

SECURITY INFORMATION

1. MAC 52
Attachment "B"

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Subject: REDSKY/AESOB - Biography for CAMUSO 2

1. The following is a translation of the biography for CAMUSO 2

I am 41 years old and was born in Riga. My parents came from peasant stock. My father did not like living in the country, so before I was born he came to Riga, where he worked as a shopkeeper until his death, about 1936 or 1937. My mother worked in the household, but in the summer she went to our place in the country near Vecgulbene (in Sudciram) to help with the work there.

During the first World War I was sent to my father's parents in the country. My grandfather was a school teacher and liked to bring up small children. From him I received my first instruction and as a result, later, I did not have to start elementary school from the beginning.

There were two children in my family: I, the older and less intelligent, and my sister, who is much younger (born 1924). She went to the Drauzinas Gymnasium in Riga up until the Russian and German occupations, but she had not completed the Gymnasium when I saw her for the last time in the fall of 1944 in Riga. She wanted to become a dentist. I do not know how far she has progressed with her studies, but I hope that she and my mother are still in Riga.

In about the fall of 1919, I started elementary school in Riga, and completed the course of study there. I sat at the same desk with Vilis Edisons, the son of the proprietor of a house in Riga. Since we battled a good deal we became good friends, until he was deported by the Russians.

My father died of cancer of the stomach, and I was left the only man in the family, since my father's brother was killed by the Communists during the Russian Revolution. For this reason, my relatives wanted me to become a farmer (my mother wanted me to become a pastor). So I was sent to an elementary school in the country, where both of the unmarried sisters of my father worked. I had it pretty good there, I was the favorite of both my aunts. They also forced me to go to a more advanced school in Alukane — I myself did not want to go. I preferred to stay at home and read the books there, of which there were many.

In Alukane I lived with my mother's sister, who owned a laundry. My cousin, a lieutenant in the 7th Siguldas Infantry Regiment, also lived with her; he was my only friend during this time, in spite of the fact that he was a drinker. (Drinking has always been repellent to me.) This cousin wanted to become a pilot, and from him I got the same desire. I dreamt about it through out my period of schooling and at this time began to build model planes, which has been my hobby ever since. My favorite subjects in school were history and geography (not economic geography), music studies, and drawing, because I was able to do them well.

After I had completed school, with difficulty, I got a job with the help of my cousin Edgar Bach in the repair shop of the Latvian air force as an apprentice, although my relatives were not in favor of this. I worked here until I was called up for military service. I served in the air force regiment in Riga, which was then under the command of Col. Skurbe, who is now in England. In the regiment I went through the motor school, probably with the average of 11 (in a 12-number system, where the highest number is 12) and was promoted to corporal. In this school I learned only about plane motors. From this time I have the recollection, since we had a lot of

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to work any more. (My mother and sister were at this time in the country.) The co-owner of the shop did the same. He spent most of the time at the fiancée of his friend, Alfreds Evers, who was a border guard. We waited there for the German occupation of Riga.

After the Germans had entered Riga on July 1, 1941, I joined a guard unit. It was organized by Col. Mandis and was composed of men from the air force regiment and members of the defense air force and of the Aeroclub (flying club). Here I met, once more, old comrades from my time of service, and befriended an officer candidate Karlis Varenais who had fought in the 1st World War and in the struggle for Latvian independence. But it was not long before the Germans forbade the wearing of Latvian uniforms and dissolved our unit. I began to work in the carpenter shop again. We made office furniture for the Germans and even received a grant with which to purchase new machines.

I worked only until the founding of the Latvian SS Legion in March, 1943. Then I joined it, since I didn't want to come again under Russian domination and be deported. I was put in the regiment under Col. Kripens and sent to Paplaka (south Courland). There I was given the position of first sergeant of the company. At first it was difficult for me as I had to manage a whole band of lice infested recruits, and also manage the economy of the company in which I had no experience.

I was very fortunate as it was announced that all who had served in the Latvian airforce could join the air force unit and attend school. I applied, and in the fall of 1943 was transferred to this unit.

The school was near Liepaja, and I stayed there until January 1944. I was not put in the pilots' school itself, since there weren't enough positions open and since former pilots were given preference. I was also already too old.

Having been trained as an instrument mechanic, I was sent to the front at Latgale near the Vecumi station. The officer candidate Karlis Varenais was also in our unit and as a result we became more friendly. We were assigned to a German air force unit. We flew nights to various points just behind the front, where we had to disrupt the night supply measures of the Russians and enemy personal concentrations. Our planes were old models.

Later our unit was transferred to Mezvidi in Latgale, then to Veogulbene, later to the Kalciems airfield near Riga, to Salaspils, Cesis, and Smiltene which is close to Tukums -- wherever the front was.

