the operation of the illegal printing-press. In May 8, 1945, he attempted to reach Sweden in a boat caravan from Ventspils, but was caught by the Russians and taken to Klaipeda, later to slave-labor work in Russia. He is married; his wife, Valda, and two children fled to Sweden before the capitulation. Later, in the summer of 1949, together with VILI VZVANICAJU, they arrived in Toronto, Canada, and married there. In the first part of 1949, news was received in Sweden that Nadolskis had escaped and returned to Latvia.

111. Džons Valdmanis

Was one of the closest workers assisting Oswald Bileskalns in smuggling refugees from Kurzeme in 1944, 1945. (Popular trio: Osis, Karlis, Džon). In this work, he is said to have accepted gifts. With the help of a PPS worker, he acquired the certification of the SS Jagdverband-Ost. After the capitulation, he lived for a short time in Sweden, working in the Sebra-Ozolina group. In 1946, he emigrated to U.S. where he died in 1952.

112. Atis Kriškans

Was a chief in the Latvian Army. In the fall of 1944 was the Commanding Officer of the Headquarters detachment of Gen. Kurelis group. After its liquidation, he was a fugitive in Kurzeme. In the spring of 1945, he was accepted in the "PPS" movement and enrolled in its armed group as a radio-telegrapher. After the capitulation, together with other "PPS" workers, he started from Kuldigas for Lielirbi, but separated May 13, (He wanted to get to Lielirbe where his wife waited, quicker by traveling the roads on a bicycle) and disappeared without a trace. He was a shady, indistinct person. The suspicion remained that he helped in the liquidation of the Gen. Kurelis group, since he was a great friend of the German Major ARNDT in Spare who directed the capture of Gen. Kurela headquarters.

113. Lt. Grigors (fnu)

During German Occupation, was a worker for the Ventspils police. In September 1944, he was sent with about 30 Latvians to Berlin where the SS Jagdverband Ost. Latvian Operation Staff was organized. In October 1944, he returned to Kurzeme and began recruiting people in the Ventspils district for the SS Jagdverband. He was arrested in November 1944 by the SD for misappropriation of funds and placed in Ventspils prisons, from which he was released shortly before the capitulation.

114. Peteris Samsons (nickname "Black Peter")
(Melnaiss Peteris)

Was a police captain, formerly a high police official in Jelgava. He was a worker in the Gen. Kurela group. After the liquidation of this group, he founded "VIESTURA STRELNIKUS" which united within it the remaining members of the Gen. Kurelis group and made preparations for partisan activity against the Russians. He was very energetic and an excellent organizer. In the anticipated Partisan activities, he was to be concerned with the Zieku Rayon (area). After the capitulation, he voluntarily appeared at the Kuldigas "filtering" station because his brother, who was much younger, was detained there, and he did not want to leave him to the wolves. At the station, he was pointed out as a police official in Jelgava and was arrested. According to Valdemars' information, in 1948, there was a partisan group active in Ziekas called "MEINAISS PETERIS" (Black Peter). It could be possible that it is being led by P. Samsons.

115. Ernests Rieksts

Was a teacher. He finished the Jelgava Teachers Institute at the same time as A. Nepar. Together they issued an illegal newspaper in Jelgava (German or Russian occupation). After the Gen. Kurelis group was liquidated, he and P. Samsons organized the "VIESTURA STRELNIKUS" and he was the liaison officer between the "V. STR." and "PPS." In March 5, 1945, as a delegate of the "V.STR.", he illegally entered Sweden, where he came into conflict with the LCP because they were not interested in the welfare of their supporters left in Latvia. He works as a teacher now in Stockholm.

116. fnu Kurmis

Was a teacher. Is the father of the pianist Gunas Kurmes (now Mrs. Edgara Ernstson). Was a member of the "VIESTURU STRELNIKU". In March 5, 1945, together with E. Rieksta he illegally entered Sweden, but contrary to him, he joined the LCP group. He now lives and works in Stockholm.

117. Ingrida Vikane (true name FOGELS, nee RENESLACTS)

Finished the Riga Grammar School #2 in 1938. Studied philology in the Latvian University. During German Occupation, published her first collection of poems. During the time of the Kurzemes fortress, 1944, 1945, was in contact with Dr. Ginteru. In March 5, 1945, illegally entered Sweden from Kurzeme. In 1948 was a candidate for election to the Latvian National Fund in Sweden, running as a member of Prof. Aissilnicks "Nonpartisan" organization. In 1950 was director of the newspaper "Latvja Vards" for a short time. In 1950 she wrote a novel, "Mums jābrien jurā" which was a very good portrayal of Latvians, especially the tragic situation of the Kurelists trapped between the menace of the Germans and Russians. In 1951 together with her husband (member of corporation "Lettania") and two sons, they emigrated to Canada. Now she is the director of "Latvia-in-America," published by the "Daugavus Vanagi." Her parents who stayed in Latvia were writing to her until 1948.

