

ESTONIA.

THE BLOODY TRACE OF NAZISM: 1941-1944

SELECTION OF ARCHIVAL DOCUMENTS
ON CRIMES OF ESTONIAN COLLABORATORS DURING THE
SECOND WORLD WAR

In the present-day Estonia, statements are being persistently circulated to the effect that during World War II, Estonian soldiers serving in the Wehrmacht did not take part in punitive actions against the population and had nothing whatsoever to do with executions of civilians and the Holocaust. These claims are made not only by the Estonian combatants and young neo-Nazis, proclaiming slogans hardly fit for a country that has been accepted to the European Union, but also high-ranking officials, including Estonia's ex-president Arnold Rüütel, following suit. According to the official position of the Estonian politicians, Estonians wearing German uniform were fighting for the freedom of Estonia only in their own territory and only against the Soviets, doing all they could in order to "lay the foundation for the continuation of resistance that brought about the restoration of Estonian independence decades later". Lies can sometimes be rather refined but this one is a crude lie that is refuted by documents collected in this book. The documents speak for themselves and need no commentaries.

INTRODUCTION

The Republic of Estonia, independent since 1991, has passed a long way in building its state and economy, becoming a full member of the European Union, NATO, and other international structures. Along with this, Estonia has been painfully searching for a way of national self-identification. The independent history of the Estonian State has not been long in historical measures, it only began in the previous century when Estonia first received the status of autonomy from the Provisional Government of Russia, and then, in 1920, the Bolsheviks declared its independence. The first period of Estonia's existence as an independent State was extremely short, and in 1940, Estonia lost the independence.

From the moment of Estonia's regaining independence in 1991, Estonian right-wing politicians and nationalist historians have been exercising in justifying Estonian own historical way which they see as constant antagonism with the “Russian aggressors”. The Second World War and participation of Estonian armed groups in this war on the side of the Nazi Germany looks to them logically consistent with the struggle against the “Soviet invaders”. Estonian authorities also actively participate in romanticizing Nazi criminals, thus creating grounds for independent observers' speaking not only about separate rhetorical statements of “irresponsible politicians” but a systemic policy on behalf of the Estonian state to revise of results of the Second World War.

On October 15, 2005, on the territory of a private “Museum of struggle for liberating Estonia” in Lagedi the monument to the 20th Waffen Grenadier Division of the SS (1st Estonian) consisting of Estonians and dismantled in 2004 in a small town of Lihula under international pressure, first of all on the part of Russia and the USA, was set up again. On June 8, 2006, this private museum received a state grant of 375, 000 crores (nearly 25 thousand Euros) from the government of Estonia.

During the solemn ceremony marking the end of the Second World War on May 9, 2006, Minister of Defense of Estonia J. Ligi addressed with words of gratitude Estonians who were fighting on the Nazi Germany side, having declared: “Your struggle in 1944 was the struggle for Estonian freedom”. The former prime minister of Estonia, one of the leaders of the national radical party Pro Patria Union (or Fatherland Union) and the adviser of the Georgian president Michael Saakashvili Mart Laar assured that “sooner or later” a law in the interests of Estonians who battled on the side of the Hitlerite Germany will be passed in Estonia. On July 8, 2006, at the Võru city meeting of Estonian “fighters for independence” - veterans of the 20th Estonian voluntary Waffen SS division and gangs of the “forest brothers” - the prime minister of Estonia A. Ansip addressed participants. In his opinion, their struggle “was a feat which should be appreciated highly now and in the future”. “You

say to yourself - we have lost that battle, but on the whole we have still won that war. You have won, and all the people have won... I cannot agree with those who consider your struggle senseless. How is it possible to consider senseless that people carried out their duty before their people and the state?"

Simultaneously, defilement of memorials of soldiers killed at liberation of Estonia from fascist armies proceeds in the country. In May 2006, the monument to the Soviet soldiers located in Tallinn downtown called "The bronze soldier" (on Tõnismägi) was profaned twice. Instead of condemning these acts of vandalism, Estonian authorities voiced support of the demolition of this monument. The head of the Estonian government A. Ansip called the monument "a symbol of occupation" and supported its prompt dismantling.

Thus in today's Estonian political literature and in media the opinion has been established that the Estonian soldiers fighting for Wehrmacht did not participate in punitive actions and executions of peaceful population in Estonia, and in other territories. Former president of Estonia Arnold Rüütel claimed that he had no data on Estonians who would participate in executions of Jews during World War II and that he was not aware of such facts to ever take place in Estonia.

Thus, if one would take for granted the official position of Estonian politicians and authorities, he could get quite an idyllic picture of Estonian history of the 20th century: Estonians in German uniforms battled for freedom of Estonia in the territory of the country only against the Soviet authority and did that "to create a basis for continued resistance that led to restoration of independence of Estonia decades later" (Laar M. Estonia in the Second world war. - Tallinn: Grenader, 2005).

However, real documents and eyewitnesses' testimonies make one see these events otherwise.

The Estonian punitive police battalions and other divisions of collaborators, which became the basis for formation of the 20th Waffen Grenadier Division of the SS (1st Estonian), left a bloody trace during the Second World War in the territory of Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, Poland, and Estonia, participating in massacres of civilians. Estonian Waffen SS members were qualified as war criminals by the Nuremberg Trials: "Examining the SS case, the Tribunal includes here all persons who have been officially accepted as members of the SS, including members of "the general SS", **SS armies**, SS "The Dead Head" formations, and members **of any police services which were SS members**. The tribunal does not include here the so-called cavalry SS formations" (The Nuremberg Trials. Collection of materials: In 8 volumes. Moscow, 1999. Volume 8. Page 655).

The Estonian members of punitive expeditions participated in slaughtering Jews in Vilnius Ghetto and convoyed Jews transported from Vilnius to concentration camps of Estonia. Besides, the Estonian police and "self-defense forces" ("Omakaitse") liquidated adherents of the Soviet regime (in some villages and cities, every ethnic Russian was considered to be one), Estonians who didn't share radical political right views, and peasants who received land during agrarian reform of 1940.

The Estonian police and Omakaitse were also actively used in fighting the anti-Hitlerite coalition forces. So, in July 1943, the management of the Estonian political police issued a circular concerning the struggle against the “Anglophiles”. It reads, in particular, as follows: “Along with Bolsheviks we have a known amount of persons which by their way of life represent no less danger than the former... Among them are first of all the Anglophiles who up to 1940 adhered to the so-called English orientation...” (Marinson E. Servants of Swastika. - Tallinn, 1962).

In this documentary volume, a number of documents are published, including the recently declassified ones, which present an alternative view of 1941-1944 events in the territory of Estonia and other territories of the former Soviet Union under the Nazi German occupation.

The work on the volume became possible owing to the help of the “Free Europe” non-governmental organization.

The collection's editors express special gratitude to the management and employees of the State Archive of the Russian Federation and the Central Archive of the FSB of Russia who helped presenting these unique archival materials.

DOCUMENT 1

Transcript of interrogation of Juhanes-Oswald Rahumeel, member of Omakaitse who participated in extermination of Jews in Belarus and repression against civilian population and prisoners of war in Estonia

July 27, 1948 Kuresaare City

I, senior inspector of the Saaremaa UO MGB of the USSR- Lieutenant, Junior Grade [...], interrogated as a witness.

RAHUMEEL Juhanes-Oswald Juhanovich, B 1916, in the Kärkla volost, of the Saaremaa uyezd ESSR, Estonian, citizen of the USSR, non-party member, education of 6 classes, engaged in agriculture.

Lives in the farm Ratra in the Iempa village, volost Kärkla, uyezd Saaremaa.

Witness RAHUMEEL Witness is warned about the responsibility in accordance with the 95th item of UK RSFSR [criminal code]

(Signature)

Translator Lieutenant Junior Grade [...] is warned about the responsibility in accordance with the 95th item of UK RSFSR [criminal code]

(Signature)

Question: Where were you living and what were you doing during the Soviet period in ESSR, i.e. in 1940-1941?

Answer: During the Soviet period in the ESSR, i.e. in 1940-1941, I was living in the Saaremaa Uyezd of Kärkla Volost of the ESSR, at my parents' hamlet where I was farming.

Question: Were you conscripted into the Soviet Army in 1941?

Answer: Yes, I was mobilized to the Soviet Army in 1941 and was appointed to one of the coastguard units in Saaremaa where I served up to October 5, 1941, that is, up to the end of military operations on the Saaremaa Island. After that, I came back home to the Kärkla Volost.

Question: Have you been in German captivity?

Answer: No, I haven't been in captivity.

Question: Was the Kärkla Volost occupied by the Germans when you came back home from the Soviet Army?

Answer: Yes, volost Kärkla, i.e. the area where I had been living, was occupied by the Germans.

Question: Were you a member of an organization named “Omakaitse”?

Answer: I had entered the organization “Omakaitse” at my own free will in the middle of October 1941 and had been a member up to February 1942, i.e. before my entry into the 36th police battalion. When I was a member of the Omakaitse, I was given a Russian rifle and 30 live cartridges. Moreover, I received a salary of 60-70 DM.

Question: Tell me about your practical activities as a member of the Omakaitse.

Answer: Once, as a member of the Omakaitse I took part in the raid on Alexander INGALT who had been the chairman of the uyezd board in Saaremaa. But we didn't succeed in this raid. Moreover, I was guarding a detention facility that was situated by the Omakaitse staff. Arrested Soviet citizens were held there. I was also guarding Soviet prisoners of war, which were concentrated in the main house in the Kärla Volost, besides, I was guarding an aerodrome.

Question: When did you join the 36th police battalion?

Answer: I joined the 36th police battalion voluntarily at the beginning of February 1942. The 2nd company of the second battalion was forming in Kuresaare, and it consisted of volunteers and members of the Omakaitse organization.

In April 1942, our company headed for Haapsalu where the 1st company that was organized on the Hiiumaa Island arrived as well. We spent about 10 days in Haapsalu, whereupon the 1st and the 2nd companies were sent to Tartu where the 3rd company was forming. In Tartu we went through a military course.

Question: Where and when did the 36th battalion, including you, depart?

Answer: On the 3rd and 4th of August 1942, the whole 36th battalion including me were loaded on a train that was sent to Belarus. On the Novoelnya station we were detained. We were to march to Novogrudok, where we got stationed in the quarters.

Question: What was the 36th police battalion busy with, while situated in Novogrudok?

Answer: The main object of our 36th battalion was arresting Soviet citizens, mostly Jews, and afterwards conveying them to execution. Our soldiers and officers also took part in executions of Soviet citizens which took place at the Novogrudok region.

Question: What was your own role in the extermination of Soviet citizens?

Answer: Our 36th police battalion carried out exterminations mostly in 3 places, namely the Novogrudok region, the Novoelnya station, and near the Dyatlovo Village, which is about 20-30 kilometers away from Novogrudok. My personal role was that I once conveyed Soviet citizens – Jews to execution. These Jews were held in a separate camp in Dyatlovo.

Question: Tell me in detail, how was the execution carried out in the Dyatlovo village?

Answer: Approximately on the 10 of August 1942, our company (the 2nd company) including me, except the 3rd platoon, was loaded onto trucks and we were taken to the Dyatlovo Village, which is 20-30 kilometers away from Novogrudok, where a Jewish camp was situated. When we arrived at this camp, we encircled it. Afterwards, we drew the Jews out their houses. All in all, about 1, 000-1, 500 Jews were gathered there. Later on, after we had drawn the Jews out their homes on one square, we ordered them to lie down on their stomachs, not letting them to get up. Around them were guards from our company, including myself. In the morning trucks and a mobile gas chamber pulled up to the Jewish camp.

When the vehicles arrived, all of us soldiers started driving these Jews together, I personally put Jews into the mobile gas chamber, and also into a vehicle. Then we took them to the place of execution. This place was located a few hundred meters away from the Dyatlovo Village.

I want to adjust statements which I had given earlier, that is: I didn't participate in convoying to the place of execution in the Dyatlovo Village; I took part in the operation held in Novogrudok, which took place some days after the extermination of Jews in the Dyatlovo Village.

The extermination of Jews in Novogrudok was held the same way it was in the Dyatlovo Village. After we had encircled the Jewish camp, the Jews were gathered together on one square, where they lied down on their stomachs. Soon after we encircled that Jewish camp, some trucks and a mobile gas chamber arrived. The soldiers of our battalion, including myself, were putting Jews into vehicles and into the mobile gas chamber. I was riding in one of these vehicles convoying 20-30 Jews to an execution. All in all, about 1, 000 Jews were executed.

Question: You have testified before that the 3rd platoon of the 2nd company did not take part in the executions of Jews in the Dyatlovo Village. Where was the 3rd platoon at that time?

Answer: The 3rd platoon of the 2nd company carried out executions of Jews in the Novoelnya station region.

Question: The investigation is informed that you took part in beating and executions of Jews in Novogrudok.

Answer: As I've already pointed out, I didn't directly participate in the execution, I only took part in convoying Jews to the execution, and I was also putting them into the mobile gas chamber and other automobiles that transported Jews to the place of execution.

Question: For how long did you stay in the Novogrudok region?

Answer: In the Novogrudok region we stayed for about one month, afterwards, our unit was sent to Donbass.

Question: What were you personally doing in Donbass?

Answer: In Donbass I was the swabber of our company, other soldiers were guarding a Soviet prisoners of war camp, convoying them to work and guarding them during their work.

Question: Did you take part in battles against the Soviet Army?

Answer: In autumn 1942, the 36th police battalion was maneuvered to the Stalingrad front where I took part in battles against the Soviet Army, on the 12th of December I got wounded.

Question: Do you possess any awards from the German command?

Answer: For participation in the Stalingrad battles and for the shown courage I was awarded by the German command an Iron Cross of the 2nd class.

*Interrogation was conducted by Senior Inspector
of the Saaremaa UO MGB ESSR [...]*

Central Archive of the FSB of Russia. Fund 100. List 11. File 4. Pages 238-240.

Original. Typescript.

DOCUMENT 2

Transcript of interrogation of Rudolf Mjaeorga who participated in atrocities in Belarus as member of the 36th Estonian Police Battalion

15th of July 1948, Kuresaare City

I, Senior Investigator of the Saaremaa UO MGB SSSR - Lieutenant Junior Grade [...] interrogated as a witness...

Question: Tell me in brief your biography.

Answer: I was born on the 2nd of October 1924 in the Carida Village, Kärla Volost, Saaremaa Uyezd, where my parents held a farm. When I was three, my father died, and I stayed with my mother and brother in the Jurna hamlet, Kärla Volost. In 1933 I entered Paadla elementary school, there in 1938 I finished 4 grades, and afterwards I continued working on my farm. In autumn 1939, I started working in the construction of a base in Karujärva, there I worked until February 1940, then I came back to my farm, where I lived and worked until February 1942.

Question: Continue your testimony.

Answer: In February 1942, I voluntarily entered the 36th Police Battalion, where I was appointed to the 2nd company. I didn't have a military rank. The foregoing company was formed on the Saaremaa Island. On the 11th of February 1942, we were entrained, and went off to Tartu. In Tartu we were given the kits. At the same time, we were trained a little and were also to stand sentinel. We were located in barracks on the Tildy Street. After spending a month in Tartu, our 2nd company left for Pskov where we were trained and stood a sentinel.

Question: What did the 36th Battalion, including you, do in Tartu?

Answer: Mostly during our stay in Tartu, we were guarding Soviet prisoners of war, and convoying them to and from work.

Question: Where was the 36th Battalion sent to from Tartu?

Answer: In August 1942, the 36th Battalion was entrained in Tartu and sent to Belarus where we were detrained in Novogrudok. In the Novogrudok region we spent about a month; our main aim was executing Jews who lived in Novogrudok and in villages nearby.

Question: Did you personally take part in the executions of Jews?

Answer: Yes, the soldiers and officers of the 36th Police Battalion, including me, took part in execution of Jews.

Question: Tell me in detail, how the executions of Jews took place.

Answer: Before the execution, soldiers of the 36th Police Battalion, including myself, had arrested a group of Jews. Some of them had been put into vehicles, others had been sent afoot out of town, where the arrested dug out large pits – ditches that were about 30-60 meters lengthwise, 1.5 meters in depth and about 2.5 meters wide. After the ditches were ready, we shot the Jews that were digging them. I personally shot 10 Jews. Afterwards, other Jews, in groups of 20-30 people, were brought to these ditches; among them were women and children.