In the fall of 1944, when the Russians were already near Riga, I heard that we were to be sent to Germany. For that reason, I wanted to desert, as I had nothing to look forward to in Germany. I wanted to meet once more my friends in Riga, and then go to the forests. Just then a plane was supposed to fly from Tukums to Kalciems near Riga. I told Varenais about my intentions. He was at that time the technical officer. He thought one should wait until we actually were to be transported to Germany. However, he was also of the opinion that I should do what I personally saw as the proper move. He gave me a travel permit from Kalciems to Riga, and wished me success.

As I was searching for my mother and sister in Riga, I met the commander of the home defense battalion from Lielvarde on Karlis Vecais street, whom I knew through

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Janis Garais. He asked me where I was going and when I told him of my intention, he said that I should join his unit under General Kurelis (a Latvian officer who was leader of a fighting group who wanted to fight as partisans against the Bolsheviks after the German army had left Latvia.) As I knew of nothing better to do, I agreed. I found once again my mother and sister, and we then travelled with K. Vecais via Riga and Jurmala and Tulams to Strazde (in east Courland), where part of Gen. Kurelis's unit was. I registered there the next day, and the following morning we went to Annabutte-Stikli (in north Courland). We were there about 2 weeks. One day Vecais asked me whether I would want to go with him to the main forest, in Zlekas. His assignment was (as I found out later) to obtain provisions in the vicinity of Zlekas and to arrange shelter and equipment for legionnaires and others who did not want to go to Germany, but to stay at home and fight against the communists. There were about 25 of us with Garais as leader, almost all of us from the home defense battalion, in which Vecais had been the commanding officer. We passed the time with the establishment of the bunker. One day in November, we received the information that the Germans had surrounded Stikli and that Gen. Kurelis and most of his units had been captured. Only Lt. Rubenis and his company, which had not been in Stikli, had been able to defend themselves against the Germans. The rest of his company joined us at Zlekas, after battles against the Germans. During the next day and night we were also encircled. After two days of battle the majority of us were able to elude the encirclement. We divided up, since our incomplete bunkers were too few to hold about 200 men. We in the Vecais unit stayed in the bunker until Christmas Saturday. Then Vecais brought us new documents, which he had obtained through his connections. Now we were once more able to enter regions of settlement. Vecais had also established contact with Oberleutnant Sebris, who was the leader of a hunt-commando group (a partisan combat unit in the German armed forces) and found out that we could join this unit, so in the beginning of January we went to Oberleutnant Sebris. I stayed in this unit until the end of the war. The Sebris sent me and Roberts Suta from Ventspils to Gotland in a lifeboat. The boat was supposed to return to Latvia and carry the whole unit. During the crossing the boat sprang a leak and in addition we were put in a refugee camp in Natharavik, Gotland. The return to Latvia was therefore impossible.

I met Karlis Arins through Sebris. This friendship became closer during the time of the emigration in Sweden.

When I had been released from the camp, I worked for several months in the patent factory in Gotland as a fitter; then I moved to the main land, not far from Eskilstuna, and worked there in winter in the woods and in summer in the peatbogs. Neither of these jobs was pleasant, since we had to live in barracks, 10 persons in each. So we decided to go with Suta and look for factory work. It was he with whom I spent most of my time in Sweden. I met Arins in Stockholm, and he suggested a factory near Nysshamn, where he had worked himself. We travelled there and accepted the work as the territory there was nice, and the work and earnings good. The factory produced insulation plates. I know all phases of the work well. I worked there until August 1950, with a short interruption. Then I worked in forest appraisal in northern Sweden, since I wanted to see northern Sweden and to spend the summer in the open air. I made the acquaintance of E. Kalejs, a sailor, in this factory. We became friends, and when he left for Göteborg to follow his profession, I also left Nysshamn so that I would not be left alone among the Swedes. I travelled to Göteborg and started to work in a textile factory in Göteborg. (Suta now had a family.) But the pay was too small and I transferred to the Svensk Olja A/B, where I worked at the concentration of acids. I also know this work well. There I became acquainted with a Latvian who introduced me to Igor, and that is how I came here.

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2. Supplementary questions asked CASUSO 2.

Section 4

1. I am an evangelist-lutheran. I believe in God. Earlier I used to go to church at least 4 or 5 times a year, and I often went to church concerts. I was baptized and confirmed.

2. By a disease and the contempt of fellow-men.

3. I don't think that I have personal enemies, or at least I don't know about any.

4. It is possible that the Latvians in the last place I lived noticed something, because of my unusual manner of living before coming to Germany. But I think that there are not many. They could be: Richards Tiss, a sailor, who lives in Cöteborg; Edvards Smits-Kalejs, a sailor, who is now living in Canada; Hermine Sadelko, the proprietress of the apartment in Mälndal, where I left before my departure; Karlis Arins, a sailor-radio-telegrapher, in Sweden, whom I told something about the plan, since I thought that he would also be participating here.