118. Liija Kronbergs

A new generation poet. Maintained contact with Dr. Ginteru during the time of the Kurzeme fortress in 1944, 1945. In March 5, 1945, left Kurzeme for Sweden. In Stockholm she works as secretary to Prof. A. Svābes who is directing the forthcoming "Latvian Encyclopedia." She is a follower of the LCP line.

119. Col. Roberts Osis

Was a Latvian Army Regiment Commander. He commanded the Latvian 19 Division regiment at the Kurzeme front. In the spring of 1945, he was selected by the PPS and the "VIESTURA STRELNIKS" to head the newly-organized Latvian National Partisan Organisation. He declined this post not wanting to leave his regiment. It was anticipated in the beginning of May 1945 that he would be president of the head ministers of the new Latvian Government. After the capitulation, he arrived in the British Zone of Germany from Liepaja. He later went to England. He was considered as an officer with diplomatic status.

120. Maj. E. Stipnieks

A commander of the Latvian 19 Division regiment at the Kurzeme front. In the beginning of 1945, was a member of the Potsdam-founded Latvian National Committee; he concerned himself with the functions of interior minister. After the capitulation, he arrived in the Western Zone of

SECRET
SECURITY INFORMATION

135

122. 1st Lt. Miervaldis Adamsons

A legendary battle leader of the Latvian 19 Division. He was honored with the cavalier-order Iron Cross. In the spring of 1945 it was anticipated (after R. Osis declined) that he would be the director of the SS. Yagdverband Ost, Latvian Operations Staff, but due to a serious wound he was not able to take this post. On the day of the capitulation, May 8, 1945, he remained as the last of the Latvian Legion Generalinspector staff in Liepaja. (Valdemars' information.)

121. Maj. Kocins

Was a commander of the Latvian 19 Division regiment at the Kurzeme front. He is now in a British Zone in Western Germany commanding a Latvian transport unit. He is considered a distinguished war leader and theoretician.

123. Capt. fru Vjerts

During the German occupation was the Head of Tukuma district. In the beginning of 1945, on the instructions of the Latvian National Committee, he organized the Latvian political police in Liepaja and was the real chief for Valdemars. After the capitulation, he appeared in Sweden and from there, in 1946, he went illegally by boat to England. For this he received 3 months in prison.

124. Janis Andersons

Was an agriculturalist. He was one of the directors of the "Mazpulku" organization in the last years of free Latvia. During German occupation was general director of agriculture in the Latvian Self-Government. In the end of September 1944, it was anticipated he would be Agriculture Minister in the new Latvian Government. In October 1944, he arrived in Germany and took a responsible post in the Latvian Refugee Agency. In the spring of 1945, he returned to Latvia, and it was expected that he would be the Agricultural Minister in the newly-founded May 7, 1945, Government. On May 8, he went by boat to Sweden from Liepaja. In Sweden he is the head of the "Kurzemieki" (Kurzemieki are the initiators of the founding of a Government on May 7, 1945 and are supporters of this idea). Since 1948, a member of the advisory board of the Latvian National Fund, elected as a member of the "Nacionāli vienoti latvieši" party. He is one of the most powerful and influential leaders of the right wing, among the Latvians in Sweden. He is a member of the "Zemnieku Savienības" party. (Farmers Union). He is now working in Sweden as an agriculturalist.

125. Aleksandrs Wansons

During German Occupation was the chief of Talsi district in 1942. Became unfortunately famous with the Latvian "Brīvprātīgo" soldier recruitment in 1942. After returning from the front, in 1944/45, he was

SECRET
SECURITY INFORMATION

the elder in Kuldigas district and as such showed a strong Latvian attitude. He assisted the PPS in organizing Partisans. In May 7, 1945, he took part in the "Tantas Padomes" delegate convention in Kuldiga. On May 8, 1945, He tried to escape to Sweden from Ventspils but was unsuccessful. After the capitulation, he worked in Ventspils as a railroad worker.

126. Alberts Freijs

A faculty lecturer on theology at the Latvian University. He was the most prominent representative of the church at Kurzeme fortress. He participated at the "Tantas Padomes" convention May 7, 1945, at Kuldiga as a church representative. After the capitulation, he worked as a preacher (minister) in Riga, but was imprisoned by the MVD. (for further information, see Valdemars' section on "Baznīca" (church)).

127. Janis Jaunberzs

Proprietor of a water-mill in Ikskile. Member of the "Zemnieku Savienibas" party. Father-in-law to the PPS workers Bruno Rugena and Zigurde Zalčana. One of the initiators of the "Tantas Padomes" in May, 1945, in Kurzeme, and one of the delegates to the conference in Kuldiga, May 7, 1945. After the capitulation, he lived in Ventspils with his family (both daughters and their husbands).

128. Janis Berzins

During German Occupation was the Director of the Latvian Statistical Bureau in Riga in the end of 1944. In the beginning of 1945, he was in Kuldiga where this Bureau had been transferred. Was a member of the "Perkonkrusts" (Swastika League). Was a speaker for the corporation "Lettonia." Was a delegate to "Tantas Padomes" May 7, 1945, in Kuldiga. After the capitulation, no news of him.