Question: Did you personally take part in arresting Jews and conveying them to execution?

Answer: Yes, I personally took part in arresting Jews and conveying them to execution. It's hard for me to tell how many of them I conveyed to execution, for I do not remember.

Question: How long did these executions last, and how many people were shot?

Answer: The executions lasted for a couple of weeks; on the whole more than a thousand Jews were shot there.

*The report of interrogation is made from my words correctly,
and I have personally read it through.*

(Signature)

*The interrogation was conducted by Senior Investigator of the Saaremaa UO MGB ESSR –
Lieutenant Junior Grade [..]*

*Public Prosecutor of the Saaremaa Uyezd, Junior Counselor of Justice participated in the
interrogation [..]*

Central Archive of the FSB of Russia. Fund 100. List 11. File 4. Pages 236-237.

Original. Typescript.

DOCUMENT 3

Transcript of interrogation of Everhard Michelson who participated in punitive actions of the 36-th Estonian Police Battalion in Belarus

August 14, 1948

I, Senior Chief Officer of the Criminal Investigation department of the Saaremaa UO MGB Estonian SSR, Lieutenant Senior Grade [...], interrogated as an accused

MICKELSON Everhard Mihkelevich, B 1923, in the Saaremaa Uyezd, Valjala Volost, Vereku Village, Estonian, citizen of the USSR, non-party member, education of 6 classes, a peasant.

Is warned about the responsibility for giving false testimonies in accordance with the 95th article of UK [criminal code] of RSFSR.

(Signature)

Question: Tell your biography.

Answer: I was born in Saaremaa in 1923; my father was a peasant of average means. There I finished a six-class elementary school. After leaving school, I began working for peasants as a farm laborer up to the establishment of the Soviet regime in Estonia. During 1940-1941, I worked on the construction of a military base in the uyezd of Saaremaa, Valjala Volost. From the moment of occupation by the Germans and up to 1942, I worked on road construction works.

In the beginning of 1942, I have absolutely voluntarily entered the 36th Punitive Police Battalion of the German Army. Up to 1945, I was in the service in the German Army.

Question: Were you a member of the Omakaitse?

Answer: No I was not a member of the Omakaitse.

Question: Tell, under which circumstances you have entered the 36th Punitive Battalion of the German Army?

Answer: As I've already said, in the beginning of 1942, I absolutely voluntary entered the 36th Punitive Police Battalion which began to form in Saaremaa. After I had been enlisted, I absolutely voluntarily entered the 36th Punitive Police Battalion of the German Army, in Kuresaare. There I spent 3-4 days; the German command directed us in the amount of 150-200 people to the city of Haapsalu. Having arrived at Haapsalu, we didn't do anything there for 2 weeks. Then all of us including me, were directed to Tartu.

Question: Was the battalion replenished In Haapsalu?

Answer: During the 2 weeks while we were in Haapsalu, our battalion was replenished, but I do not know how many people were added.

Question: How much time did you spend in Tartu, and what did you do there?

Answer: In Tartu we spent about 4.5 months, where all of us, participants of 36th Police Battalion, completed a course of military training. There we also received military regimentals and arms.

Question: Where did you leave Tartu?

Answer: The 36-th Punitive Police Battalion left Tartu for Belarus, the Novogrudok region.

Question: When did it happen?

Answer: It was in the beginning of August, 1942.

Question: What did you do in the Novogrudok region?

Answer: In the Novogrudok region in a place named Dyatlovo participants of the 36th Punitive Police Battalion, including me, were guarding the Jewish population in a square.

Question: For what purpose was the Jewish population driven by you to a square in a place named Dyatlovo?

Answer: When the 36th Punitive Police Battalion, including me, drove the Jewish population to a square, I personally did not know, for what purpose it was done, but when the population had been driven, then the command of 36th Punitive Police Battalion asked whether anyone of us wished to take part in the execution of the Jewish population.

Question: Did you personally take part in execution of the Jewish population?

Answer: I did not personally participate in execution of the Jewish population, but as I said, I personally drove Jewish population to a square in a place named Dyatlovo, guarding them until the execution.

Question: How much time did you spend in the Novogrudok region, and how many Soviet citizens were executed there?

Answer: The 36th Punitive Police Battalion, including me, spent about 3 weeks in the Novogrudok region and left it in the end of August, 1943. During this time, over 1, 500 Jews were executed in Dyatlovo.

How many more were executed in other places in Novogrudok, I do not know.

Question: Tell me whether you participated in battles against the Soviet Army?

Answer: I personally participated in battles against the Red Army in the end 1942 near Stalingrad and in the autumn of 1943 near Nevel.

Question: Do you possess any awards from the German Command?

Answer: For the service in the German Army and for participation in battles against the Soviet Army I was awarded a badge of excellence, and I received the second badge from the German Command for the wounds that I received near Stalingrad and Nevel.

Question: Whom do you know from the participants of the 36th Punitive Police Battalion who took part in annihilation of the Jewish population in the Novogrudok Region?

Answer: From participants of 36th Punitive Police Battalion I know the following persons:

1. KAZEMAA Heino, approximately 30 years old, the inhabitant of the Mustjala Volost or Kihelkonn, I am not precisely sure. Together with me he drove the Jewish population to a square in a place named Dyatlovo. After the Soviet citizens were executed, there were talks among the soldier of the 2nd company of the 1st platoon about KAZEMAA taking personal participation in the execution of the Jewish population.
2. KOJT Mart, approximately 23-24 years old, the inhabitant of the Valjala Volost. Together with me he drove the Jewish population to a square in a place named Dyatlovo. Later he participated in fights under Stalingrad and Nevel.
3. LEPPICK Verner, about 26-27 years old, the inhabitant of the Valjala Volost. After the war, he lived on the continent, some say that he got arrested.
4. OTS Elmar, 25-26 years old, the inhabitant of the Valjala Volost, he was killed in a battle near Nevel or Narva.
5. LEMBER Ferdinand, 25 years old, the inhabitant of the Valjala Volost, he got killed under Nevel.
6. VIILSAAR Edward, 30 years old, the inhabitant of the Valjala Volost, he got killed under Nevel or Narva.
7. RAAT Herman, 30 years old, the inhabitant of the Valjala Volost, nothing is known about his activities in the 36th Battalion, he was last seen in spring 1948 in a horse-rent office in the Valjala Volost.
8. IMEVER Juhannes (inexact), 40 years old, the inhabitant of the Pihltla Volost, the commander of a platoon, can't tell where he is nowadays, I have last seen him near Stalingrad.
9. MJAGI Tjarny, 40 years old, the inhabitant of the Tjahtla Volost (it is inexact), the battalions medical assistant, his practical activities are not known to me.
10. KIHELPUU Leo, 25-26 years old, the inhabitant of the Pihltla Volost, a hospital attendant, his activities are not known to me.

11. PIHEL Albert, 24-25 years old, the inhabitant of Saaremaa. Works as a driver at a motor depot of Kuressaare, he was a messenger of the company in the battalion. His activities are not known to me.
12. VESSIK Orest, 30 years old, the inhabitant of Karima Volost (inexact), his activities as a participant of 36th Battalion are not known to me.

Question: List the people who served in the 36th Battalion in one squad with you?

Answer: The following people served together with me in the same squad:

1. MARTIN (don't know his name), about 40 years old, inhabitant of Saaremaa, Mustjala or Kihelkonn volosts, the squad leader of the 1st platoon of the 2nd company. Together with me he drove the Jewish population to a square in a place named Dyatlovo; I don't know where he is nowadays.
2. LIBUS Andres, 24-25 years old, inhabitant of Sirve, a private soldier, together with me drove the Jewish population for the execution in a place named Dyatlovo, participated in battles near Stalingrad.
3. LIHMUS Charles, 25 years old, the inhabitant of Saaremaa, Karemaas Volost (inexact), together with me he drove the Jewish population for the execution in a place named Dyatlovo, participated in battles near Stalingrad.
4. ALBO August, 24-25 years old, inhabitant of Kihelkonn (inexact), a private soldier, together with me he drove the Jewish population for the execution in a place named Dyatlovo, also participated in battles near Stalingrad.

Question: What else can you add to the point?

Answer: I have nothing more to add to the interrogation.

*The protocol was written down from my words correctly, and
was read to me in Estonian*

(Signature)

The interrogation was conducted by Chief Commissioner of the Saaremaa UO MGB ESSR

Senior Lieutenant [..]

Central Archive of the FSB of Russia. Fund 100. List 11. File 4. Pages 241-244.

Original. Typescript.

DOCUMENT 4

Transcript of interrogation of Alexander Kuuzika who participated in punitive operations of the 40th Estonian Police Battalion in Pskov, Leningrad, and Kalinin Regions and other regions of Russia

January 5, 1949

I, commander of the 3rd squad of the 4th department of MGB ESSR, Lieutenant Colonel [...], have interrogated as a witness Kuuzika Alexander Eduardovich, born in 1920, in the Volhovschina district, Pskov Region, lives in the Rosslin Village in Ruguldi Volost, Pauli Ljaanemaaskov's farm of the ESSR Uyezd, Estonian, citizen of the USSR, a non-party member, 6 classes of education, passport #575592, issued by the Läänemaa UO Ministry of Internal Affairs of the ESSR, a peasant, from a family of a poor peasant.

Was warned about the responsibility for giving false testimonies in accordance with the 95th article of UK [criminal code] of the RSFSR.

(Signature)

Question: In what language do you wish to testify?

Answer: I perfectly know Russian, therefore I shall testify in Russian.

Question: Where did you live and what were you engaged in during the German occupation?

Answer: Till April, 1942, I lived in the territory occupied by the Germans in Gdov in the Pskov Region at a saw-mill, at blacksmith's work. On the 4/1/1942, I left Gdov for Tartu (Estonia) where I voluntarily joined the 40th Police Battalion, which was forming in Tartu in May, 1942. Being in the 40th Police Battalion I left for Pskov where I was settled in the Irkutsk barracks. Temporarily our 40th Police Battalion went to the occupied Soviet territories of Kalinin and Pskov areas to fight against the Soviet partisans. First, I served in the 2nd company where the commander was Chief Lieutenant LINSI, and in the beginning of 1944, I was transferred to the 3rd company of the same 40th Police Battalion where the commander was chief-lieutenant Nikolay RJATSEP, Estonian by nationality, native of Mustavee.

Question: Where are at present the officers that you mentioned, Chief Lieutenant LINSI and Nikolay RJATSEP?

Answer: Chief Lieutenant LINSI, the commander of the 2nd company of the 40th Police Battalion, Charles LINSI (name is inexact), native of the Tartumaa Uyezd (Estonia). According to his colleague MARDISON Oscar, he is in Germany in the English zone of occupation. Where he is at present, I do not know. Concerning chief-lieutenant Nikolay RJATSEP I know that at present he lives in the Tartumaa Uyezd in the Torma Volost in the manor of his wife, and is engaged in agriculture.

Question: What do you know about the previous activities of Chief Lieutenant LINSI?

Answer: LINSI by the name Charles (it is inexact) held a post of the commander of the 40th Police Battalion. I have entered this battalion in April, 1942. As LINSI himself told us, he had served in the Estonian bourgeois army as an officer. From 1940 to 1941, he served in the Soviet Army and in the first days of war between Germany and the USSR, voluntarily came over to the German side, then entered a gang "The Forest Brothers" on the territory of the Estonian SSR. There he participated in detention and liquidation of certain groups of fighters of the Soviet Army that lagged behind their units during the withdrawal from the territory of Estonia. Then the German Command offered him a post of the Commander of the 40th Police Battalion. As he himself expressed, during his stay in "The Forest Brothers" gang they did not take the soldiers of the Soviet Army in captivity, but shot them on the spot. In 1942, 1943 and 1944, being in the 2nd company where the commander was Chief Lieutenant LINSI, he with the company in the territory of Leningrad, Pskov, Kalinin, and Kaluga regions participated in fights against the Soviet partisans and parachuters, took an especially active part in the liquidation of partisan groups in the area of the Island, the OPOCHKI, Novorzhev and Kuderere Village. For active participation in fights with partisans and destruction of Soviet villages he was rewarded with the Iron Cross. According to the former machine gunner of the 2nd company of the 40th police battalion [...], which at present lives in Tartumaa Uyezd in the Rodka Volost, together with Chief Lieutenant LINSI he was at war up to the last cartridge, and he was in Soviet captivity in Germany. LINSI supposedly stayed in the English zone of occupation, and he, Oscar [...], remained in the POW camp, where he was contained for one and a half year and was then released.

Question: For how long do you know Oscar MARDISON?

Answer: I have known Oscar MADISON since April, 1942, from the moment of my service in the 40th Police Battalion. He voluntarily joined the police battalion, as well as I did. We served together with him in one company, he was in the 1st platoon, and I was in the 2nd platoon, therefore the following information about him is known to me:

Oscar MARDISON as a machine gunner took part in all punitive expeditions headed by the company commander Chief Lieutenant LINSI. I know that Oscar MARDISON personally shot detained Soviet citizens. In January, 1944 a man caught in the woods was delivered to the Sereodka Village of the Pskov region. I do not know

the last name of the man, but he was suspected of having a connection with the Soviet partisans. After Chief Lieutenant LINSI had talked with the arrested person, an order to shoot him was given, and 200 m away from the Sereodka Village Oscar MARDISON shot the condemned from a machine gun. I personally saw it. The following persons were present at the moment of execution: Charles OSKA, privates Rudolf KAASK and Albert KORT. In January, 1944, Oscar MARDISON and Albert KORT caught a Soviet pilot, don't know his last name, which lowered on a parachute from a plane and when that pilot started leaving the area after landing, machine gunner Oscar MARDISON fired a burst at him, killing him to death.

I saw it personally, and many soldiers went there to look at the killed Soviet pilot. The pilot had documents and a photograph; they were handed over to the commander of the second company Chief Lieutenant LINSI. Besides, I personally saw a revolver near the body, which was taken by Sergeant Major Charles OSKA. This very day, before the formation of the company, Oscar MARDISON was thanked officially. I also remember as private Albert KORT who was present at the capture of the Soviet pilot, was also officially thanked. The commander of the company Chief Lieutenant LINSI thanked them officially. In the end of December, 1943 in the Novorzhev area of the Kalinin Region under the direction of Sergeant Major Charles OSKA, a strike on the staff of the Soviet partisan group was accomplished by a group from the 2nd company of the 40th police battalion. Machine gunner Oscar MARDISON, privates Albert KORT, Rudolf KAASK, Nikolay SHELT, Alfred SOU, and his brother Leonard SOU were there, I do not remember any other last names.

The staff was in the Gorushko Village, one man and one woman were detained, 7, 000 Soviet rubles and different papers of the partisan staff were taken away. The arrested man was inquired about the password of the partisan group, but he has categorically declared: "You'd better kill me, but I won't give you the password". He was there and then shot from a revolver by a German officer. The woman was tortured and beaten, she was demanded to give out the password. But she didn't tell it either. The machine gunner Oscar MARDISON struck the woman with the butt of a machine gun and declared: "If you will not speak, I shall shoot you down at once from a machine gun". After not getting any confession, this woman was handed over to the German officer who took her to some room. And Sergeant Major Charles OSKA received a new task - to go on a round-up to another place, and his entire group including machine gunner MARDISON left. I saw all of this personally, as I was in the group of Sergeant Major Charles OSKA. Later on, after we spent round-ups, we found out that the partisan woman was also shot, but I did not see who exactly shot her. In the spring of 1943, in Kudevere area of the Belokalujskij Region mass round-ups on the Soviet partisans were made, all of the suspected Soviet inhabitants were detained, and villages were burnt.

I personally saw how machine gunner Oscar MARDISON shot tracer bullets on a village, the name I do not remember. As a result of this shooting the village was set on fire and completely burned down. Over 250 partisans and civilians were killed

when Oscar MARDISON and some other soldiers were shooting. Oscar MARDISON told me personally as to a colleague that he went through junior officers' [training] at the SS school, after graduating which he received the rank of a Corporal. Right now, his documents are issued in such a way that it would be hard to find him by his last name.

Question: What do you know about the activity of the commander of the 3rd company of the 40th Police Battalion Chief Lieutenant Nikolay RJATSEP?

