

SECRET

17 November 1950

TO: Chief, SEC
Attention: [] []

FROM: FDS

SUBJECT: LAIBAGS, Alfreds (VYBAGS GENGIS AZIEDHIS, Freds)
#46004

The attached information is forwarded to you in response to your request of 10 November 1950. It is a compilation of all information available in our reference files as well as our correspondence re subject with the Stockholm station. He is known to this office, to the [] and to the Swedes as a Latvian emigre active in Latvian anti-soviet work. This office has no active connections with him. The information reflected herein consists of data received up to and including October 1950.

[]
Acting Chief, FDS

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2008

SECRET

LAIMAGS, Alfreds (WALAGS) GARCIS

Born in Latvia on 7 June 1919. His father was a business man of some prominence during the period of independent Latvia. He studied agriculture at the University of Latvia and joined the anti-Soviet underground at the time of the first Soviet Occupation in 1940. He distributed anti-Bolshevik literature and assisted the underground in obtaining weapons. He is said to have been instrumental in organizing underground calls on a nationwide scale and, on orders of the leadership of the "Resistance Movement", to have joined Communist organizations.

At the start of the German attack on Soviet Russia, LAIMAGS organized a guerrilla group near Riga which captured a Soviet ammunition train and defeated a Soviet military detachment. His group later joined the guerrilla formations of Riga. A detachment under the command of LAIMAGS and Colonel BERIS launched an attack on Ruzina, disorganizing the retreating Soviet forces. The partisans were enthusiastically greeted by the people of Ruzina, but the incident was interpreted by the Germans as an anti-German demonstration. Consequently LAIMAGS and his detachment were disbanded and arrested. They were later set free, but had to return to Riga unarmed.

In the spring of 1942 LAIMAGS was assigned to the collection of intelligence on the plans of the Gestapo in regard to Latvia. His observations from studies of Hitler's projects for the colonization and Germanization of Latvia assisted the leaders of the Latvian resistance in clarifying their attitude towards the German Occupation. The report constituted the beginning of a secret archive of anti-Nazi documents.

In March 1943 LAIMAGS and other contributors to this archive were suddenly arrested by the Gestapo. During the investigation, which lasted three months, they were severely beaten and inhumanly treated. LAIMAGS and several other active members of the underground were sentenced to a prison term in Valmiera. LAIMAGS was liberated in December 1943 but was put under Gestapo supervision.

In August 1944 LAIMAGS, in cooperation with other Latvian patriots, elaborated a plan for the creation of an anti-Bolshevik general staff. Soon after that, foundations were laid for a staff of the Latvian National Guerrilla Organization to start operations in Kurzeme.

At the beginning of 1945 LAIMAGS was appointed assistant to the political chief of the Latvian National Guerrilla Organization. After the capitulation on May 8, LAIMAGS continued to coordinate and guide the operations of the guerrillas in the Courland region of Latvia. He was the author of the first underground leaflet urging members of the resistance to continue fighting and not to lose hope in the final victory of freedom and justice.

SECRET

SECRET

On 5 August 1945 the Latvian National Guerrillas appointed LAUNAGS as chief of a "Latvian Contact Group" to be created in Sweden. LAUNAGS selected five guerrillas as his assistants and established himself near the western shores of Courland with the object of securing a motor boat for their transfer to Sweden. Preparations for the trip took two months during which time the group increased to seventeen persons. A Lieutenant Elmars SKGBE, LAUNAGS' assistant, planned the escape. On 30 October 1945 they took to sea and reached the Swedish island of Gotland the next day. A special detachment of the National Guerrillas in Kurzeme covered their action.

LAUNAGS is at present the member for political affairs of the Latvian Contact Group in Sweden. His task is that of securing Western aid for the Latvian underground. He wrote long reports about the resistance in Latvia to Minister ZARDNE in London. Parts of his reports have been published anonymously in Latvian newspapers, magazines and other publications. Some of this material is also believed to be presented in a book TOTAL TERROR by Albert KALNE, which has been recently announced for publication by the Appleton-Century-Croft Company, New York.

In October 1945 he was contacted by a Latvian emissary from the National Guerrillas who told LAUNAGS that the Latvian underground was still centralized and looked to LAUNAGS for leadership. The emissary returned to Latvia in April 1949, having promised to return to Sweden in the spring of 1950. So far as is known he has not returned. He has communicated with LAUNAGS by letter.

LAUNAGS has used the name VARAGS in connection with his work with the Latvian Contact Group. He has also used the name Frede ZIEDONIS LAUNAGS and, recently, Alfreds GARGIS. LAUNAGS is married to Dr. T. LAUNAGS, a dentist living at Folkvandvarden, Hid, Sweden. She serves as a c/o address for LAUNAGS.

LAUNAGS was at one time trained for a return to Latvia. The Swedes suspect LAUNAGS of being in contact with the Americans.

There is no derogatory information on subject in our files. His role of leadership in Latvian resistance is contested by numerous Latvian emigre leaders on political grounds. However, he is known to belong to a milieu of Latvians in Stockholm who do have some operational capabilities, have good reputations, and are most willing to undertake clandestine anti-Soviet work.

It is to be pointed out that whereas the telling of the exploits of LAUNAGS and the Latvian resistance movement sound most impressive, this was not an over-all, organized activity encompassing all of Latvia, but rather a series of sporadic outbursts of anti-Soviet feeling limited to small independent groups of men. Some of these are in political conflict

SECRET

SECRET

with each other. That in no way detracts from the courage and determination that LAUBAGS may have demonstrated in the past, but it does indicate that LAUBAGS is not and cannot be rightfully called "the leader" or even "a leader" of the Latvian resistance movement, because there is no over-all entity in existence that can be called the "Latvian resistance movement" except in a very broad sense of the word.

SECRET