

ATTACH TO MGMA 09747

SECRET

27 March 1952 8  
Interview conducted  
in: German and Russian.

No. 3 ROMULUS

ORAL INTERVIEW.

1. FAMILY BACKGROUND:

Subject's father owned a 36 hectar farm in Linnasee (district Veru-Verro), Estonia. His mother, who took care of their 6 children, helped her husband on the farm. She died in 1942. They had six children:

- Merem (50 years of age), married a farmer and had 3 children.
- Erika-Klisabeth, died in 1933.
- Karoline (47 years of age), married a contractor and had one daughter.
- Getthard, died in 1931.
- Eurik-Walter (42 years of age), took over his father's farm, since the latter is now 72 years old. Eurik-Walter also married and has one son.

Father's will provides that Eurik-Walter will inherit the farm and will have to pay his sisters 1500 - 1600 Crowns but only 600 Crowns to Subject, since the father had already spent more than 900 Crowns for Subject's education. Eurik-Walter now is managing the parental farm.

Subject's father was a prosperous farmer: he improved the land and bought agricultural machines with his savings. He owned 3 horses, 12 cows, 30 sheep, 7 pigs and a lot of poultry.

Subject's father did not treat the mother well, especially after his home-coming from the neighboring town where he liked to amuse himself. He was not a drunkard but enjoyed alcohol. Subject's mother was very economical and did everything to keep the house and farm clean and in a good condition. She was very sensitive to public opinion. Therefore, when the father came home from town and was a little drunk, she would not talk to him for several days.

Subject's relations with his brothers and sisters were congenial. Their father insisted that the children help him on the farm when they were home, especially during the summer holidays.

2. SCHOOLING:

- Elementary School (4 years) 1923 - 1927 in Linnasee
- Elementary School (2 years) 1927 - 1929 in Veru
- Secondary School (2 years) 1931 - 1933 in Veru (gymnasium)
- Secondary School (3 years) 1933 - 1936 in Veru (Realschule)
- Preparatory course for Reserve Officers in Tallin Tondi, 1936 - 1937
- Regular Officers School in Narai, 1937 - beginning of January 1939.
- Military College, Motorised Regt., Tallin, Jan 1939 - June 1939
- War School in Tallin - Tondi, June 1939 - August 1940.
- Criminal Police Course in Tallin, March 1942 - April 1942.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCE/METHOD/EXEMPTION 3B2B  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2006

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3. BIOGRAPHY:

Subject was born on 26 October 1915 in Linnamae, District of Voru/Estonia. Even as a child he had to help his father with the farm work. He started Elementary School in Linnamae at the age of 8 years and spent four years there (1923-1927). He continued his education at the Elementary School in Voru for two years (1927-1929). After the farm burned down in 1924, his father could no longer afford to send Subject to the Secondary School. Subject therefore remained at home and helped his father in his work - partly in the farm work and partly in rebuilding the damaged buildings on the farm. Only in September 1931 could he return to the Secondary School in Voru. He spent two years (1931 - 1933) at the Gymnasium and because he was interested in technical work, continued his studies at the Real-Gymnasium for three years (1933 - 1936). He received good grades in Secondary School.

Subject voluntarily joined the Military Service and spent two months in training with the 4th Artillery Regiment in Tartu (July - August 1936). In September 1936 Subject enrolled in the Military School in Tallin-Tondi. During the period from September 1936 until August 1937 he took part in theoretical and practical military training and was promoted to officer candidate. This course was attended by all people who aspired to be reserve officers. Subject elected to become a career officer and was therefore ordered to the third Battery of the 3rd Artillery Regt. for active duty in Eesti. He was a platoon commander from September 1937 until January 1939. His platoon was in charge of communications and observation for the battery. In January 1939, Subject was assigned to a motorized Regiment for 6 months, in order to get experienced in the operation of a motorized unit. In June 1939 he returned to his battery in Tallin-Tondi and remained there until August 1940. For two months he had to take examinations for admission to the War School. He passed the examination and was promoted to Ensign (Pachrich). He was a student at the War School from September 1939 until August 1940. Here Subject studied, in addition to the military subjects, geography, history, psychology, pedagogy, mathematics and the Russian language (the students had a choice of studying Russian, German and English). In September 1940 Subject was promoted to second Lieutenant and served as a platoon commander in the Second Artillery Regiment in Rakvere for one month. In October 1940 the Estonian Army was disbanded by the Soviets, who occupied the Baltic countries on the basis of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Agreement (June 1940). The Soviets then reorganized the Estonian Army on the Red Army pattern. Subject was ordered to the 42nd Infantry Regiment of the 1st Estonian Infantry Corps and was made an officer in the Russian Army.