Answer: Nikolay RJATSEP, the native of Mustveja (Estonia), I know him by joint service in the 40th police battalion since May, 1942, I saw him for the first time in Pskov in the Irkutsk barracks where the 2nd and the 3rd companies of the 40th police battalion stayed. Nikolay RJATSEP at that time had a rank of Chief Lieutenant and held a post of the Commander of the 3rd company. He treated his subordinates brutally, for the slightest infringements put them in to a punishment cell. During the Estonian bourgeois time, he served in the army as an officer. With the establishment of the Soviet authority in 1940, he continued serving in the Soviet Army. In 1941, during the first days of war, came over to the Germans' side. The following is known about his practical activities.

In February, 1944, I was transferred from the 2nd company to the 3rd company in submission of Chief Lieutenant Nikolay RJATSEP. Being in the 3rd company, I was directed to the Sereckinsky area of the Pskov Region for fighting against the Soviet partisans as the partisan movement amplified at that time, and began to stop regularly railway traffic between Pskov and Gdov, undermining railway bridges. The staff of the 3rd company was placed at a railway station, approximately in 3 km from the Serecki Village. The commander of the company RJATSEP found out that there was a large partisan group in the Sereckinskiy area, which was dangerous for Germans. He sent a letter through the chairwoman of the staff of the 3rd company, a Russian, to the commander of the partisan group asking him to send his representatives for negotiations about halting acts of sabotage on the railway. I do not know what else was promised, but the chairwoman came back from the commander of the partisan group and informed Chief Lieutenant Nikolay RJATSEP that representatives would arrive for negotiations. In February, 1944, I do not remember at what day exactly, two representatives of their partisan group, as we later found out, the commander himself – Senior Lieutenant, I don't know his last name, and his chief of staff, I don't know his last name either, came to the commander of the 3rd company Nikolay RJATSEP. They were met by Chief Lieutenant Nikolay RJATSEP, Corporal LEHESOU that served in the staff of the 3rd company, and an orderly in the rank of Corporal, his last name I do not know. While the representatives of the partisan group passed on to the cabinet, the latter was outside the premise, and was instructed to shoot these members of the partisan group if they try to leave after the negotiations. But it happened so that Chief Lieutenant RJATSEP personally shot the commander of the partisan group - the Senior Lieutenant and then the chief of staff of the partisan group, Lieutenant, in the cabinet from his revolver, and the charwoman, a Russian, who tried to run out from the building, but she was shot outside by the orderly, his

last name I do not remember, which was specially placed there as a sentinel. The corpses of three people were thrown out into a cellar of a railway building, and the next day we, the soldiers, went there to look at them. I personally saw the three killed persons. Some days later, in the "Eesti-Sana", a newspaper that was published in the Estonian language, detailed information was given under what circumstances the leaders of the Soviet partisans were caught and killed by Chief Lieutenant RJATSEP, the commander of the company. For this murder RJATSEP was awarded with an Iron Cross by the German Command. At that time, he was praised as [...] for the feat against the Soviet partisans. Soon after that case, the Soviet military units began to approach, and our 3rd company was withdrawn from the Seredkinskiy area closer to Pskov, to about 30 km away from it. Our 3rd company was given premises of an orthodox [church] where the entire staff was placed. Inside all icons and utensils were broken; some of it was thrown out. In the end of February, 1944, 3 people, one man and two women, were brought to the church by the detachment of our company, suspected that they looked out for positions of military units, i.e. our 3rd company. Chief Lieutenant RJATSEP started asking them, what were they doing near the church where the German unit was situated. The arrested said that their potatoes were buried in the stacks on the field, for them to eat. Chief Lieutenant RJATSEP didn't believe in their statements, shouted at them, threatened with execution, but they told the same. As a result, Chief Lieutenant RJATSEP gave an order to soldiers: to allocate the three from the location of the company away into the woods and shoot them. But at the same moment, he exclaimed with a rage: "I will shoot them myself". The arrested people, a man and two women were then taken out from the premise, and RJATSEP came right after them; as a result, all the three were killed in the woods, near the church. Two soldiers escorted them to the place of execution; one's last name was SIBUL, the others' I do not remember. Chief Lieutenant Nikolay RJATSEP was at the place of execution. I did not see who exactly shot them, as I remained at the company in the church. I also saw corpses that were left unburied. Soon our company receded to Pskov, there we received an order to depart to the Simerpadu borough of the Virumaa Uyezd of the Estonian SSR. Then I was again transferred to the 2nd company of the 40th Police Battalion where at that time the commander was Chief Lieutenant KAVASK.

Question: What do you know about the relatives of RJATSEP?

Answer: I know that Nikolay RJATSEP in 1941 lived with his wife who had connections with "The Forest Brothers" gang and was caught and killed in the beginning of the war in 1941 by Soviet destroyers. Now Chief Lieutenant Nikolay RJATSEP is married to a peasant woman who has her own manor in the Nyaago Village of the Tartumaa Uyezd in the Torma Volost.

Question: What else can you add?

Answer: I can add that the soldier of the 3rd company of the 40th Police Regiment SIBUL, his name and patronymic I do not know, born in 1930, from the Valgamaa Uyezd of the ESSR, but where he is now, I do not know.

My evidence was written down correctly in the transcript and read to me, for what I undersign.

(Signature)

The interrogation was conducted by the Chief of 3rd Branch of the 4th Department MGB ESSR

Lieutenant Colonel [..]

Central archive of FSB of Russia. Fund 100. List 11. File 4. Pages 245-252.

Original. Typewriting.

DOCUMENT 5

Transcript of interrogation of a legionary of the 20th Estonian Waffen SS division Vjaino Vizu who participated in the war crimes of the fascist organization Omakaitse, of the 33rd and the 287th Police Battalions

May 22, 1950

Translation from Estonian

I, Senior Authorized Operative of the 3rd Squad of the 4th Department of MGB of ESSR, Lieutenant [...], interrogated witness: VIZU Vjaino, son of Natali, B 1911, native of Umgiviza Village of Vilo Volost of the Pechersky Uyezd, Estonian, citizen of USSR, non-party member, 6 classes of education, lives in Tartu, 1-3 Tjahtvere Street, works as a transport worker at a farm produce office of the Tartu center, from a family of poor peasants.

Witness is warned about the responsibility for false swearing and for refusal of giving evidence in accordance with the Article 95 of the RSFSR UK [criminal code].

Question: In what language do you wish to testify?

Answer: I wish to testify in the native Estonian Language, as I do not know the Russian Language.

Translator Lieutenant [...] is warned about the responsibility for correct translation in accordance with Article 95 of the RSFSR UK [criminal code].

Question: Where did you live and what did you do before the beginning of the Great Patriotic War of 1941?

Answer: Before the beginning of the Great Patriotic War between Germany and USSR in 1941, I lived in Tartu at 1-3 Tähtvere Street and worked as a worker at the Tartu state sawmill. After the war started in 1941, I worked as a loader in the Tartu harbor, as the sawmill had been closed.

Question: Under what circumstances did you begin to live on the occupied by the Germans territory of Estonia in 1941, whereas [men of] your year of birth had been mobilized to the Soviet Army?

Answer: I know that some people that I had been working with received the call-up papers for service in the Soviet Army, but I didn't receive one, and, thus, not wishing to be evacuated from the territory of Estonia, I remained living in the territory that was temporarily occupied by the Germans.

Question: Where did you live and what did you do during the German occupation of Estonia?

Answer: In September, 1941, I voluntarily entered the military fascist organization Omakaitse in Tartu which at that time was headed by the former officer of border guard of the Estonian bourgeois period Captain Ludwig SAAR. After I had [started] service in Omakaitse, I was enlisted into a platoon that was commanded by a former employee of border guard of Estonian bourgeois army Sergeant Major Jan SOOVJALI, and the commander of the squad was former border guard Corporal Rihard JARVEMJAE.

Question: Tell me in detail about your practical activities during service in the military fascist organization Omakaitse?

Answer: Being in service in Omakaitse, I carried out the armed patrol service of military objects, and in particular of the Tartu River Bridge (from attacks and arsons); I was armed with a rifle. I also protected warehouses with the foodstuff that were in the Njatuze exhibition square where I also had a rifle, and warehouses with hay, I also protected warehouses with the hay, which were situated in the Raadi farmstead. Besides, I personally secured the camp on the Njatuze Square, where the Soviet citizens that had been arrested by Germans were contained. I stood at the camp's main gate. During the guarding of the camp, there were cases when newly arrested persons were brought to the camp which I would let through the gate. Besides, my duties included the [controlling] all people who wished to pass through the gate, since only members of the organization Omakaitse and security were allowed to pass through the gate. Only political prisoners - Soviet citizens - were held in the camp, and later, Soviet military men who were taken prisoners were contained in separate barracks. Most of the prisoners of this camp were shot by the Germans on the "Yalaka" line. Prisoners were taken to the place of executions by trucks, usually at night. The executions were made by special team of the Omakaitse members, made of staff of the platoon, which was commanded by Jan SOUVYALI. I cannot say who particularly went to shoot, as I did not see.

Question: Name all members of the Omakaitse organization that you know and their practical activities.

Answer: The Omakaitse organization was headed by Ludwig SAAR in the autumn of 1941, and his wife SAAR Hilda (the name is inexact) worked in the Omakaitse staff [doing] clerical work. When I entered the organization Omakaitse in autumn 1941, SAAR already served in Omakaitse in the post of the company commander of the Tartu Omakaitse which was completely supervised by the Tartu's Omakaitse apparatus in autumn, 1941. Under the personal direction of SAAR, in 1941, we performed mass arrests. Later on, we would shoot Soviet citizens which under his instructions were detained in the camp of prisoners on the Njatuze Square, and then we shot them at the "Yalaka" line. The staff of the Omakaitse company which was headed by Ludwig SAAR, was located in Tartu on the Njatuze Square (an exhibition square), in a separate small building. The concentration camp, where

political prisoners were contained was situated in the same place in other barracks. The protection of the concentration camp was Captain SAAR's responsibility. Approximately in November, 1941 SAAR was appointed the post of the Commander of the 2nd company of the 33rd Police Battalion, the company headed by him was to protect the concentration camp and other important facilities on the territory of Tartu. In the spring 1942, the 33rd police battalion in its full complement directed to the Leningrad front to the Peterhof-Strelnya area. For an unknown reason, Captain SAAR remained in Tartu, and Chief Lieutenant Agu LANNOO was appointed the company commander instead of him. Having remained in Tartu, SAAR, as I know, raised other police battalions. In spring, 1943, being in the 33rd battalion, I was directed to the 287th police battalion in the Kiviõli settlement on protection of mines of the slate industry; there in summer, 1943, captain SAAR arrived [to take the] the post of the Company Commander. In April, 1944, I was transferred from the 287th Police Battalion to the 37th battalion.

Rihard JARVEMJAE, at that time approximately 30 years old, Estonian, inhabitant of Tartu, during the bourgeois government in Estonia served in border guard. Since the first days of the organization Omakaitse in Tartu, served as a squad leader. As a squad leader, he allocated the Omakaitse members of his squad to posts of guarding the concentration camp in Njatuze and on other important military objects of Tartu. Besides, JARVEMJAE went on all kinds of works in the complement of an operative group with political prisoners, and especially on farm jobs in some farm stead in the Tartu Uyezd. The last time I saw JARVEMJAE was in summer, 1944 in the Neihammer training camp (Germany). At that time, he served in a post of a Sergeant Major of a platoon of the battalion where captain Agu LANNOO was the head, I do not recall the number of the battalion. In March, 1945, being at the front under Hirschberg, I met my colleagues who told me that corporal JARVEMJAE together with Agu LANNOO intended to run in to the allies' zone – to Brits or Americans, but I personally did not meet them and where they are now, I do not know.

His signs: average height, a thin constitution, blond, a thin face. In 1941, JARVEMJAE was married.

Question: When and under what circumstances did you enter the 33rd Police Battalion and what specific duty did you carry out?

Answer: In November - December, 1941, I do not remember the exact time, I voluntarily entered the 33rd Police Battalion which was formed in Tartu, the commander of 33rd Police Battalion was major KUUZE, I received an appointment to the 2nd company where the company commander was captain Ludwig SAAR, to the 2nd platoon where the commander was lieutenant Oswald MICK, and the Sergeant Major of the platoon was Peter PRISKE. The squad commander was Junior Corporal NIMMIK.

During my service in the police battalion, [I] received military training and was on guard of German military objects, in particular, railway, road and river bridges, near a post office, a bank, and other objects.

In spring, 1942, being in the 2nd company of the 33rd police battalion, I was directed to the front near Leningrad where I carried out the defense in the Peterhof-Strelnya area, at that time the commander of the company was major KOURT, as Ludwig SAAR remained in Tartu. Approximately in December, 1942, our battalion which was in a skirmish on the front line near Leningrad with the advanced outposts of the Soviet units, was removed from the front line and directed to Tartu where it was disbanded. The staff was passed on to other newly organized battalions. I was directed to the 287th Police Battalion, in the complement of the company I left for Kiviõli to the protection of the slate industry. First our company commander was Senior Lieutenant UZE, and then captain Ludwig SAAR. At this time, Soviet prisoners of war went to work from the camp to the Kiviõli centre and I convoyed them to work, and also guarded them during work. Up to April, 1944, I was in Kiviõli. Approximately in June, 1944, 15 people, including me, were directed to the 37th Police Battalion. Being in the 3rd company of the 37th Police Battalion I was directed to the Virts-Järv (lake) area front, where I participated in fights with units of the Soviet Army on the Kmangi River. In autumn 1944 the line of defense was broken through by units of the Soviet Army, then our 37th Police Battalion has receded to the Viljandi area, and then to Latvia. In Riga's seaport we were shipped on to German military transport and were sent to Danzig where we were directed to one manor approximately 25 km away from Danzig. After that I was appointed to the 20th Estonian SS division and was directed to a military training camp "Neihammer" (Germany). After a fortnight stay in the "Neihammer" camp, I was directed to Italy in the complement of the 1st company, where I went through military training and security-patrol service on roads. In April, 1945, receiving the instruction to get back in to my division, I left Italy and was directed to the 20th Estonian SS division which at this time was at the front near Hirschberg (Silesia) where I stayed till the moment of German capitulation.

Being at the front near Hirschberg, after capitulation of Germany I have been captivated by the Soviet Army.

Question: Name colleagues that are known to you from the 33rd, 287th and 37th police battalions, reflecting their specific activity.

Answer: From among colleagues of the 33rd, 287th and 37th police battalions the following are known to me:

1. LANNU Agu, approximately 43-45 years, during German occupation lived in Tartu, Estonian.

Signs: below average height, a dense constitution, brown hair, an oval face, talked very quickly and stammered a little.

I've known Agu LANNU since November, 1941, from the joint service in the 33rd Police Battalion where he served from the first days of formation of the battalion on the post of the 1st company Commander, in the rank of Captain. Till spring, 1942 the entire 33rd Police Battalion was engaged in security service in Tartu and after that was with its full complement directed to a front near Leningrad where he carried out the defense in the Peterhof-Strelnya area. Also Agu LANNU at that time took part and supervised a company in fights against units of the Soviet Army on the front line near Leningrad. In November-December, 1942, the 33rd Police Battalion, including LANNU with his company, was removed from the frontline and directed to Tartu. After that, I was enlisted in to the complement of the 287th Police Battalion. I have been directed to Kiviõli, and LANNU with his company remained in Tartu. What he was engaged in from that moment on, I do not know; the last time I saw Agu LANNU was in the "Neihammer" military-training camp (Germany) in summer, 1944.

I wish to include a clause. That was not the last time I saw LANNU, the last time I saw him was after my arrival to the complement of the 20th Estonian SS division in the end of April, 1945 on front near Hirschberg where LANNU already held the post of the commander of the 20th battalion of the Estonian SS division. There I also saw Major RABENE. My colleagues told me that corporal Agu LANNU together with chief officer JARVEMJAE intended to flee to the allies' zone – to the British or Americans; I don't know whether the attempt was successful or not. LANNU suggested that the members of the battalion flee as well. I haven't seen LANNU ever since. I don't know where he is now.

2. Alexander KANKAR, his age at that time was 30 years, lived in Tartu.

Signs: tall, of thin constitution, blond, an oval face, I do not know any special signs.