129. fnu) Cirkelis

One of the foremost leaders of the "Zemnieku Savienibas" during the time of the Kurzeme fortress, 1944/45. Participated in the "Tantas Padomes" convention in Kuldiga in May 7, 1945. Now, I think he is in the U.S.

130. A. Strautmanis

A Journalist and editor. Was a member of the editorial staff of the "Brīva Zeme", official publication of the "Zemnieku Savienibas." During the time of the (Kurzemes cietakms) he was the editor of a newspaper issued in Kuldiga (I don't recall the name). Was a delegate to the "Tantas Padomes" in May 7, 1945. After the capitulation, he went to Sweden, where in 1945, together with Prof. K. Straubergu and J. Andruja, he edited the "Latvju Varda". In 1946, in connection with the denunciations by the left wing Latvians (Bruno Kalnin, etc.) in Sweden, he was expelled from Stockholm. He now works on the editorial staff of Prof. Svabes "Latvju Enciklopedijas."

131. Lt. Julijs Daugavietis

True name DANGA. An aviation officer. He arrived in Kurzeme in the beginning of April 1945 from Berlin with special instructions from SS Jagdverband Ost Headquarters. Until the capitulation he was the assistant to Vl. Yankava, the director of the SS Jagdverband Ost, Latvian Operation Staff.

132. Sgt. Voldemars Benitis

From the neighborhood of Madona. In the fall of 1944 was in the Gen. Kurela group, Lt. Rubena's Battalion, the head sergeant of the 3 Company. Participated in Lt. Rubena Battalion's fight against the Germans. After the dispersal of the Lt. Rubena Battalion in Nov. 18, 1944, he lived illegally in the woods with some Kurelist group near Ugales. In the beginning of 1945, he was imprisoned by the Ventspils SD. In connection with the intervention of a PPS worker, he was freed and put in the post of chief of the "russian partisan activity suppression unit" in Ugales Rayon. At first he was with the SD and later with the Ventspils district police. He worked with the PPS. In April 1945, he functioned as liaison officer between the PPS and some Kurelist group which was operating together with a Russian partisan organization known as the "Sarkana Bulta" (Red Arrow). After the capitulation, he found himself in the "Filteration" camp in Talsas, where he was pointed out as the leader of the Red Partisan Suppression Unit and was imprisoned.

133. fm Vaivars

Head forester in Zlekas. In 1941, before the German Occupation, was active as a National Partisan. After the German occupation commanded a Latvian "pasalzsardzibas" unit in Ventspils district under company commander Karla Lobes. During German Occupation was head forester of Zlekas. In May 8, 1945, tried to escape to Sweden in a boat from Ventspils but the tug-boat "Rota" returned him to Ventspils. On the road from Ventspils to Zleka he was detained by the Russians, and placed in the "filteration" camp, from where he was sent to Moscow to do reconstruction work. In the fall of 1945, he wrote from there, that due to his good knowledge of Russian, he was elevated to brigadier and hoped to be able to return home by the end of the year. His friend Vilis Zvanitajs received word in Sweden in 1947 that he had returned and was living under a different name in Kurzeme.

134. Sasa (Aleksandrs?) Dreimanis

Half-brother of head forester Vaivars. In May 8, 1945, he tried to escape to Sweden by a boat from Ventspils, but was turned back to Ventspils by the tug-boat "Rota". May 12, he got together with the "PPS" workers in the Zleka command, and after that worked as a PPS liaison officer. In the fall of 1945, he worked as a forester of the Bolshevik land reform in Varves county, Ventspils district.

135. fnu Felsbergs

During the German Occupation, was a police worker in Talsa county (as an "Aissargu" commander). After the capitulation, was one of the leaders of the Talsi partisan group. He operated in the Dundagas-Valdemarpils rayon. He is well known by inhabitants of Talsi.

136. (Major) fnu Akmenkalejs

Was an officer in the Latvian Legion in the Kurzeme battle. After the capitulation, was a commander of some partisan group in Talsi. He was regarded by the PPS as the commanding officer of the Latvian National Partisan Organization in Kurzeme. He was the leader of Harija Skobes unit in the Legion.

137. fnu Miroshnikovs

During the German Occupation, was the head forester in Dundaga. In 1944/45, together with his wife Elfridu (born Reinfelds?), they unsuccessfully tried to escape to Sweden. After the capitulation, worked as a head-forester in Dundaga and passed news to the PPS about the movements of the MVD unit (which was located in the same building as the forestry office). He hoped to be able to escape to Sweden with the help of the PPS. Is very nationalistic, especially his wife, who is a good singer. (She appeared as soloist in concerts given by students at the Yelgavas Agricultural Academy). One hand is amputated due to an accident.

138. Emilija Grintals

In 1944/45, worked in Kuldiga as a nurse (diathermy, therapy) on an ambulance. After the capitulation, she wanted to follow the PPS workers into the woods, but she was not allowed to, and worked as a liaison officer. In the beginning of Sept. 1945, she was imprisoned by the Kuldigas MVD, but she escaped and joined a PPS central group in the vicinity of the Vsmas Lake.