When the Russian-German war started in June 1941, Subject was sent with his Infantry Regt. to Perekhov (German: Pechow) via Narva, where they arrived about July, 7-8. Then the Regiment was sent to Lake USA and finally to Veretani to take up a position on the battle front between Perekhov - Ostrov. The German Army broke through this sector and Subject became a PW of the German Army. He was taken to Perekhov-Dvinsk, Lomas, and arrived finally, on 20 October 1941, in Ehrenrode. He stayed in a PW Camp (Stalag 1a) near Stalag until February 24, 1942. He was selected by the Estonian Criminal Police as one of 27 officers below

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30 years of age chosen for training as Police officers. After his release from the PW Camp, he was sent to Tallin for training. He remained there from March 1942 until April 1942. Then he was assigned as a Criminal Police Officer to Kuresaare (Kranzburg) where he remained until January 1943. His mission was to protect the security of port Kuresaare. Afterwards he was ordered to Valga with the same mission. He remained there until 13 August 1943 when he was released from Service. He went to his father's farm and worked there until 1 February 1944. His father bought a Fordson thresh machine and he helped to thresh the crops of other farmers in the community.

On 1 February 1944 he was called into service by the Osa Kaitse - Estonian Home Defense Organization (which had already existed in peace-time) but when he heard that the Germans were going to order a general mobilization, he left Tallin for Piritti/Finland to volunteer for the Finnish Army. He was ordered into the 200th Finnish Infantry Regiment (organized from Estonian volunteers) on 17 February 1944 where he was in training until 24 June 1944. At this time he was sent to the battlefield at Ilipuri-Aurapea. After the capitulation of the Finnish Army (8 September 1944) all Estonians were sent back to Paldiski/Estonia by the Finnish Army Command. Because Subject had escaped from Tallin to Finland he was listed as AWOL by the German Gestapo, but this list was later rescinded. As an Estonian Officer he was assigned to the 11th Artillery Regt. of the 11th German Inf. Division and was sent, with 16 Regt., to the Narva front. When the German Army retreated on 19 September 1944 to Tapa, Subject escaped from the military train and went to Rapla where his fiancée, whom he later married, was living. When he heard that the Germans would retreat to Germany, he tried to go to the island Saaremaa in order to escape to Sweden, but was caught by the German Military Police. On 28 September 1944 he was sent on boat from Kuresaare to Copenhagen where he arrived on 30 September 1944. Subject was then sent to the Camp (Sammlager)Gorden in Brandenburg and later to Schwaebisch Hall. The Arbeitsamt assigned Subject as an assistant driver for the firm Schaffitzel which owned a saw mill in Obersontheln. He was employed there from 18 October 1944 until January 1945. The work in this saw mill was very strenuous and he became sick. The doctor sent Subject to the sanatorium Schonblick bei Boblingen where he received treatment for his lungs (from January 1945 until 4 April 1945). After being cured as a result of this treatment, he returned to the firm Schaffitzel in Obersontheln. On 22 April 1945 the US Army entered the town and Subject left in about the middle of May for Schwaebisch Hall where he received food from UNRRA, but had his own billet and remained there until October 1945. Subject then went to the UNRRA Camp in Geislingen-Steige where he lived for three months, and later to Freilassing where he was employed as a mail courier for UNRRA (January 1946 until 12 December 1946). Subject then took a job with the 8851st US Labor Service Truck Company in Bad Aibling as a chief clerk. This employment lasted from 12 December 1946 until 12 September 1947. Leaving Bad Aibling he returned to the IRO Camp Freilassing where he was assigned to the Camp Police until 4 May 1948. Subject said that he left his job in Bad Aibling because of lack of work in the L.S. Truck Company. In May 1948 he again accepted a job in the US L.S. Quartermaster Co. No. 2040 which was organized from Estonian DP's in Fulda. This company was sent to the French Zone of Germany (APO 403-A).