I know KANKAR from the joint service in the 33rd Police Battalion since November, 1941. He held the post of the 3rd Platoon Commander in a rank of Lieutenant; Agu LANNU was his company commander. KANKAR participated in all activities of the 33rd police battalion, and was also in charge of a platoon, i.e. secured German military objects, participated in fights against the Soviet Army near Leningrad in spring, 1942 and in 1945 was at the front near Hirschberg (Silesia). Don't know where he is now.

3. NIGOL Charles, at that time 30-35 years old, earlier lived in Tartu, Estonian.

Signs: short, normal constitution, brown hair, an oval face. Served in the 33rd police battalion as the commander of the 1st platoon where the company commander was Agu LANNU. He took part in all activities of the 33rd police battalion, and was also in charge of a platoon during the security service of military objects, participated and was the head of a platoon in fights against units of the Soviet Army near Leningrad in the Peterhof-Strelnya area. Can't exactly say whether he was or not at the front near Hirschberg (Silesia) in March-April, 1945; I do not know where he lives now. During service he was in the rank of Lieutenant.

4. Oswald MICK was approximately 30 years, earlier lived in Tartu, Estonian.

Signs: a small man with normal constitution, a brown-haired person, an oblong face.

Served in the 33rd Police Battalion from the beginning of its formation, in the complement of the 1st company, the commander of which was Agu LANNU, on the post of the commander of the 2nd platoon. Had a rank of Lieutenant. Supervised a platoon during security service of military objects in Tartu. In spring 1942, participated and was head of a platoon in fights against units of the Soviet Army near Leningrad. In spring, 1945 participated at the front near Hirschberg (Silesia) where he was till the moment of the German capitulation. Where MICK is right now, I do not know.

I don't remember anyone else.

Transcript of interrogation was written down correctly and read to me in my native Estonian Language.

(Signature)

The interrogation was conducted by officer of the Criminal Investigation Department of 3rd Branch of the 4th Department of MGB ESSR

Lieutenant [..]

The interrogation was translated by Officer of the Criminal Investigation of Tartu OMGB

Lieutenant [...]

Central archive of FSB of Russia. Fund 100. List 11. File 4. Pages 245-252.

Original. Typewriting.

DOCUMENT 6

Report of survey of the Klooga concentration camp held by the Office of Public Prosecutor of the Estonian SSR

September 29, 1944

Public Prosecutor of the Investigatory Department of the Office of Public Prosecutor ESSR 2nd class attorney EGI, at the presence of the Public Prosecutor of the Office of Public Prosecutor ESSR VASILIEV and witnesses TIRUSK and RAUS, held a survey of the Klooga concentration camp in the Harju Uyezd in the Kejla Volost.

The Klooga [concentration] camp is located to the south of the railway Tallinn - Paldiski, its area is fenced by barbed wire of 2.4 m. in height. Barracks where the prisoners lived are situated in the camp area, and also a number of workshops and a sawmill (see Appendix. The Map of the Camp).

A two-storey stone building is situated at the front entrance on the right side, also fenced by a barbed wire fence, with an area in front of the house of about 1, 279 square meters.

Both the ground and the top floor are cluttered by 2-storey plank beds, closely put in 9 lines with three narrow aisles. In total, there are 180 2-storey plank beds for 360 people on the ground floor.

Corpses of men and women randomly lay in front of the door in the premises of the ground floor of the building, and also in the first and second aisles between plank beds. The bodies in the aisles lay with their faces down in two-three rows lengthwise the aisle, one on another, like a tile roof; heads of the top corpses lay on the middle of the body that is bellow, with their legs towards the doors.

There are 79 corpses in total, with their outer clothing on. Prison clothes are on corpses of three men and one woman. On clothes of six corpses, numbers are sewn on the left side of the chest. The corpses have bullet wounds in the nape; all bodies are in the stage of decomposition with a strong putrid smell.

There are clothes and bedding everywhere scattered in disorder.

200 meters away from the camp, to the north from the railway, near a ditch, there is a burned down building with a stone base and two pipes remaining. At a corner of the base on a stone the date of 7/21/1944 is engraved. The base is 45 centimeters high. On the site of fire, in ashes, there are plenty of burnt skulls, vertebrae, and other bones and remains of corpses. Most of the corpses were completely burned down that is why it is not obviously possible to define the exact amount of corpses. Only 133 of the burnt corpses, which are 13-15% of the total, can be possibly recognized. On the southern side of the house, outside of the base, two

female corpses lay. The burnt head of one corpse and burnt feet of the other are directed towards the base.

At the east side, 15 meters away from the burnt-down building, among ridges of cabbage, lies a corpse of a man with a bullet wound in his nape.

On the same side, 30 meters away from the burnt-down house, lies a corpse with scorched clothes and strong burns on his hips and on the bottom part of his stomach. The corpse has an entrance bullet wound on the right side of his back and an exit wound on the right side of the chest. On the western side, 5 meters away from the burnt-down building, lies a corpse of a man with two bullet wounds on the left side of the chest.

Between the burnt-down building and the camp, in a ditch, at the distance of one meter from the road, from the left side, lies a corpse of a man with many bullet wounds on the right hand, on his neck and back.

700 meters to the north from the camp, on a glade that is 27 meters away from the wood road there are four fires situated 4 meters away from each other; one of them was only prepared, the other three were already burnt down. The area of the fires is 6 x 6.5 meters. The fires consist of 6 logs put on the ground with a number of poles with 75 cm pine and fir-tree logs on it. In the middle of the fire four poles are hammered by a quadrangle at the distance of 0,5 m from each other. Thin logs are rarely fixed on a pole, which, most likely, should represent a pipe. On the three burned down fires corners remained at the western side. On the bottom layer of firewood lie corpses with burnt-down bottom parts of the body. Corpses lay with their faces downwards, some of them with overhanging hands. Two corpses are with their faces closed by hands, the palms densely pressed to the face and eyes closed by the fingers. By the remaining parts of the corpses it can be said that there were 17 corpses put on the fire in one row, and there were 5 such rows, heads of corpses of the second and the following rows lie on the feet of the previous row. A layer of firewood is placed on the first layer of corpses and the second layer of corpses lies on it. On the second and on the fourth fire two layers of corpses are visible, and on the third fire - three layers. The middle and eastern parts of the fires have completely burnt down. On the remaining parts of the fires, it is possible to make out 254 burnt corpses that is 20-25% of the overall number of corpses that were laid on the fires.

At the northern and the northeastern side at the distance from 5 up to 200 m, 18 corpses of men with bullet wounds in the area of the nape, back and legs lie on the glade.

On the southwestern side of the glade, 15 m away from the first fire, plenty of outer clothing and kettles lie. Near the clothes, at the edge of the forest, there is an empty iron barrel with a smell of oil.

Public Prosecutor of Investigatory Department EGI, Public Prosecutor VASILIEV

Witnesses: TIRUSK and RAUS

State Archives of the Russian Federation. Fund 7021. List 97. File 17a. Pages 12-13.
Original. Typescript.

DOCUMENT 7

Report on seizure of a card index in the office of the Klooga concentration camp containing statistical data about 2,330 prisoners

October 5th, 1944

Public Prosecutor of the Investigation Department of the ESSR Office of Public Prosecutor, 2nd class attorney EGI has presented the following report:

In the office of the Klooga concentration camp, a found and withdrawn card file was examined, based on which a list of prisoners of the camp was made, attached to the report.

Based on the card index examination, it was revealed that there were overall 2,330 prisoners in the Klooga [concentration] camp, from them 1,136 men and 1,194 women, of whom 1,564 men are from Vilno [Vilnius], 691 men - from Kovno [Kaunas]; and 175 men - from other cities and areas of Lithuania.

The age of prisoners is marked as follows:

Born 1874	1	Born 1896	18	Born 1914	105
Born 1875	1	Born 1897	23	Born 1915	67
Born 1876	1	Born 1898	46	Born 1916	50
Born 1882	2	Born 1899	36	Born 1917	49
Born 1883	3	Born 1900	70	Born 1918	44
Born 1884	3	Born 1902	46	Born 1919	41
Born 1885	4	Born 1903	86	Born 1920	98
Born 1886	4	Born 1904	68	Born 1921	65
Born 1887	2	Born 1905	74	Born 1922	21
Born 1888	4	Born 1906	72	Born 1923	74
Born 1889	7	Born 1907	110	Born 1924	71
Born 1890	7	Born 1908	67	Born 1925	87
Born 1891	1	Born 1909	50	Born 1926	77
Born 1892	7	Born 1910	58	Born 1910	98
Born 1893	10	Born 1911	53	Born 1928	91
Born 1894	16	Born 1912	48	Born 1929	66
Born 1895	17	Born 1913	61	Born 1930	23
				Born 1931	4

Professional occupation of prisoners is marked as follows:

Working	441	Nurses	37	Masons	12
Tailors	97	Miller	1	Butchers	10
Seamstresses	651	Hatter	1	Agriculturists	2
Joiners	147	Hospital attendant	1	Saddler	1
Weavers	263	Doctors	21	Chemists	2
Glaziers	39	Druggists	11	Druggists	2
Laundresses	25	Serving	23	Shoemakers	46
Barbers	39	Dentists	12	House painters	31
Dealers	31	Gardeners	5	Electricians	51
Glovers	36	Farmers	6	Metal workers	116
Builders	33	Watch-makers	6	Tinmen	13
Cookers	22	Chimney sweepers	5	Smiths	8
Bakers	9	Photographers	2	Potters	32
Mechanics	15	Steam locomotive driver	1	Engineers	9
Bookkeepers	6	Bookbinders	8	Without occupation	1

Based on which the present report is made.

Public Prosecutor of the Investigatory Department of the Office of Public Prosecutor of the ESSR
2nd class attorney

EGI

State Archives of the Russian Federation. Fund 7021. List 97. File 17a. Pages 95.
 Original. Typescript.

DOCUMENT 8

Report about atrocities of Nazis and their Estonian accomplices against prisoners of the Klooga concentration camp

September 29, 1944

We, the undersigned, attest hereby that after the liberation of the Harjumaa Uyezd (Estonian Soviet Socialist Republic) by the Red Army, near the Klooga railway station that is 38 km to the west of Tallinn, we found a concentration camp organized by fascist invaders and transformed by them in to a death camp.

By [our] personal survey of the camp and its vicinities, by evidence of the survived prisoners of the camp and stories of local residents we determined the following:

The concentration camp in Klooga was organized in September, 1943, as a camp for Jews who had been taken out by Germans from the Lithuanian Soviet Republic. The camp in Klooga was included into the system of concentration camps which Germans arranged in Estonia, which was managed from Vaivara (Virumaa Uyezd).

Prisoners of the Klooga Camp were exposed to an unbearable routine, irrespective of sex and age. Each prisoner was given a number which was sewed in two places on his clothes: for prevention of flights, women had their hair shaved off, and men had a strip shaved going from the forehead to the nape. Prisoners, including children (lately there were 84 children in the camp), worked over 12 hours per day, performing heavy labor, for example, railway works, etc.

During the year, the prisoners starved. The official daily nutrition rate consisted of 330 grams of bread, 25 grams of inedible margarine, a plate of prison soup (water and 40 grams of groats), a mug of coffee. However, even this ration was not completely maintained, and was partially given to the housekeeping staff of the camp. Owing to such nutrition and monstrous conditions of life in barracks, illnesses with a great mortality percentage raged throughout the camp.

The administration of the camp consisted of members of the SS. Works of the prisoners were carried out on demands under the auspices of representatives of the so-called organization "Tod". Members of the SS and representatives of the "Tod" that created the unbearable conditions for the prisoners in the camp, carried out a routine of the unbridled arbitrariness, terror, and mockeries. Every day, public flogging of prisoners took place in the camp on a bench specially equipped for it. Depending on the "fault," the following punishments were determined: confinement without food for 2 days, attachment to a column (in the frost, for 2-3 hours), flogging

- 25, 50 or 75 strokes, whereas the prisoner being punished was supposed to count the amount of strokes aloud. They were beaten by a special scourge with a steel core. Besides the "legal" punishments, members of the SS and representatives of the "Tod" carried out systematical beating. Prisoners were beaten on various occasions: for unfriendliness, for revealing a second shirt or a piece of bread.

The mockeries were carried out not only by the SS security guards, but also by the administration of the camp, by authorities of the concentration camp system of Estonia, and representatives of "Tod". The commandant of management of concentration camps of Estonia Hauptsturmführer BRENNEIZEN would personally beat the captured when he came from Vaivara to Klooga. Before him, his predecessor Hauptsturmführer AUMAYOR, organizer of concentration camps in Estonia, would do the same. German doctors participated in beating of the prisoners: Hauptsturmführer BOTMAN, who had arrived to Klooga from Vaivara, personally beat two prisoner doctors: doctor ZILKINDSON – "for unfriendliness" and doctor HEZOV for his having a piece of bread. The same German doctor would regularly poison the diseased, injecting them with poison (Evipan, injected under the skin in high doses). Hospital attendant of the camp Untersturmführer GENT has slashed 23 aged prisoners to death with an ax. Chiefs of the Klooga Camp (till August, 1944 - Obersturmführer BOK, then Obersturmbannführer VERLE) were known as the most malicious executioners who personally beat prisoners on the bench and scoffed them at searches and checks. Representatives of the organization "Tod" did not lag behind in the atrocities from their SS colleagues, also beating, torturing, and killing prisoners. One of the leaders of the organization "Tod" in Estonia Baurat BEIN would beat the confined with an iron rod. Haupttruppführer set dogs on them. Haupttruppführer PSCHESSUNG "specialized" in beating women by a lash. "Tod" members were also engaged in beating of prisoners - Haupttruppführer Ganz KEPPEL and Obertruppführer DUJARDIN. Executioners and sadists – members of the SS and "Tod" were promoted for their villainies, receiving higher ranks and awards. For example, the SS soldier SCHWARZE, manager of labor works in the management of concentration camps across Estonia, quickly elevated - from Unterscharführer up to Obersturmbannführer - after he slaughtered a teenager, and the "Tod" member DUJARDIN- from private to Haupttruppführer.

Regularly destroying prisoners in the camp by tortures and executions, the camp officials also killed many representatives of the Soviet intelligentsia: doctors, musicians, writers, and lawyers. The following perished in the Klooga Camp : director of the Philharmonic society in Vilno [Vilnius] conductor Woolf DURMASHKIN; director of technical school in Vilno, engineer SCHWEIBER; historian, author of numerous academic works Herman KRUCK; poet Lejb ROZENTAL; director and writer BOSTOMSKI; director of the tubercular hospital in Vilnius Vladimir POCHTER; outstanding doctors ZALKINDSON, POMERANZ, POMM, HOHEM; and many others.

After the Red Army liberated some areas of the Estonian SSR, the management of concentration camps ran from Vaivara to Saku, and then in August, 1944, moved

to Klooga where Russian prisoners of war, abducted residents of the Leningrad area, Pskov, Orel, and other cities, and also political prisoners - Estonians, who were earlier contained in the Tallinn prison, were pulled together, being prepared for their mass execution. Having a presentiment of inevitability of their rout in the Baltic and aspiring to cover up traces of their villainies, the Nazi Germans committed a monstrous crime in Klooga on September 19.

On the 19th of September at 8 am, closed cargo motor vehicles arrived to the camp from Tallinn. They brought: 800 Russian POW's, 700 Estonians - political prisoners, 74 Jews from the Lagedi Camp where Germans just did not have time to destroy them, (there, receding in haste, Germans shot 440 people). At the same time, a vehicle with the SD team – Gestapo members – arrived. At once, Oberscharführer SCHWARZE had started preparing for carnage which was done in the following way.

Prisoners were separated into groups in front of the barracks. One group of the 300 people received a task to prepare firewood. The prisoners were announced that they were going to be evacuated to Germany. However, all of them, seeing strengthened police guarding around them, realized the criminal plan of the Germans.