139. (Mrs.) Baumanis

The mother of my brother-in-law, Edgar Olina, who died in Jan. 1940. She married a second time to a locksmith named Baumanis. She is about 70 years old. In 1948, she and her husband were still living in Riga's Yurmale, Milluzas (railway station Pumpuri) on Muzikas street. She raised Tagilu, the son of (Dr.) Petera Olina, the envoy to Argentina (now Brazil) who should be about 20 years old now. In the fall of 1945, it was proposed that Tagils would be the liaison between "A.F." and Riga, but he was not utilized. After a conference between Valdemar and "A.F.", it was decided that Tagil Olins would be placed by Valdemar in the Straumenu branch as liaison officer. The proof is lacking whether this was done. Further information could be obtained from Mrs. Merijas Indavins (born OLINS) who lives with her husband, an Italian music professor, in Italy now.

SECRET
SECURITY INFORMATION

140. Julijš Ozolins

My father's brother JANA son-in-law. About 30 years old. In 1940/41 attended Olava commercial school in Riga. He was a "Kamsargs" in his own and another Riga school. In June 1941, he fled with the Russians. In the fall of 1945, he was in Latvia, working with the MVD in Liepaja. His brother Uldis, about 28 years old, in 1952, still lived in my father's house in Vecpiebalgas county, town of Leimana (he is a printer for the publication "Cina")

141. (1st Lt.) Enu Ziedainis

An officer of the Latvian Legion. He was widely known as a battle leader on the Eastern front. He was married. In 1945, after the capitulation, he legalized himself and worked as an agriculturist and leader of "Seklu Centrales" under Petersona direction in Kurzeme, Ventspils district. He organized a good partisan-supporter net in Kurzeme. In October 3, 1945, he was imprisoned by the Ventspils MVD and through torture was brought to a state of complete collapse.

142. (Col.) Rudolfs Opmanis

In the fall of 1945, was in a 6-man partisan group in Kurzeme, Ziru county, SISES forest. Was one of the PPS candidates for the post of commander of the Partisans in Kurzeme. He was rejected because it was found that he had not shown a nationalistic attitude in 1940/41. He didn't have any talent for organization either.

143. Irene Saprasa

Was a doctor, a surgeon. During German occupation was in Riga; after the fall of Riga, was in Kuldiga. After the capitulation, in the Ventspils hospital. Was a close friend of F. Rikardam (believe she participated in F. Rikard's underground organization in 1940/41). Is a friend of the actress Lilija Stengel (now in U.S.) and the opera singer Milda Breckman-Stengel. Was a member of the "Dziesmuvara" choir. In the end of 1944 and the beginning of 1945, she directed the PPS organized sanitary courses (first-aid, care of wounds, etc.) for the organized partisan groups in Kuldigas county. After the capitulation, she worked as a PPS liaison officer, and sent medical supplies to the Partisans in the woods. According to Valdemar's information, in the end of 1945, she was imprisoned in Ventspils together with the child-doctor Ozolu, who supported the partisans also. In the summer of 1949 the newspaper "Cela Zime" published in Sweden an article on partisan activity in Latvia (included in it was the account of Dr. I. Saprasa imprisonment). Her husband who was then in Eastern Germany, wrote the editor, Andrej Gellitin, that the information was not correct, that he had received a letter from her that she was working as a doctor in Riga. (This statement doesn't prove anything, for such a letter could have been written under torture).

144. Alise Lejins (called TANTE in the woods) (Later married OSE.)

The wife of company commander Lejina of the Latvian Army. Is about 55

years old. (The Russians sent her husband to Russia in 1941. In Sweden, in 1950, news was received that he had returned to Latvia.) In 1940/41 she was active in a leader's group of the anti-communist underground which had radio contact with Germany. In 1944 she was the chief of the renewed "Aizsargu" Organization. In 1944/45 she worked for the communications (with Sweden) section of a refugee-smuggling organization. Later, it turned out that in this work, she had had a Swedish Secret Service agent's number. After the capitulation, on May 13, 1945, she and K. Frisenfeld and other workers of the organization were arrested near Yurkalnes. She was taken to Ventspils, where NOVIKS himself arrived from Riga to interrogate her. She was taken to Riga where she spent about 2½ months in the Central Prison and in the cellar of the MVD building on the corner of Brievibas iela and Stabu "iela" (street). In August 1945, she was freed on her promise to furnish the MVD with information on the Latvian Nationalists in Riga. She requested, and got, permission to go to Kurzeme until the end of August, in order to put her affairs in order (she had left her mother and personal property behind in Edoles county, Terandes village). In the middle of August, she established contact with the Lt. Karlis Straumes group. In the end of August, shortly before her furlough was to expire, she joined this group, working as a liaison officer. In the middle of October 1945, she was arrested by the Latvian Militia at the home of Planu, but on the way to Ventspils, she escaped. On October 31, 1945, she arrived in Gotlande, Sweden, in a fishing boat. The Russians tried to extradite her for a criminal offense (misappropriation from the Aizsargu organization) but they were not successful. The Swedish Aizsargu Organization (LOTTA's) offered her work in the archives but she declined it and went to work in the swamp with her former forest brothers. Later working in the metal factory at Hallstahammara where she also lives (Hallstahammara, RALSTAGARD) with her husband, the Latvian Army Captain L.K.C.K. Arvids Ose who is the head of the "Daugavas Vanagu" in Sweden.