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Subject stated that he is forbidden to disclose the name of the place where the mentioned L.S. Company was stationed. Subject was a 2nd Lieutenant in the L.S. Co. and he remained there until February 1949 when he was sent to L.S. Co. Rhine-Main Airport, as a platoon leader for the period from Feb 1949 until April 1949 - during the Berlin air-lift operations. Then subject left for Bad Nauheim and was employed as a sergeant with the Latvian L.S. - Construction Engineers Company No. 8512. In July 1949 Subject was transferred to the Labor Service Guard Co. No. 4221 in Nurnberg as a sergeant, where he remained until 1 September 1949. Subject then left voluntarily for Pasing (Munachen) and took employment as a billeting officer for IRO (as a local employee). He held this position from September 1949 until May 1951. Then Subject returned again to Nurnberg and joined the L.S. Guard Co. No. 4221 as 2nd Lieutenant where he is still working.

Subject was a little embarrassed when asked to tell about his matrimonial life and therefore only the following particulars could be established: His wife was an Estonian whom Subject married on 22 September 1944 and whom he divorced in November 1950. Three days later she married a man with whom she emigrated to the USA. They have a daughter, Maria Helena Synove (6 1/2 years of age). Subject was awarded her legal custody by the court. Subject's daughter is at present in the Children's Home in Muenchen-Lochhausen.

#### 4a. WORK HISTORY:

1929 - 1931 Helped his father on the farm in Limnassa/Estonia.  
 Apr 1942 - Jan 1943 Criminal Police Officer in Haapsalu.  
 Jan 1943 - Aug 1943 Criminal Police Officer in Valga.  
 Sep 1943 - Feb 1944 Farm work in Limnassa.  
 18 Oct 44 - Jan 1945 With the firm Schaffitzel in Obersontheln, as asst. driver.  
 5 Apr 45 - May 1945 at the same place.  
 Jan 1946 - 12 Dec 46 UHRA mail courier, Preilassing.  
 12 Dec 46 - 12 Sep 47 8851 U.S. L.S. Truck Co. Bad Aibling, chief clerk.  
 Sep 1947 - 4 May 48 IRO Camp Police, Preilassing  
 May 1948 - Feb 1949 2040 US L.S. Co., 2nd Lt., APO 403-A  
 Feb 1949 - Apr 1949 L.S. Co. Rhine-Main Airport, Platoon Leader.  
 May 1949 - July 49 8512 US L.S. Constr. Eng. Co., Bad Nauheim, Sgt. comd.  
 July 49 - 1 Sep 49 US L.S. Guard Co., Nurnberg, Sergeant.  
 Sep 1949 - May 1951 IRO Billeting Officer Pasing/Munachen  
 May 1951 - present 4221 US L.S. Guard Co., Nurnberg, 2nd Lt.

#### 4b. MILITARY HISTORY:

Voluntary Training in the 4th Art. Regt. in Tartu, June 1936 - Aug 1936.  
 Reserve Officers Course in Tallin-Tondi, theory and practical training,  
 Sep 1936 - Aug 1937; promotion to officer's candidate.  
 Military School: as platoon commander of the 3rd Battery of 3rd Art. Regt. (artillery service) in Nurai, Sep 1937 - Jan 1939.  
 Autotank Regt. Tallin, Jan 1939 - June 1939  
 June 1939 - Aug 1939 in Tallin-Tondi

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Passed examination for Military College in Aug 1940 and became a Sergeant. Military College: Entered on 1 Sep 1939 and stayed there until Aug 1940 (in Tallin-Tondi).

**Military Active Service:**

Sep 1940 in Rakvere, platoon commander of 2nd Art. Regt., promoted to 2nd Lt. Oct 1940 - June 41 service with 42nd Inf. Regt. of 1st Mt. Inf. Corps in Peide.

26 June 41 - 12 July 41 Participation in the Russo-German War on the battlefront Porkhov-Ostrov.

Until 24 Feb 1942 PW in Germany, town of Stablag, Camp Stalag 1A.

