

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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25X1 SECRET [redacted] 25X1

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SUBJECT	Conscription Procedure in Latvia	DATE DISTR.	26 May 1953
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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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[redacted] The Medical Commission was in a building on Stendera iela (street) in Lepaya.

2. The Medical Commission consisted of the Chief of the Lepaya Militia, six doctors, several lieutenants and captains who attended to the clerical work, and two other officers named Colonel Slesnachuk and Lieutenant Colonel Zolotov.

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3. Prior to the medical examination, [redacted] a close haircut [redacted] cost [redacted] one ruble. Those unable to pay the cost of the haircut had one ruble deducted from their subsequent army pay. After the haircut, [redacted] blood pressure taken and then was given an x-ray. In some cases the x-ray was given on the day prior to the day of the medical examination; however, there was no definite rule regarding this.

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4. In the first room [redacted] weighed, measured, and examined by a nerve specialist. [redacted] went to a second room where about five doctors, including a surgeon and specialists in eye, ear-and-nose, and venereal diseases examined. [redacted] came before Lieutenant Colonel Zolotov who entered his name in a book which was signed by Colonel Slesnachuk. Lieutenant Colonel Zolotov examined [redacted] passport. [redacted] was issued a certificate (called Spravka) stating that he was a new recruit and that his passport had been handed to the War Commissariat. This was followed by political lectures lasting an hour. [redacted] sent home to await a notification to report for duty.

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5. Five days before his induction a man was entitled to leave his employment and to receive a two-week pay in advance. Up to spring 1951 the only exception was the Bolshevik Fishing Kolkhoz, which did not give a two-week pay in advance, but instead sent each of their employees 200 rubles from a special fund after their induction into the Soviet Armed Forces. This procedure was eventually stopped by the War Ministry because of drunkenness among the recipients and also because of the principle that all soldiers must be treated alike.

25X1 6. About one or two weeks before [REDACTED] induction [REDACTED] received a notification giving the date he was to report to the War Commissariat on Padomju Prospekts. Such notifications were never sent by mail, but were delivered by hand to the person concerned. 25X1

7. After reporting to the War Commissariat, recruits were placed for a day in various barracks in Lepaya. The recruits were usually restricted to the barracks because most of them were very drunk (sic).

8. From these barracks recruits were sent by train at 2230 hours to Riga, where they were grouped and assigned to various units all over the USSR. Those who were assigned to the 201st Latvian Guards Division were taken by streetcar to either the Krusta or the Pernavas Barracks, where this division was stationed.

9. Upon arriving at the barracks (Krusta and Pernavas) the recruits waited until some officers came to register them. After that they recruits ate a midday meal of food brought by themselves. Every recruit had been required to bring a two-week supply of food, toilet articles, two pairs of underwear, socks, gloves, towels, and a rucksack.

10. After the meal the recruits deposited their belongings and were taken to the bathhouse, where they were disinfected and were issued uniforms.

11. After the recruits returned to the unit, they were shown their personal property, which had been put into a storeroom. They were permitted to take their toilet articles and foodstuffs. Recruits were required to consume or dispose of their personal foodstuffs within four days; thereafter personal foodstuffs would no longer be permitted. It was said that later the recruits would be allowed access to their personal property once a week.

12.

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[REDACTED] Comment. It is presumed in this report that the term War Commissariat refers to the local Voenkomat (draft board).

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