145. Velta Skobe

About 30 years old. The wife of Lt. Elmar Skobe (Was married the beginning of 1944 at the Kurzeme front). The daughter of some land-owner in Dabeles. After the capitulation, she followed her husband who was leading a Legionnaire-partisan group in the woods near Yurkalnes. She worked as a liaison officer. After the arrest of Lt. Ziedaini in October 1945, she was imprisoned in Ventspils by the MVD, but escaped. In October 31, 1945, she arrived in Gotlande, Sweden. After her husband was deported from Sweden in the summer of 1947, they went to England. From England, she and her family emigrated to Canada in the end of July 1951, where they live at:

c/o A. STEINBACHS,
2395 DRUMMOND RD.
NIAGARA FALLS
ONTARIO, CANADA.

146. Elmars Skobe (called "SIERAGIMIS" (Cheese face?) in the woods.

about 35 years old. A farmer's son from the vicinity of Rujenas. He served in a Sapper company in the Latvian Army. In 1938 he entered the Latvian University Agricultural faculty in Riga. In the second World War he was a Lt. commanding a Latvian Legion pioneer unit (Specialty: mining and de-mining). After the capitulation, he and some of his most trusted war companions entered the woods and stayed in the vicinity of Yurkalnes with the intention of escaping to Sweden. In the woods, he survived several heavy encounters with the Russians. After his wife escaped from MVD imprisonment in the beginning of October 1945, he assumed the leadership of the refugee smuggling action, which turned out successfully when he landed 16 persons by boat in Gotland, Sweden, in October 31, 1945. In Sweden, he had tried many ways to organize some supporting action to Latvia. After an unfortunate boat accident in Christmas 1946, he was arrested by the Swedish Government Police. He was freed after about 3 months, but without the right to stay in Sweden. In the summer of 1947, he emigrated to England, where he worked at first as a seaman, then as a farm-hand, then various odd jobs in London. Since the early part of 1949, was in the British secret service. In 1950, he learned the trade of dental technician and opened a shop in London. In July 1951, he and his wife and 2 sons emigrated to Canada (address in No. 145). He is a good organizer, and has talents as an actor (had attended actors' courses in Riga).

147. Eriks ROBEZGRUNTNIKS

About 35 years old. The son of a well-to-do Riga family (his father was some sort of high Government official). He finished the Dzēna school in Riga. Then was in the Latvian War College as a Lieutenant. On the Kurzemes front, he commanded an antiaircraft artillery unit with the rank of 1st Lieutenant. After the capitulation, he tried to escape to Sweden from Ventpils but was unsuccessful. Together with his sister's husband, J. Zaleman, he hid in the woods near Ugale, where in the beginning of August 1945, they were found by a FPS group which they joined. In August 5, 1945, on his own request, he was placed in the A.F. group whose assignment was to transfer to Sweden. He arrived in Sweden October 31, 1945. He participated as an assistant to Lt. E. Skobes in the unfortunate boat action to Latvia in Christmas 1946. After being imprisoned for about 3 months, he was released but without the right to remain in Sweden. In the summer of 1947, he emigrated to England where he worked as a seaman. In 1949, he married Astrida ZANDERS. His sister, AINA, and his mother, were ~~returned~~ returned to Latvia from Germany in the fall of 1945. According to Valdemar's information, they were living in poor circumstances after which Aina had married ZALCMANIS. In 1948, she was studying dentistry and working as a dentist's assistant in Riga. E. Robezgruntnieks' brother (don't recall his name) was living in the U.S. Zone of Germany after the capitulation. He learned the dental technician trade and emigrated to the U.S. with his wife (maybe Canada)

148. Karlis Straume (called Atamans in the woods)

A 1st lieutenant in the Latvian Army. About 38 years old. During the German occupation, he worked in the Valmieras police. In the fall of 1944, was sent to Germany with the 15 Division. In April 1945, he returned from there to Kurzeme with the Russian combat group and was stationed in

Lielirbe. After the capitulation, he and 5 members of his unit went to the shore at Sarnates to try to escape to Sweden. In the middle of August 1945, he was united to the PPS (Latvian National Partisan Organization). In October 31, 1945, he arrived in Gotland, Sweden. In the beginning of 1946, he illegally arrived in Germany by boat (together with Lt. TIRZITI and one other) in order to get to his wife who was in the British Zone in Germany. He was imprisoned by the British, later freed. In 1948, he and his family arrived in England. While in the woods, he had been suffering from TB.