At 14.30, the Germans began the annihilation of prisoners. Most of them were brought out on to a glade behind the camp. Here the prisoners were forced to make four big fires from the firewood that was prepared in advance. The Germans ordered [prisoners] to lie down closely on the first row of logs in rows. Then prisoners were shot from submachine guns. Then on the first row of corpses the prisoners who expected their turn, put a new row of logs and on hilarities command the laid down prisoners were shot by SS and Gestapo soldiers. When three firewood fires of 8-10 rows of the corpses were ready, the Germans poured their gasoline specially brought here (14 barrels) and lit it. Fires were burning for two and a half days. The base of the fourth fire prepared by the Germans remained untouched as they had no time; it forced the Germans to finish executing the remained prisoners in barracks. The larger group (about 800 people) was destroyed by the Germans in an empty house - a barrack that consisted of 8 rooms. The guards brought prisoners there one by one and in dark rooms (as the shutters were closed) closely stacked the people on the floor, killing them by shots in the nape. After that the Germans opened the windows, poured gasoline over the corpses and lit the house.

From this house, prisoners Abram VAINIK and Gena OKENICKAYA escaped through a window; they pretended dead and then ran.

After finishing with two groups, Germans began to shoot the last set of prisoners. With submachine guns in their hands, they ran into a barrack where were Russians and Estonians brought by the Germans, among whom were women with babies. Having turned the prisoners' backs upon them, Germans shot them in turn in the nape.

Everyone who tried to escape from the carnage were shot by the Germans, and only 84 people managed to save themselves, hiding under plank beds and in attics.

On the scene of the crime, accomplished by fascists, we found:

- Remnants of three big fires with remains of scorched corpses;
- Ashes of a burnt-down house - a barrack with 8 rooms with a heap of burnt bones and corpses;
- A barrack filled up with corpses of the shot prisoners, which the Germans had no time to burn;
- A great number of corpses laid in the territory of the camp and near the place of the massacre (many corpses have traces of scorches, significative of the Germans' burning people alive).

During one day, on September 19, 1944, in the Klooga Camp, by estimates of the escaped prisoners and local residents, 3, 000 people were destroyed, including:

- 800 Russian prisoners of war and abducted Soviet citizens;
- 700 Estonian political prisoners;
- 1500 Jewish prisoners of the concentration camp.

In the area of the Klooga railway station the second camp is located in which the Germans contained 6, 000 people. Abducted Soviet citizens who were also intended to be executed and which survived owing to the prompt approach of the Red Army.

Organizers and executors of the monstrous villainy accomplished by the Germans on 9/19/1944, and also central for the crimes regularly committed in the Klooga Camp, are:

Hauptsturmführer AUMAIOR, Hauptsturmführer BRENNEIZEN, Hauptsturmführer BOTMAN, Hauptsturmführer KREBSBH, Oberscharführer SHCWARZE, Oberscharführer HELVIT, Oberscharführer BOK, Oberscharführer VERLE, Oberscharführer GENT, Baurat WEIN, Haupttruppführer SCHTAHE, Haupttruppführer Hans KEPPEL, Haupttruppführer PSCHESUNG, Obertruppführer DUJARDIN, Matron Inga WEIZMAN.

Representatives of the Red Army: Lieutenant Colonel P. IVANOV, Major A.DIMSCHIZ, Captain O. PYARN, Senior Lieutenant A. FETISOV

Citizens of the Estonian SSR: Railwayman Y. HIEPU, Peasant M. JEJE, E. KUNGER

Witnesses, former prisoners of the camp:

Former prisoner # 225, lawyer L. OLEYSKI

Former prisoner # 818, bookkeeper N. ANOLIK

Former prisoner #2, engineer [...]

Former prisoners #0566, nurse G. OLKENITSKAYA

Former prisoner # 0556, dressmaker L. DERCHIN

State Archives of the Russian Federation. Fund 7021. List 97. File 17a. Pages 3-11.
Copy. Typescript.

DOCUMENT 9

Concluding remarks of Deputy Public Prosecutor of the Estonian SSR on materials of investigation of mass executions of prisoners and destruction of their bodies in Klooga concentration camp (Harjumaa Uyezd)

October 12, 1944, Tallinn

Deputy Public Prosecutor of the Estonian SSR, State Counselor of Justice of the 3rd class UDRAS, having examined materials of investigation performed by the State Commission of the Estonian SSR for the Ascertainment and Investigation of Atrocities of Fascist Aggressors on Temporarily Occupied Territories of the Estonian SSR of mass executions of prisoners and burning their bodies in the Klooga concentration camp in the Keila Volost, Harjumaa Uyezd,

FOUND:

After temporary occupation by fascist armies of the Estonian SSR's territory, the fascist occupational authorities covered the territory of Estonia with a dense system of concentration camps where they held dissident and politically stigmatized civilians.

According to the monthly report of the head physician of the camps' Obersturmführer SS fon BODMAN, if on October 1, 1943, there were 10 camps, then on February 1, 1944, their number was already extended to over 20. All of these camps were intended for civilians. These camps did not include those for POWs.

With the increasing number of camps, the numbers of political prisoners also steeply increased. So, for example, according to the same reports of the head physician of camps BODMAN, quantitative growth of prisoners in some camps is characterized by the following table:

	Camp name	Number of prisoners			
		On 10/25/1943	On 11/25/1943	On 11/20/1944	On 6/26/1944
1	Ereda	245	630	1600	-
2	Kiviõli	448	698	1300	-
3	Vaivara	907	1237	1292	-
4	Klooga	1453	1853	1842	2122

Considering that the Soviet Estonia is the smallest republic among other brotherly Baltic Soviet republics by territory and population (11 uyezds), it is evident that the fascist invaders actually transformed Estonia into a sheer concentration camp (2 camps in every uyezd on average) where tens of thousands of innocent Soviet people were contained.

I. THE KLOOGA CAMP

44 km to the south of Tallinn, on a way to the Paldiski Seaport, in the Keila Volot, Harjumaa Uyezd, near the railway station, a country settlement called Klooga-Aedlin (“Klooga-The Garden City”) is located. Before the fascist occupation, Klooga-Aedlin was the favorite country vacation place for the inhabitants of Tallinn. In September, 1943, the German invaders organized a concentration labor camp of the so-called “Tod” organization in Klooga. The Germans cut down a beautiful and picturesque pine forest around the camp, and the camp itself was enclosed with barbed wire and sentinel towers. Patrolling of the camp was carried out by police units. In front of the camp entrances boards were hung out with precautionary inscriptions that approaching trespassers would be shot without warning. The same rule concerned prisoners inside the camp.

On June 26, 1944, the Klooga Camp contained 2, 330 arrested civilians. Among the arrested there were people of different nationalities: Jews, Poles, Lithuanians, Estonians, Russians, etc. On the age structure of the prisoners: there were 13-year-old boys and girls and 70-year-old men. Among 2, 330 prisoners, professionals of 47 vocations were represented; for example: 33 doctors, 9 engineers, 2 agriculturists, 15 mechanics, 6 bookkeepers, 37 medical sisters, 11 druggists, 39 hairdressers, 25 laundresses, 147 joiners, 3 weavers, 651 sewer, 441 worker, and many other trades.

However, the Germans used the prisoners not by their profession, but only on heavy physical work: on forest exploitation, stone quarries, concrete works, loading heavy cargoes, and construction of camp buildings.

German military men: supervisors, schachtmeisters and troopführers from the organization “Tod,” supervised the work of the prisoners. The officials wore military uniform with special distinctive insignia on shoulder straps and in buttonholes and red bandages on a sleeve with a swastika sign on white background. All of these officials differed in [...] especially rough and cruel. They used unlimited authority in treating prisoners, subjecting them to regular beating by fists, legs, clubs, and other objects.

Prisoners in the camp were brought to a position of slaves deprived of civil rights; their human dignity was continuously humiliated in every possible way. Every prisoner was given a number (on the left side of the chest and on the right side above the knee). They weren't named by their last name - only by the numbers that everyone was given.

Punishments by the whip, made of bull vein with a steel wire in it, were officially legalized in the camp. Prisoners had to make a special bench for the punishments. An upright prisoner was attached with belts to the legs of this bench, then he laid down on the stomach on the bench, clasp his hands. Hands were also tied under the bench. One “Tod” member sat down on the neck of the prisoner, and the second one carried out the execution. During the floggings, a prisoner was forced to loudly count up impacts.

Witness RATNER, engineer, testified:

“A system of various punishments was employed in the camp – prisoners were deprived of food for 2 days, punished from 25 up to 75 impacts by a scourge which was an extended sinew with a steel wire in the middle, some were also shot. Shot for leaving the camp. Punished for the slightest pretext: whether you worked badly, whether you sat down to have a rest during work, and even if you took off the cap too late before the chief of the camp. The cap was to be removed on a certain distance. I was personally punished by 25 impacts by a scourge, supposedly for collecting people for work too late. The clerk of the camp SHWARZE gave me an order to gather 40 people. I gathered the people, but it seemed to him that I was tardy. He punched me two times in the face, beating out my tooth. Besides, the next day, I was punished with 25 strokes. There was a special bench for floggings in the camp. A person stood at the end of the bench, his legs attached with belts to the legs of this bench, and then he laid down on the stomach on the bench, clasp his hands, which were then tied up as well. One German sat down on the head, and the other would beat the prisoner, who was to count the impacts. They would beat with a whip until blood would appear. After floggings, the prisoner was to go to work. During the punishment, the punished prisoner was demanded to shout out loud. If he didn’t, he would be beaten until he cried. Arbitrariness reigned in the camp. We were beaten for the slightest occasion and without any occasions at all. For example, Truppführer SCHTEINBERGER who was supervising the work beat us not only with hands, but also with a stick or any iron piece. He would beat so hard that some [prisoners] had their ribs broken had to be placed in the hospital. Haupttruppführer Kurt SCHTAHE set dogs on us”.

Witness DUSHANSKY testified:

“Schahtmeister LAUB from the organization “Tod” beat people with a club for no reason at all. In winter, 1944, LAUB broke prisoner PAVLOVICHE’s arm for no reason at all.”

Though the working day in the camp was formally limited by 12 hours, from 5 am till 6 pm, it actually lasted much longer and reached 16-18 hours a day. The prisoners were given excessive loads of work, impracticable in a 12-hour working day.

Witness TRINAPOLSKI, a student-physician, testified:

“On September 23, 1943, the Germans compulsorily brought me to Estonia and put me in the Klooga Camp. Here I worked on a bog. The work was heavy. I wasn’t able to finish the job in the fixed 12 hours, so I was forced to stay and work up to 10-11 pm”.

The nutrition in the camp was extremely bad. The daily norm of food consisted of 350 grams of bread which the prisoners generally did not completely receive, 25 grams of spoiled margarine, 1 liter of erzats-coffee and 1 liter of soup with some grains floating in it. From such nutrition prisoners got exhausted and swelled up. Prisoners lived extremely densely and in unsanitary conditions.

As a result of the intolerable conditions of life in the camp, a great number of prisoners were constantly sick, and there was a high death rate that reached up to 10% a month, by official German data. This is not denied by the Germans themselves. The head physician of the concentration camp BODMAN in his report of March 25, 1944, which was addressed to the Central administrative board of camps, wrote that “the prisoners’ state of health is bad. The number of dead is big. This circumstance is caused by physical injuries and unsatisfactory hygienic conditions”.

In particular camps disease and death rate of prisoners in the end of 1943 and beginning of 1944 can be characterized by the following table (on reports of head physician BODMAN):

	Camp name	December		
		Total number of prisoners	Patients	Died
1	Narva	1290	921	125
2	Ereda	752	484	11
3	Soski	448	673	23
4	Gungerburg	261	345	33

	Camp name	January		
		Total number of prisoners	Patients	Died
1	Narva	Camp is liquidated		
2	Ereda	2050	1600	109
3	Soski	Camp is liquidated		
4	Gungerburg	Camp is liquidated		

	Camp name	February		
		Total number of prisoners	Patients	Died
1	Narva	Camp is liquidated		
2	Ereda	2552	1907	161
3	Soski	Camp is liquidated		
4	Gungerburg	Camp is liquidated		

The given numbers taken from German reports certainly do not give a full picture of life in the camps. Firstly, these figures are underestimated, and secondly, they do not reveal the reasons that generated such a high disease and death rate. The investigation determined that the camp hospital did not admit patients with a temperature below 40 degrees Celsius. The number of patients in hospital could not exceed 8 people. When a new patient was received, patient that was over the rate was killed by an injection of Evipan.

Child-bearing was strictly forbidden in the camp. In case a child was born, he would be killed by the German hospital attendant Unterscharführer BAR either by suffocation, or by burning alive in a boiler room fire-chamber.

Regarding this, witness TRINAPOLSKI testified:

“There was this one time when one woman gave birth to a child in the camp. The chief of camp informed the Commandant's office about it, and the child was killed”.

Witness RATNER testified:

“In February, 1944, two children were born in the camp. Both of them have been thrown alive into the boiler room fire-chamber and burnt. I personally witnessed the fact of burning of children. In May, 1944 a third child was born in camp. He was at once strangled by Unterscharführer BAR”.

II. MASS EXECUTIONS AND BURNING OF PRISONERS ON FIRES

As a result of prompt approach of the Red Army, the Germans, receding, hastily liquidated concentration camps in the territory left by them by transferring part of prisoners to other camps, and shooting and burning the majority of the prisoners . In the end of August, as the front line approached towards the capital of the Soviet Estonia Tallinn, all camps were liquidated, except for the Klooga Camp

where all administration of concentration camps in Estonia gathered, including chief Hauptsturmführer BRENNEIZEN.

In the middle of September, the Germans, preparing for the liquidation of the last camp in Klooga and wishing to conceal from prisoners preparation of their mass execution, spread a provocative rumor among prisoners that they are to be evacuated to Germany.

On September 19, 1944, at 5 am, all prisoners of the camp, as usual, were lined up on the camp ground platform for a roll call.

The chief of camp Untersturmführer VERLE accompanied by the clerk of camp Untersturmführer SCHWARZE, chief of office Hauptsturmführer DALMAN, Oberscharführer FRUVERDA, and Unterscharführer GENTA attended the roll call.

After the roll call, VERLE officially announced to the prisoners that everyone should be ready for evacuation to Germany. Two hours later, SCHWARZE and DALMAN selected 301 prisoners that were physically stronger and healthier, under a pretext of organizing spadework for evacuation.

These 301 prisoners were actually used for carrying firewood from the camp to a glade that was 1 km to the north of the camp, for setting a fire for burning prisoners. 700 Estonians arrested for evasion from mobilization to the German Army, were provided to help the prisoners.

Some of the prisoners carried firewood. And others built fires under the guarding of a convoy. Fires were constructed in the following way. Some logs were placed on the ground, as a foundation. Poles were put on these logs on which a layer of 75 centimeter-long logs of firewood was put. In the middle of the fire, four poles were hammered by a quadrangle, half-meter away from each other, to which rods were hammered, forming something of a pipe. In such a way, four 6 by 6,5 meter fires were constructed in a line, 4 meters away from each other.

When the fires were ready, the Germans began mass execution of prisoners. First of all, carriers of firewood and builders of fires were shot. The execution happened like this. The Germans from the SD team forced the prisoners with the use of weapons to lie down on the prepared ground with their faces down and in such position shot them with machine guns and pistols in the nape. People lay down in rows, covering the whole platform. When the platform was filled with shot prisoners, logs were put on them, creating the second platform on which other people were put alive one by one and shot in the same way. After the execution of the prisoners who built the fires, new groups of 30-50 prisoners were brought from the camp, which were also laid in 3-4 rows on the fires and shot. First men, and then women were shot. All of the patients that were in the camps hospital were also shot on these fires, including the medical staff from among prisoners. From the constructed four fires, three were used. The platform of the fourth fire wasn't used because of the rapid approach of the Soviet Army.

At the same time as prisoners were executed on fires, other prisoners were killed inside an uncompleted wooden building, which was 8 by 18 meters, standing 200 m away from the camp. Groups of 30-50 people were brought up to the building. The prisoners were to lie with their faces down, to prevent their escape. From there the Germans would take prisoners inside the house, one by one, where they were shot in the nape.

After the execution had been finished, at about 10-11 pm, oil was poured on the corpses at the fires and inside the building and lit up.

At the time when the fires and the building with the shot prisoners were already burning, a group of about 73 prisoners had been delivered from the Tallinn prison - Estonians and Russians whom Germans shot in the ground floor of the camp's dormitory. 6 prisoners from the Klooga Camp who tried to escape were also shot. In that way, 79 prisoners were shot in the dormitory, including a three-month-old baby, with his young mother.