1 Feb 1944 called for service in the Oms Kaites, but escaped to Pihriti/Finland where he enlisted, on 24 Feb 1944, in the 200th Finnish Art. Regt. Training until 24 June 1944.

Participation on the battlefront Wiipuri - Aurspaa until the beginning of September 1944.

Enlistment in German 11th Art. Regt., 11th Inf. Division, and fighting on the Eastern Front from 4 Sep 1944 until retreat to Tapa, 19 Sep 1944.

**5. PLANS:**

Subject wanted to emigrate to the USA with IRO assistance but was medically rejected because of a black spot on his lungs. The US Public Health Authorities submitted his X-ray pictures to the US DP Commission in Frankfurt where his admission to the States was approved from a health standpoint. Because his papers arrived just before IRO's termination, he was no longer able to get a visa. (It may be that Subject was rejected by the US DP Commission as being an Estonian Criminal Police Officer during the German occupation). As Subject has a strong hope of returning to Estonia, he is not making any further emigration plans.

After his experience with his divorced wife, Subject does not have any further marriage plans either.

Subject did not enlist in the US Army as he is afraid he is too old to take basic military training for the fifth time. He has already undergone military training four times (in the Estonian, Russian, Finnish and German Armies). It is natural that, if he is called upon to fight the Soviets, he will do so with the US Army.

Subject hopes that the Western countries will be able to force the Soviets back to their pre-war frontiers. because he has seen how much stronger the Western countries have become in comparison with their strength in 1947. He hopes, therefore, that the tension between the West and East can be settled without a war. Then Subject wants to return to Estonia and establish an Export-Import business there, especially the import of German machines to Estonia. He does not want to go back to the Army: before the war his ambition in life was to retire at

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the age of 42-44 and become a Civil Servant. He also wanted to save enough money to build his own house and have a bigger farm. He feels that he has had enough experience to manage his own farm, because he worked for quite a time on his father's farm.

Subject's political attitude is that, between the two totalitarian systems (Communism and Nazism) he would prefer the latter as the lesser evil. Whereas in the Soviet Union he saw nothing but poor people and a low standard of living for the Russian population he observed a higher living standard among the German people under the Nazis. This was evidenced by their owning their own houses with nice gardens, higher culture, better roads, etc.

Subject stressed that, after the Soviets occupied Estonia, they behaved as if they knew everything and the Estonians nothing. He has an outspoken hatred against the Soviets because they murdered about 290 Estonian officers (among them some of his friends) and deported about 62,000 Estonians to Siberia. They were never heard of again. Under the Red occupation he observed people living under constant terror, whereas he saw that the Germans did not live in fear of the Nazi regime and that they assisted even the non-German population with sanitary measures. (Subject here felt a conflict, because on the one hand, he stressed that the Germans plundered all kinds of items in Estonia and put them on sale in the Post Exchange, where only Germans could purchase and Estonians were not admitted.

Subject stated about himself that he is basically a Democrat and that Estonia was the most democratic country in the world.

#### 6. ATTITUDES:

##### Add. Question:

Subject considers highly desirable those work conditions in which he is a chief and his subordinates are young and inexperienced because he likes to assist young people and show them how to work. (Interviewer's observation was that Subject has indeed the qualities of a leader.)

If Subject's superior were less capable than he is, Subject doubts if he could carry out the work. If he understands the work better than his superior and if the superior refuses to accept his suggestions and insists on his own ideas, Subject would then quit the job. Subject also considers highly desirable a job in which he must sometimes work up to 24 hours in a day and then not do anything, if there is nothing to be done. The same applies to a job which involves frequent overtime.

Subject considers a job acceptable when it requires constant flattery of

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others, since he thinks that sometimes the employee has to select the right opportunity to talk with his superior in order to be able to freely express his opinion and perhaps even flatter him in his own as well as in the interest of his co-workers.

For Subject, a job in which he would have to work in a large room with many people would be impossible, because he dislikes working in a noisy place where machines, typewriters and the like divert his attention from his work. The same applies for work in a factory.

7. LANGUAGES:

Estonian : Excellent.  
Russian : Poor.  
German : Satisfactory (-).  
Finnish : Poor  
English : Poor.

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