150. Roberts Smitmanis (called "Melnais" in the woods)

About 40 years old. In Latvian times was a worker for the railroad police in Riga, in Jana Dimzas unit (was a god-son of the Communist-killed railway police director, Jana Ozolina). During German occupation was in the Latvian police service as a lieutenant. In the fall of 1944 together with the police unit "Riga", he was sent to Germany. In April 1945, he returned from there to Kurzeme with the Rusmana combat group. After the capitulation he went into the woods as a member of the Lt. K. Straumes directed partisan group. In October 31, 1945, he arrived in Sweden where he worked as a metal worker, first in Hallstahamara, then in Eskilstuna. In 1949 he started to organize the "Daugavas Vanagus" in Sweden and is now one of the leaders of the Swedish branch. He is married; his wife and two sons joined him from West Germany in 1946.

151. (Sgt.) Alfreds Ciparsons

About 37 years old. In the fall of 1944, was sent to Germany. In April 1945, returned to Kurzeme with the Lt. Rusmana combat group. After the capitulation, he went to the woods as a member of the Lt. K. Straumes partisan group. In October 31, 1945, he arrived in Sweden, where he worked as a metal-worker in Hallstahamara. In 1949, he married, and moved to Stockholm, where he works in a paper factory. He is a member of the "Daugavas Vanagi."

152. (Cpl.) Peteris Wirsis.

About 35 years old. In 1944 was sent to Germany. In April 1945, he returned to Kurzeme with the Lt. Rusmana combat group. After the capitulation went into the woods as a member of the Lt. K. Straumes partisan group. In October 31, 1945, he arrived in Sweden, where he worked as a metal worker, later as a chemist in Hallstahamara. He is a member of the "Daugavas Vanagi." He is married; his wife who remained in Latvia, is said to have married some Russian.

153. Janis V. Zalcmanis

The son of the Latvian navigator, Martin Zalcman; is about 33 years old. (His father's brother, Janis Zalcmanis, the consul and ship-owner, has been in the U.S. since November 1945). He studied economics in the Latvian University. He is a member of the corporation "Lettonia." During German occupation worked in the "Sabiedusko lietu" department as a secretary to the deputy director, Edmunds Puksh. Later the Latvian Legion war reporter. On the Kurzemes front, was in his brother-in-law's, (Lt.) E. Rabezguintnieks, anti-aircraft unit. After the capitulation, tried to escape to Sweden, but was unsuccessful. Together with his brother-in-law, they hid in the woods in the vicinity of Ugales where in the beginning of August 1945, they were found by a PPS group which they joined. He worked on the partisan paper "Tevzemei un Brivibai." On August 5, 1945, on his own request, he

was joined to the A.F. group whose assignment was to reach Sweden. IN October 31, 1945, he arrived in Sweden. Influenced by his former University physical education teacher, K. Ziverta, he joined the LCP group. For a short time he was the director of the Latvian Relief committee in Hallatahamara, where he worked in a metal factory. But he changed his political beliefs and sought contact with conservative Swedish circles. His articles have been published in the Latvian newspaper "Latvijs" in Germany in recent years. He is married; his wife, Aina, and 2 children arrived in Riga from Germany, October 1945. (See E. Robezguntnieks #147). His father, Martins, tried to escape to Sweden from Ventspils on the day of the capitulation but was unsuccessful. According to Valdemars' information, M. Zalcmans (who had been sent on reconstruction work to Russia, and had worked on excavation of the White Sea Canal) had in 1946, returned to Riga where he had lived with his wife.

154. Vilis Zvanitajs

Was a land-owner in Ventspil district Zirū county. Had been a seaman. Is about 50 years old. During the German occupation was the "elder" of Zirū county. Since 1945 was the Ventspil district "elder's" helper. He was a member of the "Perkonkūsts" (Swastika League). In 1944/45 was a member of the "Aizsarg" organization. He helped the PPS organize National Partisans in Kurzeme. He participated as a delegate (the head of Ventspils "Zemnieki" (farmers) in the "Tautas Padomes" convention in Kuldīga on May 7, 1945. On May 8, 1945, he unsuccessfully tried to reach Sweden from Ventspils on the steamer "Rota". He hid in the woods until he was able to join the Piltēnes partisan group led by police lieutenant Sila. In the middle of June 1945, he took up contact with a PPS group. In August 6, 1945, he joined the "A.F." group with the intention of escaping to Sweden, where he arrived in October 31, 1945. He worked in various jobs there. He tried to organize a boat action to Kurzeme with the help of the U.S. Baptist organization but was unsuccessful. Beginning with 1947, he lived as common-law husband with Valda Nadolska's wife. On July 1949, they left Sweden with the refugee ship "Sarabande" and arrived in Canada, where he settled in Toronto and married Mrs. Nadolska. He published his partisan memoirs in the newspaper "Laiks" issued in U.S.A., which contained many false statements. His first wife, LINA, and daughter, LILJA, remained in Kurzeme where they worked as partisan liaison officers. According to V. Zvanitajs' information, they were arrested and deported in 1946.