Besides, 18 prisoners were shot during their attempt to escape from the fires. Their corpses were found at the distance from 5 to 200 meters from the fires.

The testimony determined that not all of the prisoners were killed at the executions. Many of them were only wounded, and as it was determined by the medical survey of the corpses on fires, some were burnt alive.

Witness YALAS who lives near the camp in the Kraavi hamlet, testified:

“Late at night, a flame rose from the wood, and then I saw, how the barrack was lit. When the fires were burning, I heard people screaming and moaning”.

Witness TRILLO who also lives near the camp, testified:

“At about 10 pm, a flame rose from the wood, and in half an hour, the barrack was burning. Armed people were walking around the barrack, and they were shooting. I could hear people screaming from inside the barrack.”

Witness SINAPFLU, one of the camp guards, showed:

“Soon there was something like an explosion. We left our barrack and saw that the barrack from where the shots were heard was on fire. After that, I returned into the casern. After a while, the other guards and I left the barrack. The barrack was half burnt down, and shouts and groans of people which abated and amplified were heard from there».

The medico-legal board of 3 doctors that examined the places of executions and the remains of the corpses, came to the following conclusion:

“Summarizing the data of the survey, the medical commission finds that in the named camp mass executions were mainly carried out by shots from fire-arms in the heads of victims. By the positions of corpses written down in the act and by other attributes the executions were accomplished by shots from close distance in the nape of the dead, which was in the reclining position.

At the external examination and the post-mortem examination of separate corpses it was determined that two of them died of a shock in the building of the camp. Two corpses were found that didn't have any gunshot wounds, they were probably burned alive. The medical commission managed to mark out 491 remains of corpses: 153 were men, 31 were women, and 1 was a body of a baby-girl.

The medical commission cannot determine the precise number of the executed because of the full combustion of the corpses. Considering that corpses remained only at the edges of the fires and only at one end of the burnt-down barrack, and considering the given research, it is necessary to consider that the number of the destroyed people reaches up to 1, 800-2, 000”.

Thus, by materials of the medico-legal examination of the remained corpses, by the careful survey of places where the execution took place, all in all in the Klooga Camp on September 19, 1944, about 2, 000 prisoners from the civilian population were executed.

III. PERPETRATORS OF THE CRIME

Materials of the preliminary investigation determined that the following military men of the fascist army were organizers and direct executors of the mass execution and burning of Soviet civilians, including babies, women and old men, in the Klooga Concentration Camp on September 19, 1944:

1. Chief of the central administrative board of camps in Estonia Hauptsturmführer BRENNEISEN.
2. Head physician of concentration camps in Estonia Obersturmführer fon BODMAN.
3. Chief of the Klooga Camp Unterscharführer VERLE.
4. Clerk of the Klooga Camp Unterscharführer SCHWARZE.
5. Chief of office of the Klooga Camp Gauptscharführer Max DALMAN.
6. Chief of the medical unit of the Klooga Camp Unterscharführer GENT.
7. Manager of the household of the Klooga Camp Oberscharführer GELBICK.
8. Oberscharführer FRUIVIRT.

Except the names listed above, 50 SD soldiers directly participated in convoying, guarding, and execution of 50 people, their last names are not determined by the investigation.

Based on the above-stated, finding the investigation consummated.

DECIDED THAT:

The present evidence is presented to the State Commission for investigation of villainies of fascist aggressors in the territory of the Estonian SSR - on disposal.

(Signature)

*Signed: Deputy Public Prosecutor of the Estonian SSR, State
Counselor of Justice of 3rd class UDRAS*

State Archives of the Russian Federation. Fund 7021. List 97. File 17a. Pages 189-200.
Original. Typescript.

DOCUMENT 10

Transcript of interrogation of Estonian policeman August Sinapulu who participated in the guarding of Klooga concentration camp and abuse of prisoners

September - October, 1944

SINAPULU August Fricovich, B 1898, native of Tallinn, from a family of workers, a house painter, lives in Tallinn, Ile st. 37, apt.12, was in the service in the 287th Reserve Police Infantry Battalion as a private policeman.

Working as a watchman in the Tallinn port, I got enlisted in to the Omakaitse organization and continued my security service at the port.

Later on, our organization Omakaitse had a number of reorganization, and in August [...] the 287th Reserve Police Infantry Battalion was created from it and concentrated in [...]. I have started the service as a private policeman in the 2nd company of this battalion.

[...] Our 2nd company was directed from Rakvere to the Klooga concentration camp for guarding prisoners [...].

Our company [...] had personnel of 110 people; the commander of the company was lieutenant ENTRICKSON.

In the Klooga camp, our company had one primary goal - not to allow any Jews to leave the camp without permission or to have dialogs with the people living outside the camp, and also the control over the people from other places coming to camp to work.

Question: How many Jews were there in the Klooga camp?

Answer: I don't know the exact number of Jews in the Klooga camp, but I believe there were about 2, 000 men, women, and children.

Question: To whom did your company submit to and who gave you the instructions on the order of the organization of sentry and creating regulations for Jews confined in the camp?

Answer: All directions and instructions on the order of protection and regulations of the confined Jews proceeded from one German who held the post of Lagerführer, his last name I do not know. He gave orders to Lieutenant ENTRICKSON, to the commander of our company who was obliged to carry them out. Besides the Lagerführer, there were only 5 or 6 Germans of whom one was assistant Lagerführer, and others were supervisors of works.

Lagerführer gave strict orders to shoot every Jew who would attempt to run from the camp.

Question: Were there cases and attempts by the Jews to leave the camp, and did the policemen from your company use weapons in such cases?

Answer: I personally know one case when one Jew left the camp without permission. When he was coming back, policeman TRANSILOV, who stood on a post, shot him. The Jew was killed. I don't know any precise details of this incident.

Question: Tell me the circumstances of mass execution of Jews in the Klooga camp that happened on September 19, 1944

Answer: The mass execution of Jews in the Klooga camp on September 19, 1944 really did take place. On this execution I can inform the following:

On September 18, 1944, after Jews returned back into their barracks after they had finished their work, our company commander Lieutenant ENTRICKSON announced us that tomorrow, on September 19, all the Jews from the Klooga camp will be evacuated to Germany by a steamship from Paldiski.

Jews will be sent to Danzig [Gdansk] to the place of their new work. Lieutenant ENTRICKSON also announced that our company will be escorting the Jews, and he ordered to be ready for departure. We were to escort Jews to Danzig.

Question: Did you warn the Jews about the forthcoming evacuation to Germany to a place of new work and a new concentration camp?

Answer: I don't know anything about this, but a rumor was spread among the Jews that they will soon be moved to Germany. Sometimes Jews asked us, whether they will be escorted by our company or whether the Germans will arrive.

From this I concluded that they are preparing to move from the Klooga camp, but they weren't told about this officially.

Question: What happened next on September, 18 and 19?

Answer: On September 18, in the evening we prepared to leave the camp to convoy the Jews, and in the morning on September 19, the punitive chief of our company – Sergeant Major PELAYAS ordered not to take out all Jews to work. This order was accomplished.

Jews left the 2-storey building where they lived in to a court yard and we didn't let them outside the camp. Guarding of this building was strengthened, and all the policemen of our company free from duty were attached to the wire fencing that surrounded the house of Jews.

At around 10 am, German policemen in groups of 5-8 started to arrive to the territory of the camp, all of them carrying machine-guns. All in all, about 30-35 Germans came on foot from the Klooga station.

All Germans together with the Lagerführer aimed to the Jews behind the fence, taking out 200 men from there, and together with them went to the place where the firewood was gathered. All of these people have loaded some logs of firewood on

themselves and with this cargo returned back, passing our fence and were directed towards the railway.

Along the way one Jew tried to run, but he was killed from a machine gun by the Germans.

After this, another group of 200 men was brought out from the fenced area. Both groups went several times behind the line of the railway carrying firewood from the camp.

We, policemen, at this time continued to safeguard the fence with other Jews behind it – some men, women, and children.

In 2-3 hours, the carrying of firewood was finished, and none of the two groups returned back. Soon we heard shooting from the direction of the place to where the Jews carried firewood. It became clear to me that an execution is carried out right now behind the railway. Panic and crying arose among the Jews in camp.

Shooting proceeded for 20-30 minutes and then stopped. Some minutes later, Germans returned and began to take out other prisoners in groups of 20-30 people to the railway line. After each group was taken out, shooting from behind the railway was heard. The executions proceeded till the evening of September 19.

As it was already dark [...] drunken Germans began to shoot the last prisoners in the court yard and inside the building where the Jews lived.

Before the evening when only a few Jews remained in the camp, the company commander Lieutenant ENTRICKSON recalled the guards from the fence guarding and sent us to have a rest. The Germans continued to perform the criminal work and left the camp at night. Lagerführer and other Germans that had lived in the Klooga camp earlier left together with them.

Question: What did your company do after the Germans left the camp the next day?

Answer: In the morning September 20, Lieutenant ENTRICKSON waked our company up and ordered to follow to Paldiski for boarding onto a steamship following to Germany. Somehow it became known that there was no steamship in Paldiski, so the Lieutenant ordered us to follow to Pärnu on foot. And further this decision was changed, and we were to proceed by train to Tallinn, where we would get onto another train going to Pärnu. We arrived in Tallinn this very same day.

I got down from the train and went home; here I remained after the arrival of the Red Army.

Question: Who of the policemen of your company has still remained in Tallinn?

Answer: I know that the following policemen are in Tallinn, I personally saw them on the Tallinn streets:

TIIDU, he lives on street Viruganav,1.

TAMM. I don't know his address, but I saw him 2-3 days ago in town.

KUTSAR. I don't know where he lives, either.

In our company there were some other policeman that had lived in Tallinn before, but I don't know their addresses and last names.

Question: Specify all of your company command, their residence and where they are at present.

Answer: The commander of the company is Lieutenant ENTRICKSON who comes from Pärnu.

Sergeant Major of the company PELAYAS - comes from the Petseri [Pechora] region.

Sergeant Major AUZENBERG - up to the service, lived somewhere in the Tallinn region.

I do not know their exact addresses and residences. Also, I do not know where they live or are at present.

*The report of interrogation is made from my words and is read out to me
and translated into the Estonian Language.*

(A.Sinipalu)

The interrogation was conducted by Major AVIK

State Archives of the Russian Federation. Fund 7021. List 97. File 17a. Pages 91-94. Certified copy. Typescript.

DOCUMENT 11

Transcript of interrogation of witness Nejsaha Ruvanovich, prisoner of Klooga Concentration Camp

October 8, 1944

Public Prosecutor of the Investigation Department VASILIEV interrogated RUVANOVICH Nejsah Veniaminovich, B 1929, native of Vilnius, prisoner of the Klooga Camp, a seven-class education in elementary school of Vilnius, from workers, no previous convictions, non-party member, lives in Tallinn, Tommujsa St., 13, apt. 7.

Witness is warned about the responsibility in accordance with Article 95 of UK [criminal code].

I arrived in the Klooga camp from Vilnius on September 29th, 1943. In 1941, my father was taken away to Panari [Lithuania] and there, to my mind, was shot. My mother and sister were taken out from Vilnius the same day with me, but to some other place. First I had quite an easy work in the camp, but then when the chief of camp BOK arrived, I was put for excessive labor. The work was very heavy; engineer KIWIMJAGI beat me for I could not carry out the norms. He beat me with his hands, with a club, on the shoulders and every place possible. I was also beaten by chiefs from OT ["Tod"], I don't remember their last names, I only remember GEZELS. When I arrived at the camp, SINAPULU was already one of the guards. We called him "Kurat" as he used this word all the time. SINAPULU was a very foul person; he was beating us, prisoners. There were cases when prisoners asked SINAPULU for permission to go to the village for products, sometimes he permitted, but when the prisoner brought food to the camp, SINAPULU would take it away, beat him with a ramrod and later sell the food to other prisoner from whom they were also taken away.

In this year's winter, I brought bread and potatoes from the village by SINAPULU's permission. SINAPULU took away one and a half loafs of bread, leaving me only a bit and potatoes that were spoiled, and beat my back with a ramrod. SINAPULU sold the bread to another prisoner whose last name I do not remember. In the camp prisoners went to the dump to gather up scraps, and when SINAPULU saw this he would keep them off beating the prisoners with a rifle and a ramrod. I saw how SINAPULU beat GALDBERG, and he would also beat children. I don't remember last names of those who were beaten by SINAPULU.

There is nothing more to add.

Transcript of interrogation was written down correctly and read out to me correctly:

(Signature)

State Archives of the Russian Federation. Fund 7021. List 97. File 17a. Page 80.
Certified copy. Typescript.

DOCUMENT 12

Transcript of interrogation of Estonian policeman August SINIPALU who participated in abuse of prisoners at Klooga Concentration Camp

October 3, 1944

Public Prosecutor for Militia Surveillance VASILIEV, ESSR, interrogated the undersigned witness who, being warned about the responsibility in accordance with Article 95 of the UK [criminal code] explained:

SINIPALU August Frizevich, born in 1898 in Tallinn, a house painter, with three grades of education in Tallinn elementary school, from [family of] workers, no previous convictions, a non-party member. Member of the organization Omakaitse, lived in Tallinn, Ile Street, 37, apt. 12, is in prison #1. Police security guard of the 287th Police Battalion.

I worked in the Tallinn harbor as a watchman. I continued working there after the German occupation of Tallinn. In 1942 in the early spring, I entered the organization Omakaitse and continued working as a watchman in the harbor. In August, 1943, the 287th police sentry battalion, which stood in Rakvere, was created. I served as a private policeman in this battalion in the 3rd company. In August, 1944 the 3rd company where I served, was transferred from Rakvere to Klooga for carrying guard duty. We watched over the Jewish prisoners. The company consisted of Estonians, there were 110 people in it, the company commander was Lieutenant ENDRICKSON. The battalion commander was major KROOT. Our duty was to watch for the prisoners not to leave the camp limits and not to communicate with anybody. One week we stood at the gate of the camp on post, and the other week we accompanied the prisoners to works if they worked outside the camp, for example, chopping firewood. We also protected the camp in every direction. I do not know anything about the schedule or about the routine of work in the camp, as we didn't keep sentry inside the camp. There were about 2, 000 prisoners in the camp. Then there were less, as recently, in the summer, I don't remember precisely the time, a part of Jews have been taken away somewhere. All orders on camp protection were given by Lagerführer to Lieutenant ENDRICKSON who passed orders to us. ENDRICKSON ordered us to shoot at each prisoner who will leave work without permission. We were to shoot without any warning. Once there was such a case. One prisoner worked in the wood and left without permission, and when he was getting back to his group he was shot by security guard Ermolaj TRANSILOV.

There were cases when I beat the confined with a ramrod. I beat them when they went to the village to get some food. I took away their food, as this was the order of Lagerführer. In the camp, there was a dump near the officer's casino, and I beat

prisoners if they went to the dump to search for food during work. I saw how other guards beat the prisoners with their hands or with a ramrod; others were even crueler than me. I saw also how the Germans beat the prisoners; they beat them with fists, legs and clubs.

The Germans beat the prisoners on any occasion.

On September 18 of this year, Lieutenant ENDRICKSON told us in the evening that on September 19 of this year, that is, the next day, the prisoners will be evacuated to Germany and we shall accompany them. He ordered us to be ready for departure.

On September 19 of this year in the morning, our company with all its personnel went out to guard the camp. Everyone from the camp gathered in the square with knapsacks, bread, and kettles. The prisoners stood, until the chief of camp with other Germans came, there were about 7 of them, I do not know their last names. I stood a post at the gate of this square.

For about two hours, the Germans conferred with each other on the apartment of the Lagerführer which was located near my post. Then one German selected about 300 prisoners and led them to the Klooga station. These prisoners were surrounded by German SD soldiers with machine guns. I saw how these people carried firewood to the forest near the lake. When the 300 prisoners walked through the gate, one of them started running, but a German shot him.

Firewood was carried for about 3 hours, after the people weren't seen. Some time later, machine gun bursts were heard from the forest, and later revolver shots were heard which proceeded till late evening. After the shootings, the Germans began coming back to camp from the forest, taking prisoners in groups of 20-30 people and leading them back into the forest. When some groups were taken out, then five other guards and I were withdrawn from posts and ordered to go to a guard house. We didn't go to the guard house, we went to the railway station to see what was happening in the woods. From the place where I stood, the unfinished barrack was well seen. I saw how Germans brought groups of 30-35 prisoners in and these groups disappeared behind the corner of the house. I could not see the entrance of the house as it was from the side of the forest.