5. My feelings during the first time under the Bolsheviks can best be compared to the way one feels when one first finds out that he has lice. Later I was less disturbed, since I had the chance to work against the occupation. It wasn't anything: in the evenings, I distributed anti-Communist leaflets with friends.

During the whole of the occupation, I worked in the furniture workshop mentioned in the biography, which was managed by the owner during the occupation as well. The shop was in Riga, in the Latgales (on Moscauer, as it was formerly called) suburb. Almost no one except acquaintances of the owner worked there, so that the Communists did not cause any big change. The monthly pay of office employees, so far as I can remember, was about 500 rubles. I did not belong to any organization card. I did not try to obtain various documents. My Latvian passport was clean and had no entries, but at the end of the first occupation I had to turn it in for a Russian passport.

6. I know Riga and its surroundings best in Latvia. I know Sigulda, Cesis and surrounding equally well. Also the stretch of the Daugava as far as Koknese, and on the left bank, the community Birzgale. Also the surroundings of Vecgulbene and Ilukshe. I don't know Latgale well, having been there only during the German occupation. In Kurzeme (Courland), I know the area around Zlákas, particularly near the main forestry, and also the area surrounding Sarnate. I know Liepaja and surroundings moderately well, and Ventspils slightly.

7. Inconsider Jaunjelgava the most suitable city. I have never been there, but the city is not far from Riga, near the community Birzgale and the large forests, where I hope to meet old friends. Among the towns, I think that one in the neighborhood of Birzgale would be best; for the same reason.

8. I think painting would be best. I don't know whether it would be possible to live without attracting attention as a painter in the aforementioned towns.

9. My progress in training is so bad that I would be satisfied with any assignment. Anyway, the teachers can judge better.

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10. My main hobby is the construction of model airplanes; then music; and third painting.

11. If I am suited to the work, I should like to recover somewhat after the first action, and then continue to work when and where necessary.

12. I wish that everything would go better than it has up to now that I were about 12 years younger.

Section B:

1. I don't think they should be allowed a place in liberated Latvia, at least not in important positions; particularly if they collaborated for selfish purposes.

2. About the same opinion as in 1, with the exception of those cases in which they were in too much of a hurry and misunderstood the Germans.

3. The best time in Latvia. The only thing that I don't fully understand is that we did not fight the attackers.

4. I am not politically minded, but I think that people like Minister Valdmanis are good.

5. In my opinion: disunity, self-interest.

6. Zarins, Feldmanis.

7. I think those in the younger generation would be best, like, for instance, Capt. Spade or officers who are still actively fighting in Latvia.

8. There must certainly be a military government at first, so that the professional ministry-hunters don't come to power. Later one can achieve democracy with K. Ulmanis at the head.

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Attachment "D"

Subject: REDSOX/AECOB - Supplementary Questions to Biographies CAMUSOS 1, 2 and 3,
as Prepared by []

Section A

1. What is your religion? Do you believe in God? Were you baptized and confirmed? How often in the year do you usually go to church?
2. What are you most afraid of: serious diseases, being an invalid, poverty, contempt of or from your fellow-men, the Cheka, or death?
3. Do you have enemies? Why, and where are they now?
4. What persons abroad know or suspect something about your present activities, and how much?
5. Describe the year of the Communist occupation (from June 17 1940):
 - a. What did you feel when the Communists moved in?
 - b. An exact description of your jobs and pay.
 - c. Documentation (what did the certificates look like and how were they used; of what advantage were they outside of work).
 - d. To what organizations did you belong during this time; what did they do, and what did the organization's certificates look like.
 - e. How often were the work certificates and the organization certificates changed or prolonged.
6. What area in Latvia do you know best, and how well are you acquainted with it?
7. In what area or city would you like best to be established and why?
8. What occupation would you like to choose for your cover?
9. What sort of assignment do you think you would be best able to carry out?
10. What hobby do you have, and what skill do you have in it?
11. What would you like to undertake when your assignment has been carried out?
12. What particular desires do you have?

Section B

1. What do you think of people, like Bruno Kalnins, who collaborated with the Bolsheviks in 1940-41?
2. What do you think of people like General Dankers who collaborated with the Germans?
3. What do you think of the Ulmanis administration; what disadvantages were there to it?

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4. What do you think of our old politicians; could they still be useful after the liberation of Latvia?

5. Who is to blame for the political differences in the emigration?

6. Who has the most political authority in the emigration: Zerins, Feldmanis, Veldmanis, Rancans, or someone else?

7. Who is or could be our military authority: General Bengerskis, Col. Silgailis, Col. Janums, or-if they were still alive - Gen. Berkis or Capt. Spade, or someone else?

8. What kind of government should Latvia have following the liberation?

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