155. Janis Krums

About 30 years old. Son of a land-owner of Kaletu county. In the second World War was in the German Army in some unit, which was combating the red partisans in Kurzeme. He also fought on the Valchones front with the Latvian Legion where he was wounded. Shortly before the capitulation was in Lt. E. Skabes unit. After the capitulation he was a member of Lt. E. Skabes partisan group in the vicinity of Yurkalne. In October 31, 1945, he arrived in Sweden where he constantly sought a way to return to Kurzeme to continue the fight. He learned to be a gardening instructor and worked as a bee keeper. In the end of 1948, he joined General Tefferas' group to participate in the boat action to Latvia, as an operator. In February and March 1949, he participated in the training of members of the proposed action but showed poor progress and was not included in the action. After this he worked for some Swedish land-owner in the vicinity of NYKÖPINGA.

156. Sgt. Harijs Skobe 148

About 30 years old. The son of a land-owner near Rujienes. The brother of Lt. E. Skobes. He ~~finished~~ finished agricultural high school in Priekule. In WW II, he fought in the Latvian Legion in Maj. Akmenkaleja's unit. After the capitulation was in his brother's partisan group near Yurkalne. He arrived in Sweden in October 31, 1945, where he worked at various jobs. Lately, he is in Stockholm working as a chauffeur in a dairy (MJÖLKCENTRELEN) and studying architecture in a technical institute. He sings in a Latvian choir, led by T. Reitera in Stockholm. He is a member of the "Daugavas Vanagi." In the end of 1949, he offered to the "A.F." to undertake a mission to Latvia. But in the beginning of 1950, he had changed his mind about this. In the summer of 1951, he wrote the "A.F." that he was able to organize some assistance to their supporters in Latvia and requested the "A.F." signal-plan (probably on the assignment of the British Service). He did not receive any reply to this. Address: ALVIKSVÄGEN 43, BRONMA.

157. Johann Burda (assumed name)

Was called Hans. A German, from Silesia, about 42 years old. During war was in the SD service (he stated that for a while he had been active in München in the ~~xxxx~~ surveillance of a resistance/student group, probably the Schoäl sisters). In Latvia in 1944/45, in the Talsi SD point which was directed by Untersturmführer Premer (see #91). After the capitulation, was in the woods near Alsung with his service companions who were all killed in a battle with the Russians in the woods. He escaped and joined one of Lt. E. Skobes partisan groups led by J. KRUMS. He showed a strong self-sacrificing spirit and that's why, although he was ready to remain in Kurzeme, he was taken along to Sweden. He arrived in October 31, 1945, and gave the assumed name, fearing that he might be deported to Russia. He expressed his readiness to return to Latvia at the first available possibility to fight communism. He worked as a "provizors" 7. In 1949, the right to remain in Sweden was taken from him for his use of an assumed identity.

158. Gregorijs Kikulis

The director of the Latvian Army counter-intelligence staff until the fall of 1939 (time of the establishment of a Russian base in Latvia) when he was appointed the Latvian Military Attache to Sweden. During WW II he worked for the Swedish Secret Service. It is now known that since March 1948, he is again working for them as the director of the Baltic Sector Operation. When Mrs. A. LEJINA arrived in Sweden, she was convinced that G. Kikulis would be the person who would be able to organize support for the partisans in Latvia the most quickly and ably. But she encountered an unaccountable position of opposition on his part. G.K. has completely isolated himself from Latvian society in Sweden, not even appearing at official functions. (Lt. E. BRAHMANA (in Votborga, Sweden) appraisal of G.K. is approximately this: He was the most able director of the Latvian Army counter-intelligence staff. He was not very popular among other officers because he lacked a true nationalistic spirit. He said that G.K. had become overly entangled in the activity against the Russians. The leadership had several times requested his transfer, but Gen. J. Balodis had always defended him for inexplicable reasons and had not transferred him until the Russians established their base in Latvia when he did, so that G.K. would not eventually fall into the Russian hands.)

159. Jekabs Arins (nickname "Kurzemes Hercogs" (Duke of Kurzeme)); also JESKA.

(for personal data, see the report submitted Summer 1951.). Was a radiotelegraphist. Served for the Latvian Army Staff. In 1944/45 worked as a radiotelegrafist for the LCP refugee-smuggling organization in Kurzeme, which was also transmitting military information to Sweden. After the capitulation was in Sweden, where in 1945/46 he worked as a woodsman in Gotlande. He tried to reestablish radio contact with an operator who had remained in Kurzeme (probably in Ventspils). Contact was established in May 1946, and was maintained until August 1947, when the Swedish security police (STAATS-POLISEN) arrested him and also J. LUKINU, BRUNO LESINU, and DR. GINTERU and confiscated several pieces of radio equipment. He and J. LUKINU were sentenced to a small fine for illegal radio transmission. He later worked as a radioman on some Swedish ship. In 1946/47, he maintained radio contact with RICHARDU ZANDI who was transferred by boat from Sweden to Latvia in the summer of 1946. He is married. His wife, who remained in Latvia, has been living illegally since the end of 1946. In the summer of 1951, he was invited by the "SC" to participate in operative work, but he did not accept the reserved post.