Revolver shots were heard from the barrack. I personally saw how the Germans led 3-4 groups, and then I went to supper while the others remained looking.

After supper, I went to look to the railway again and asked the same security guards, whether they led the women already.

I was answered that they didn't bring them yet. Then I went home. Soon something of an explosion sounded, we went to see what happened, and found out that the barrack from which the shots had been heard was on fire. Then I went back home again. After a while, security guard KERE came into our room, and told us to go outside to hear the Jews screaming. So we left the house. The barrack was half

burned down, and shouts and groans of people were heard from over there. We could hear them from 500 m away from the burnt house. We heard: “Ah, ah”. I heard shouts for during half an hour, which either abated or amplified. When I went back home in half an hour, shouts were still heard.

In the morning on September 20 of this year, Lieutenant ENDRICKSON ordered us to collect things as we were going to Germany. There weren't any Germans left in the camp.

Having gathered, we went to the Klooga station and from there went to Keila. From Keila we went to Järve that is near Tallinn. From Järve I went home to Tallinn. I was arrested on September 29 of this year. There is nothing more to add. Transcript of interrogation was written down correctly and read to me in my native Estonian Language.

I can add that when I saw prisoners carrying firewood it became clear to me that the Germans will shoot the prisoners as Germans always burn corpses.

Public Prosecutor for Militia Surveillance VASILIEV

State Archives of the Russian Federation. Fund 7021. List 97. File 17a. Pages. 9-10.
Certified copy. Typescript.

DOCUMENT 13

Report of witness Liiza Berchin, prisoner at Klooga Concentration Camp

September 30, 1944

BERCHIN Liiza Solomonovna, B 1909, native of Vilno, a schoolgirl of an elementary school in Vilno, graduated from high school in Vilno, worked as a dressmaker in the camp, non-party member, lives in a borough near the Klooga Camp.

Question: When and under what circumstances did you get into the Klooga Camp?

Answer: We arrived to the Klooga Camp in September, 1943, from Vilno. We were in a ghetto before, organized by the fascist armies after a month of their occupation of Vilno.

Question: Tell me how your evacuation from Vilno to the Klooga borough happened.

Answer: Approximately in August, 1943, the first set of Jews, about 2, 000 people, were sent from the ghetto to Estonia. From the letters of our evacuated relatives we found out that they were first contained in camps of Vaivara near Narva. In the first days of September, 1943, Estonians who were guarding a train sent to Estonia arrived to Vilno. To Estonia we were sent by railway, and in the train there were at least 2, 000 people evacuated from the ghetto. In Estonia we were sent to Camp Vaivara, there was a distribution point for the allocation of the evacuated. About half of the evacuated people were sent to a camp in Narva, and the rest of us, who remained in the train, were brought to the Klooga Camp. The train left Vilno on September 3, and arrived at Klooga on September 8, 1943. The Klooga Camp was our continuous residence until Germans left Estonia.

Question: What did you do while in the Klooga Camp?

Answer: In the Klooga Camp I was engaged only in repairing and sewing clothes and linen for prisoners, I wasn't sent to other works.

Question: Tell me about the schedule and about the routine of work in the Klooga Camp.

Answer: The routine in the camp was terrible. For the slightest offense people were beaten to death. Only two months ago, chief of camp Oberscharführer BOK beat 5-6 teenage boys so that their faces were just a bloody mess and they had to spend a long time in the ambulance station before they recovered, and all of this happened only because they wanted to cook some potatoes in the camp.

As for me, I had to work a lot because I was the only dressmaker in the camp. Though the official working day was 11 hours a day, everyone in the camp had to work longer. Because BOK frightened and threatened me often that if I shall not cope with my work, he will give me 25 strokes by a club or will send me to such works where I would only be able to work for 1-2 days. I worked as much as I physically could and coped with the work. On the average, I worked 13-14 hours per day. Usually the day began at 6 o'clock in the morning and up to 10 o'clock in the evening. I had no days off. We also ate very poorly. We were given 330 grams of bread per day; we also received 2 liters of watery soup, 25 grams of some fats, erzats-coffee, and that was the limit of our ration.

Question: Whom do you remember of the heads of camps?

Answer: I remember Oberscharführer SCHWARZE, under his guidance the card index of all prisoners in camps of Estonia was conducted and the destiny of this or that prisoner depended on him. SCHWARZE, German by nationality, has a family, a wife and a child in Germany. About 180 cm high, a brunette, has black eyes, a swarthy complexion, a rather short nose, but with a small hump, a terrible sadist. He would beat women with his foot, and only in the stomach. About 30-35 years old. He didn't live here, he first lived in camp Vaivara, later in Saku. SCHWARZE came to see us quite rarely – about 3-4 times during the whole period.

All of us were afraid of his arrival, for it was always connected with some great events and changes in life and [its] structure of the prisoners in the camp. By the sort of his work, we concluded that he distributed and supervised work in all camps in Estonia.

I also remember the German Gestapo member Obersturmführer BRENNAIZEN, he held a post of the chief of camps of Estonia. I also remember the head physician of all camps of Estonia doctor BODMEN, famous for special cruelty and brutality of his treatment of prisoners. He beat the prisoners who didn't take off their clothes in time, as he wished during check ups, or those who didn't stand up when he came inside the room with the patients.

Question: Which Estonians from the administration do you know?

Answer: I don't know any Estonians in the administrative structure.

Question: Tell me how you managed to avoid that sad fate of the majority of prisoners in the Klooga Camp.

Answer: Approximately 6 weeks ago, 400 Jews were sent from our camp together with other 2, 000 Jews by a steamship through the Tallinn port to Danzig. From the Estonian security guards of our camp that delivered the 2, 400 evacuated Estonians, we found out that all of them safely arrived at Danzig. In the morning on September 19, as always, at 5 o'clock in the morning we gathered up in the square of our camp. We were informed that today everyone will be sent by a steamship and from there we leave to Germany for work. That's why none of the prisoners will leave the camp area for work. We were informed personally by Oberscharführer

SCHWARZE and he also told us that he would personally go together with the rest of the camp.

Then SCHWARZE began to check the men that were standing in columns and chose the strongest and the healthiest of them, precisely 305 men (I found it out from a Jew, a worker of the office of camp NIZERMANE who was killed together with other prisoners), and he also said that they will go to finish work in camps which they supposedly hadn't finished yesterday (But SCHWARZE lied, for he knew that these people didn't do any work the day before). Then this column of 305 men was directed to the depth of the camp accompanied by approximately 10 armed Estonians. We have all been amazed and concerned by the new and unknown orders and actions of Germans. All of the 305 men were ordered to sit down, crossing their legs under themselves and they were to sit in such position for about an hour of time. From the prisoners that ran to Russian camps I've heard (their names I do not know, but I can establish subsequently) that on the way to the place of work they were two times (the column of 305 people) ordered to sit in the same way, walk a little and then sit in this way again, near the house where the prisoners were burnt together with the house, did this procedure one last time, and then they went to work.

Question: Tell me, what did the people who remained in the square do?

Answer: The people who remained were ordered to wait for departure. In the beginning, most of the people behaved calmly, though some people were concerned that breakfast hasn't been given out to any of the prisoners, the cooking in the camp was stopped and the personnel from the prisoners also stood in columns and awaited departure.

The remained saw that the first column that left at seven o'clock in the morning was still carrying firewood at 10 o'clock in the morning. We also began to worry because despite of the lunch time (12-13 hours), we didn't receive any food this day, and were held without dinner and breakfast. At approximately 2 pm, very strong dense shooting from automatic weapons was heard from the depth of the camp, then single shots were heard. All this shooting proceeded for nearly half an hour, and then it calmed down. Then we saw how from the place of punishment a motorcycle arrived, bottles of mineral water were loaded there, and it left again. At about 3.30 pm after dinner 6 prisoners were taken out from the remained columns and sent together with a cart to a warehouse for fuel. Having loaded gasoline on the cart, the prisoners returned to the column of the expecting prisoners, and the gasoline was carried away by an unknown Estonian dressed in civil clothes in the direction from where shots had been heard. After the prisoners that brought the gasoline came back, it became clear to everyone that death expected them.

Question: Tell me how you managed to rescue yourself from death and what attempt did you make to saving yourself?

Answer: After six pm, I suggested my friend Matly GENZEN to hide in the block where I worked before (it is the house where 70-80 people were killed and where they still lie in the premises). Imperceptibly we walked upstairs onto an attic

and hid there. I got onto a heap of window frames and sat between frames of broken glass, my friend hid not far from me. After us, about 40 people came and hid there in the attic.

Question: How many people were there in the square when you got onto the attic?

Answer: In my opinion, there were no less than 700 people.

Question: When were the people shot in that block where you were hiding?

Answer: In my opinion, the execution of people in the block began not earlier than at 9 o'clock in the evening.

Question: Tell me in detail what you managed to see and hear about what happened below the block where you were hidden on the attic.

Answer: On the attic we heard how a German Blockführer called the prisoners up one by one into a premise of the block, sometimes saying: "Come in, come in, don't be afraid, you are a man after all". Shots from the block weren't heard very loud, and it surprised us in the beginning, and only then we realized that he called people in the block where they were killed.

Question: How long were you hiding on the attic?

Answer: We were hiding for 5 days on the attic.

Question: Why didn't you leave the attic earlier and stayed there for 5 days?

Answer: Some of the men went to look at the situation and general conditions in the camp during the night. They determined that the Germans left the Klooga Camp, but the camp was still guarded by Estonians, armed and carrying uniforms. We were afraid that they would grasp and shoot us. On the fifth day, the Estonians left the protection of the camp and went away. Only then we found out from a Russian living in the camp next to us that Germans were driven away from Estonia and that the Red Army successfully wages the war and about the liberation of our country from Germans.

Question: What can you add to your report?

Answer: I am still in such condition that I can't tell everything completely and precisely.

Interrogated and wrote the report in Russian: Lieutenant of State Security GAUS

State Archives of the Russian Federation. Fund 7021. List 97. File 17a.
Pages. 56-57 overleaf. Copy. Typescript.

DOCUMENT 14

Transcript of interrogation of witness Ljubov Shapiro (Klooga Concentration Camp)

September 30, 1944

Public Prosecutor of the Investigation Department of the Office of the Public Prosecutor of the Estonian SSR EGI

I am a resident of the Scaldville borough of the Tavrogskay Oblast of Lithuania. When the Germans occupied our town in 1941, they immediately gathered all of us Jews and placed us into camps, surrounded by barbed wire. Many times I escaped from the camps, but I was later arrested [again], and later in October, all of us prisoners were sent into the Estonian Republic where we were placed in the so-called Klooga Camp which was surrounded by barbed wire, with guards around it. Living in the camp, we worked since morning till late evening on saw mills, and some worked in other unit, as there were many in the territory of the Klooga camp. The guards of the Klooga camp were Estonians, and the managerial people were Germans. Work was laborious, the treatment was very rough, we were beaten at every step for any petty offenses, we were fed very badly, we were given out 360 grams of bread a day, and some watery soup, and that was all. The camp routine was very strict, for the slightest insubordination prisoners were beaten to within an inch of their lives and even shot.

On September 19, 1944, in the morning, as usual, Germans came inside our barrack and ordered all the men to gather up and go to the square, where they were made to sit down on the ground. Then they were taken in small groups to the forest. After a while, we heard shots from the area near the forest, then the Germans came again and under a strengthened convoy, took groups of 30-40 Jews into the forest. Then we began to suspect that Germans are shooting all of the prisoners, so I decided to hide. I cut floor boards with a prepared saw in a corner of the barrack and thought to dig out a tunnel. But the floor appeared to be cemented. Then my comrade Flavius DONDES and a boy named Benjamin, I don't know his last name, got into this aperture, they hid between the cemented floor and the board top of the floor, and I laid down on the aperture and covered myself with a blanket, and others were hiding in other corners and under planks of beds, and when it got dark at about 8-9 pm, the Germans entered the barrack, lit up a lamp and began to shoot successively all of those who remained. This lasted for a long time, until everyone was shot, in their opinion, and owing to the darkness, the Germans, apparently, did not notice me, and we have remained alive. And at night, I don't remember the exact time, I heard that the shooting was finished. I took off my boots and in socks got on the attic of the

barrack where I saw many other hidden prisoners, all in all there were about 60 of us on the attic. Thus we stayed on the attic till morning and a couple of days more, until we were certain that all of the Germans left to Tallinn and that the Russian armies are near.

Question: Tell me, who took part in the execution of the citizens contained in the Klooga camp?

Answer: As I have noticed, the German SHCWARZ and a number of others, whose last names and names I don't know, were shooting the prisoners of the Klooga camp.

Question: Tell me, do you know who participated in the execution from the Estonians?

Answer: I can't answer this question, for I do not know.

Question: How many Jews, in your opinion, were shot by the Germans on September 19, 1944?

Answer: In my opinion, the Germans shot nearly 1, 500-1, 700 Jews that were contained in the Klooga camp, as there were about 2, 000-2, 200 people all in all, from which the majority were Jews.

I cannot add anything else to this case. All is written down correctly and read out to me.

(SHAPIRO Ljubov)

Public Prosecutor of the Investigation Department of the Office of the Public Prosecutor of the Estonian SSR, attorney of the 2nd class EGI

State Archives of the Russian Federation. Fund 7021. List 97. File 17a. Pages. 50-50 overleaf. A copy. Typescript.

DOCUMENT 15

Transcript of interrogation of prisoner of Klooga Concentration Camp Mendel Balberinski

September 29, 1944

Witness is warned about the responsibility for false swearing and for refusal of giving evidence in accordance with Article 95 of the UK [criminal code] of RSFSR.

I worked till July 2, 1941 as a manager in a drugstore in Vilnius. After the city was occupied by the Germans, I, together with the other Jews, received the order to abandon our places. 4 days were given for this purpose. After I gave up the drugstore I didn't work anywhere till September, 1941. Then I began working as a simple worker. On September, 6, 1941, the German authorities published an order for all the Jews to lodge in separate apartments without the right to leave and settle in other apartments of the city. Thus, two ghettos were formed in Vilnius. In October, 1941, they started to liquidate the first ghetto, the one where I was at, i.e. Jews from there were taken out the city and shot. I managed to escape from the first ghetto to the second one by paying to one German, thus I have remained alive. In the second ghetto I worked in a medical institution where I worked more or less calmly till August, 1943, when the Germans began to liquidate the second ghetto. This time, Jews weren't executed, they were taken away to work to Estonia. I was taken away to Estonia on September 24, 1943. On our way to the station in Vilno, I was separated from my family. My mother, wife, and daughter were taken away separately, and my son and I were taken away separately as well. Where they've taken away my mother, wife, and daughter and where they are now, I do not know.