160. Janis Svikiis (also Zanis)

Is a pastor, about 50 years old. The son of a land-owner in Dobeles. Finished primary school in Yelgava. Here, upon the denunciation of the school director, JANA LAPINA, he was arrested by the German occupation authorities for communistic activity. On the pleas of the Dobeles farmers, he was freed. He studied theology at the Latvian University. In 1940/41, he worked in Riga as a school teacher (during this time it was concluded among teaching circles that he showed a pro-communist attitude.) He related this to me himself, in the summer of 1946. Explaining the suspicions as being the results of misunderstanding. In the "Kurzemes Cietakani" he was ordained a minister by A. Freijs on the strength of his education. In the fall of 1944, he arrived in Sweden, together with the shipowner Granda's wife, who helped him with a certain sum of money to organize the boat action to Latvia in October 1945. (It was rumored that Mrs. Granda was his sweetheart.) He worked as a minister (preacher) for the Latvian refugees in Gotlande, later in Upsala, where he organized a Latvian-Swedish assistance organization (SVENSK-LETTISKA HJALPINSAMLINGEN) at first at the Latvian YMCA, and then later independently. This organization accepted donations of money and materials for the relief of needy Latvians in Germany and showed great accomplishments, far surpassing other relief organizations in this work (i.e., YMCA, Latvian Assistance Committee). Together with H. Ginteru, he tried to collect more money for a further boat action. Since 1948, he is living in Boras, serving the Latvian congregation in southern Sweden and Denmark. He has been married and separated several times. Lately he is living as common-law husband with Mrs. Aboltina. Was a member of the political party "Demokratiskais Centrs", and one of the leaders of its Riga Yurmala section during the time of Latvian independence. He is very energetic and an accomplished organizer but his moral outlook does not correspond to the teachings of his calling. In Sweden, he tries to remain on equal terms with the left as well as the right factions, although his sympathies are with the right. In June 1949, he was hired by the SC as an assistant to its director of the economic sector.

161. Alfreds Gildermanis

About 33 years old. According to his own statements, during the German occupation, he had owned a large textile factory in Riga. In 1945, he worked for the Liepajas SD in the Russian-partisan-combatting section under Hugo Purina and Herberta Teidemans. After the capitulation he arrived in Sweden, and at first,

worked in a peat marsh, later, in 1946, in a textile factory in Lunda. In the end of 1946, he moved to Morköping. In 1949 he emigrated from Sweden to Canada. It was the opinion among the Latvian immigrants' group in Sweden that A.C. was a Russian agent.

162. Janis Celmainis

About 40 years old. Son of a land-owner of [] county. During Latvian times, a sugar-beet instructor and a worker in the sugar factory in Jelgava. In the fall of 1944, he reached Sweden from Liepajas with a refugee boat. In 1946/47 he lived in Lunda and worked for the Swedish sugar monopoly (SVENSK SOCKERBOLAGST). He actively participated in the organized Latvian societies in Lunda. In 1947 he moved to Goteburg, from which in the summer of 1948 he and his family emigrated to Canada where they live in Edmonston, Alberta Province. In the fall of 1946, he told A.F. he had a good friend, a Latvian officer, who was working in the Russian Service in Stockholm. He declined to mention his friend's name. His political outlook is strongly in opposition to the ICP. He is married; his wife's maiden name is LINIS (her brother, VIKTORS LINIS in 1945/46 was in the American POW camp in Regensburg, and in 1947 arrived in Sweden, from which he later emigrated to Canada where he took post-graduate mathematics.) They had 3 children when in Sweden. He is a very energetic worker.

163. Dr. Augusts SKOSTE

Was a doctor in the Ventspils district. In the fall of 1944 escaped to Sweden from Ventspils. In 1945/46 he lived in Lunda and worked. In 1947 he was one of the first Latvian doctors to be granted the right to practice in Latvia. In the beginning of 1948, he committed suicide by hanging for an unknown reason. (There was talk that he had performed an illegal abortion for which he had received a warning from the Swedish Medical Administration.) He was married and left a widow and 2 children.

164. Hugo Purins

Was a worker of the Latvian political police. During German occupation was elevated to rank of police captain. He was very energetic in combatting the communist underground. During German occupation he personally interrogated all captured parachutists dropped by the Russians in Latvia. In 1945, he worked for the Liepajas SD and was one of the heads of the Russian Partisan Combatting Section. In 1948, he was in West Germany in the British or U.S. service and he was sending people to Latvia (information from his corporation "Latavia" fellow member, H. GINTERS). He is corpulent, about 38-40 years old, and of good humor.

165. Herberts Teidemanis

Was a worker of the Latvian political police. After the German occupation directed the examination and execution of communists in Valmiera and the vicinity (from this time hence has been known as the Valmieras Executioner); afterwards he directed the Latvian political police section of the SD with the rank of police captain. In 1945, he was in the Liepaja SD section combatting red partisans. In April 1945, he arrived in ZLEKAS with a special command and worked in a very brutal fashion. After the capitulation was in West Germany in the English or American service.

166. Imu SCENDE

167. Fricis KONRADS

168. Janis DAIGA - now in US since 1949. Is' cousin of Boris LANGOLDS.