We arrived at Klooga in Estonia on September 29, 1943. There were 750 men in our group. Before, in Klooga, there were 50 men and 600 women who arrived here on September 8, 1943. After us another group of 500 women from Kaunas arrived here. After the arrival, we began making wire entanglements for the camp. When the wire protection of the camp was ready, we were assigned to building barracks. Wooden barracks were made for workshops and for habitation of the Germans. We lived in stone houses. A German named CAROL, I don't remember his last name, supervised the work in the construction of the barracks. He treated us awfully; he beat us up to blood for any slightest thing that he didn't like. Whether he wasn't understood in the right way, or someone didn't work they way he would like. During the beating, he abused us and called us traitors. We worked from 6 o'clock in the morning up to 5 o'clock in the evening with a lunch break from 12 o'clock till 13 o'clock. We were fed very nastily. We were given about 350 grams of bread a day, 25

grams of margarine and during lunchtime, one liter of soup which consisted of one liter of water with 20-40 grams of groats. Except this, we were given 25 grams of sugar a week. From such dining I swelled, began being sick, but the hospital would accept only if the prisoner had a fever of 40 degrees Celsius. There was this one when I was sent to work when I had a temperature of 39.6. We were building wooden barracks till May, 1944, then we passed on to manufacturing the so-called diving alarm mines to which Germans attached great importance. This work was very heavy. The German SCHTEINBERGER from the "Tod" organization supervised this work. SCHTEINBERGER can't be called a man, he was truly an animal, he continuously beat us not only with his hands and sticks, but also using iron. From beating, exhaustion, and famine, dozens of prisoners died in the camp. This is how we worked till 13 o'clock on August 22 of this year, when 500 of us, 250 men and 250 women, weren't admitted to work, and we were carried in motor vehicles to Lagedi where we worked in construction of bunkers and entrenchments. In Lagedi, we worked till 18 o'clock on September, 18 of this year. Then we were told that we will be carried to Germany and we really were taken in motor vehicles but where exactly - I do not know. I have left with the last group that consisted of 34 men. On our way, we overtook a motor vehicle with 40 women in it. Both of our cars arrived in Tallinn, where - I do not know, as it was already dark and late at night. At the place where we arrived, we heard as someone told our convoy that it was already late and that they had already finished everything. Then we were taken to some prison where we stayed for the night. In the early morning on September 19, when it was still dark, we were loaded onto motor vehicles. Where we went - we did not know. At 9 am, we arrived to Klooga. We weren't let in the camp for one and a half hours. Then, at last, we were let in and were attached to the groups of workers which stood in the area of the female block. There we were told that everyone would be taken away for work to Germany. By the time we approached the group of prisoners that stood in the square, the strongest and healthiest men were chosen for work. 301 men were selected. These men were led aside the railway station, and we saw how they carried firewood into the forest. At 12 o'clock in the afternoon, we were fed with a very good soup, and we heard, as the chief of camp VERLE told the cooks to leave a dinner for 300 men, which were at work. The Germans forced the people who were in the square to sit down. So we sat waiting for the people at work, until two o'clock in the afternoon. Soon after two o'clock in the afternoon we heard frequent shooting from machine guns, which lasted for a minute. After that, single shots were heard. We understood that these 300 men, which carried firewood, were shot.

At about four o'clock in the afternoon, Germans demanded 6 healthy people who were led for some work. Everyone thought that these people were also led to execution, but we were mistaken. They soon returned and told us that they have loaded two barrels of gasoline on a motor vehicle and this gasoline was taken to the forest, from where shots were heard.

At about five o'clock in the afternoon, groups of 50-100 people were sent to the forest. Soon after these groups left to the forest, frequent shooting from machine guns

with the subsequent single shots were heard. The German who made these executions, was SCHWARZE, I don't know his name and his rank. Between the withdrawals, SCHWARZE selected a group of 42 people, which were to leave with him. These people were the housekeeping staff in the camp, such as: hairdressers, tailors, shoemakers, etc. These 42 people stood as a separate group while the other men and women were taken to the forest. After the last people were taken to the forest, a motor vehicle arrived at a barrack, which took away patients and all of the serving medical staff from the hospital and took them away into the forest. After the last people were taken away, SCHWARZE shouted and asked the guards where the other men were. I understood that part of the people ran away, so I grasped my son by the hand and ran on to the second floor of the female block where we hid in a niche of an empty room. Except for the shots, human shouts were heard from the forest. Being on the second floor, I often looked out the window and at 8 o'clock in the evening, I saw fires in the forest. Then it became clear that Germans shot all the people who were in the square. There was a total of nearly 1, 500 people, about 750 men, and about 750 women, and also about 60 children.

On the next day, I have found out that the Germans escaped, and these 42 people who should have left together with them were shot on the ground floor of the female block. After the Germans left, we hid for 5 days as we were afraid of the Estonian patrols. Except me there were about 80 people on the attic of the female block.

I've never seen or known SCHWARZE, who supervised the execution, before. Nobody escaped from the forest where people were shot and burned. As we later found out, from the square where we all gathered, people were taken to execution into the forest and into a wooden barrack which the Germans burned with shot prisoners inside.

There were about 2, 100 Jews in the Klooga camp. Besides, there were a couple of dozens of Estonian prisoners here before our arrival - criminals who also supervised us, being prisoners. In the winter of this year, people evacuated from the Leningrad region, from Finland, and also POWs of the Red Army were brought to the Klooga camp.

Prisoners in the camp were workers. People from the "Tod" organization supervised their work. These people were the following: during the first four months of our stay - Officer Kurt SCHTAHE who always walked with a whip and a dog which he set on people. SCHTAHE was the general supervisor of [prisoners'] work. He was a very cruel man. He beat us, and mainly set his dog on us who knocked the worker down on the ground, tore clothes on him, and then grasped his throat. After the victim was half dead, SCHTAHE withdrew the dog. Except SCHTAHE there were other administrators of separate sites of the camp work. The work in barracks construction was supervised by Carol DUJARDIN from Ahen. SCHTEINBERGER supervised the work on manufacturing alarm mines. I do not know other work supervisors. Chiefs of the camp were Germans from the Gestapo. The last chief of the

camp was VERLE whom I know a little, as I was in the camp Lagedi at this time. Before VERLE, BOK was the chief, I do not remember last names of chiefs of the camps before BOK. The chief of the camp had two assistants, from Gestapo as well. BOK terrorized all of the prisoners, increased the amount of corporal punishments, and also introduced personal searches and searches of prisoners' belongings. During a personal search, all of a prisoner's personal things were taken away, leaving only those that were on the prisoner.

When on September 29, 1943, we arrived to Klooga, we were ordered to give up all personal things, jewelry, and money. One of ours, NOSOV, did not give up some stamps and for this he was shot on the spot. We were forbidden to leave the limits of the camp. Although there were people who left camp in search of food, many were shot for this.

As I have later found out, about 400 of the people who were with me at work in Lagedi, were shot in Tallinn. 73 people and I survived only because we arrived late in Tallinn when the executions were finished, and the Germans because of their accuracy did not accept us after the term of execution.

In Lagedi two prisoners were shot: IOFFE, 26 years old, and FINKELSHTEIN, about 60 years old, for wishing to take potatoes from the field. An Estonian shot them.

There is nothing more to add.

The report is read out and written down from my words correctly.

(Mendel BALBERINSKI)

Public Prosecutor: (VASILIEV)

State Archives of the Russian Federation. Fund 7021. List 97. File 17a.
Pages. 45-46 overleaf. A copy. Typescript.

DOCUMENT 16

Reference for the Case of Investigation of Atrocities Committed by the Nazi Germans in the Territory of the VIRUMAA Uyezd of the Estonian SSR

October 8, 1944, Rakvere City

Virumaa Uyezd Commission for investigation of atrocities of fascist aggressors established the following as of October 8, 1944:

During the German occupation, there were the following concentration camps and places of detention in the territory of the Virumaa Uyezd, in which Soviet citizens and Red Army POWs were contained:

1. Camp Kuremäe. The number of prisoners in this camp has not been established.
2. Camps Vivikonna and Auvere, located in the territory of the Auvere Volost. The number of prisoners contained in these camps has not been established.
3. Camp in Jihvi. About 150-200 Red Army POWs were contained in this camp.
4. Camp Kohtla-Järve. 4, 000 prisoners were contained in this camp, mainly Red Army POWs. In the same Kohtla-Järve, there was also another camp for civilian prisoners. Among the prisoners in the camp, there were citizens abducted from oblasts of the USSR and some persons from Yugoslavia, Denmark, and Poland. There were 7, 000-8, 000 people in the camp.
5. Camp Kukruse in the territory of the Kohtla Volost. 1, 000 Red Army POWs were contained in the camp.
6. Camp Perm on the territory of the Kohtla Volost, where 500 Red Army POWs were contained.
7. Camp Goldfielde located in the territory of the "Kohtla" slate distillery. Up to 1, 000 abducted citizens and Red Army POWs were contained in the camp.
8. Camp Erede-Aeuidus in the territory of the Kohtla Volost. Lately 2, 000 civilians were contained in the territory of the camp, among them there were also people abducted from Poland and Lithuanian SSR.
9. Camp Kiviõli. The whole camp consists of 5 separate camps located in the territory of the slate distillery in Kiviõli. Local civilians, Red Army POWs, and the population of the Jewish nationality were contained in this camp; the general number of prisoners here reached up to 8, 000 people.

10. Camp Sonda located in the Sonda borough. The camp contained up to 800 civilians.
11. Camp Aseri located in a cognominal settlement on the seacoast. Up to 1, 500 civilians were contained in the camp, mainly Jewish people.
12. Camp Kunda located near the Kunda village. In the camp 150-200 Red Army POWs were contained.

It is established that there was an unbearable routine in all of the listed camps. People were beaten to within an inch of their lives, scoffed, at and shot for no reason at all. Prisoners were used on construction, highway and railway repairing, forest exploitation, bog drainage, in mines and slate distilleries located in the Kohtla and Kiviõli areas.

Prisoners were held half-dressed; they were forced to walk in tatters and without any footwear. The food was disgusting, 200 grams of bread and some skilly were given each prisoner daily. The prisoners were physically exhausted. All of the camps had a high death rate because of famine, beating, and general inhuman treatment.

Chiefs and commandants of camps were Germans; guarding of camps was carried out by Germans from the SS units and Estonian battalions.

By October 8, 1944, the Commission established that mass destruction and executions of citizens and POWs took place in concentration camps Ereda and Kiviõli.

ESTABLISHED:

1.

By survey of camp Ereda it is established that the camp contained people mainly of the Jewish nationality, men, women, and children. In August, 1944, the command and guards of the camp started mass destruction of the people confined in this camp.

By the survey of the uyezd and by interrogation of people from the local population it is established that the mass destruction and executions happened in the following way: the confined were taken from barracks in groups of 10-15 people, and some were also brought on motor vehicles from other places and escorted to the place of execution located 50-100 meters away from the camp in bushes. People were undressed, forced to stand on logs thrown over dug holes, and then shot from rifles and machine guns. When the holes were filled with corpses, that were then poured with a combustible liquid and lit up. Later these holes were covered up with earth. Two of such holes were revealed in the area of the camp.

In the same area three fireplaces of significant sizes were found. Among the ashes there are traces of burnt human bones.

It is not possible to establish the amount of the massacred people, although it is clear from the testimonies that mass executions and destruction of bodies here proceeded within three days.

By scattered personal things and clothes of prisoners it is established that men, women, and children were shot here.

2.

By survey of the camps located in Kiviõli, and by interrogation of the local population it is established that since 1941 till the day of the German invaders' flight, plenty of local civilians: first, of the Virumaa Uyezd and other areas of the Estonian SSR, and later Red Army POWs and civilians captured and abducted by the Germans in various places, were contained here.

Since August, 1941, regular and continuous destruction of the people contained in these camps took place. By the superficial survey and by witnesses' testimonies it can be concluded that there are no less than 5-6 thousand massacred bodies under the slates of the mountain and around it. According to the evidence of separate witnesses, over 700 people were withdrawn from the Kiviõli camps and taken under a convoy in an unknown direction.

3.

In area of the Rakvere city, of the Klodi-Kuuzik uyezd that is 5 km to the north from the city, and Palermo-Mets, which is 3 km to the south from city, places of mass destruction of the local Estonian population shot in 1941 after arrival of the German aggressors are found. In the Palermo-Mets district there are some fresh tombs, significative of the destruction and executions happening here this year.

It is established by witnesses' evidence that as early as in 1941, the German invaders and their henchmen from the military-fascist organization "Omakaitse" shot here local Soviet citizens and prisoners from prisons and concentration camps captured by them. The same testimonies indicate that in the following years, people were brought here in closed cars at night and shot.

4.

By evidence of a witness living in the Moor Village of the Rakvere Volost of the Virumaa Uyezd, it is established that in the beginning of 1944, four Russian POWs that escaped from the camp and 32 local Estonians who have evaded service in the German Army were hiding in the woods in the area of the specified village.

In July, 1944, a group of German soldiers together with a constable of the specified volost MUREL captured 27 people from this hiding group and shot them, profaning afterwards their bodies.

Enclosure: acts and transcripts of interrogations of witnesses [not published].

*Chairman of the Virumaa Uyezd Commission on Investigation of
Atrocities of Fascist Aggressors*

JANSON

Members:

Chief of the Virumaa UO NKGB, Major of the State Security MATVEEV

*Chief of the Virumaa UO People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs Lieutenant of State
Security ENGER*

Deputy Public Prosecutor of the Virumaa Uyezd 1st Class Attorney SPADJEV

State Archives of the Russian Federation. Fund 7021. List 97. File 17a. Pages. 178-181.

A certified copy. Typescript

DOCUMENT 17

List of German and Estonian military criminals in charge of punitive actions in the Virumaa Uyezd during the period of Nazi occupation

Not earlier than end of September, 1944

	Last name, name, patronymic	Nationality	Military rank and post	Name of German, Romanian, etc. units, institutions, and organizations	Characteristic of crimes	Role in commitment of crimes	№ and date of act	Issued the statement
1	SCHUTZ	German	-	-	Executions by shooting	Leader		Virumaa uyezd commission
2	SANDERBERGEN	=	-	-	=	=		
3	BEKING	=	Commissioner of Pesterski uyezd	-	=	=		
4	SEUMLER	=	Commandant of Võru	-	=	=		
5	KATELKE	=	Major, commandant of Võru	-	=	=		
6	ENNOCK	The Estonian	Prefect of police	-	=	=		
7	TIIGRE	=	Head of Fascist organization Omakaitse, Major	-	=	=		
8	TIVEL	=	Captain	-	=	=		
9	RAA	=	Assistant chief of prison	-	=	=		

10	ANDERSON	=	Chief of internal prison schedule	-	=	=		
----	----------	---	---	---	---	---	--	--

*Head of Department of the Estonian Republic Commission on Revelation and
Investigation of Atrocities of the Fascist Aggressors
PASS
Assistant Public Prosecutor of ESSR VASILIEV*

State Archives of the Russian Federation. Fund 7021. List 97. File 15. Pages 3.
Original. Manuscript.

DOCUMENT 18

Act on atrocities of Hitlerites and their accomplices in the Võrumaa Uyezd

Translated from Estonian
October, 1944

Võrumaa Uyezd Commission on Investigation of Atrocities of the Fascist Aggressors and their Accomplices consisting of:

Chairman of the Commission KUKK Charles, Võru public judge of the 1st district;

Members of the commission:

PALMRE - Võrumaa's Public Prosecutor

RAAG – 2nd Secretary of the Võrumaa Uyezd

NAGIBINA – Head of Võrumaa's Public Health Service

ZAGREBALOV – Head of Võrumaa's UO NKGB

OZILA – Head of Võrumaa's UO People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs

LEHISMA - Representative of a Trade Union

RANDVEREY - Priest of an Orthodox Church

investigated atrocities of the Germans in Võrumaa and by interrogations of witnesses, medical examination, and survey of the war crimes' site, established the following:

Right after the arrival of the German invaders into the Võrumaa territory, the German gangs and their accomplices organized mass arrests and executions of Soviet citizens.

Only in the Võru City 600 innocent soviet citizens were shot.

The bloody work was committed by the Germans and their accomplices in vicinity of the Võru city where a total of 17 mass graves is revealed.

Already on the 4th day of their arrival, i.e. On July 13, 1941, German invaders committed a mass execution. The next mass execution was carried out on July 23, 1941. Innocent people were carried on motor vehicles to this execution, they were tied to each other by a cord and a wire. Those who resisted were struck by a wooden hammer and thrown in an unconscious condition into the vehicle.

Special cruelty was displayed towards people led to an execution on December 5, 1941. At 5 o'clock in the morning, during a strong frost, half-dressed people, many

without footwear, were taken to the place of murder. The bloodthirsty fascists were not content with it, and beat the people on their way to the place of their slaughtering. The next day, bloody traces were still visible. Before the execution, the people were tortured and beaten with sticks to within an inch of their lives. Human teeth and traces of blood were found near the grave.

It was revealed at the excavation of the tombs that people were tied to each other by a cord before the execution and shot all together.

Thus, many fell into the tomb while they were still alive and choked there. This fact was found out at excavation of tombs in Mälestusmäa.

Hitlerite executioners and their accomplices satisfied their thirst of murder by torturing and slaughtering the best sons the Motherland.

They killed the Deputy of the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR - PYAL and KIRBER, Secretary of the Võrumaa Uyezd Committee - KULBERG, Chairman of the Võrumaa Uyezd Executive Committee – KENDER, Chief of the Võrumaa Party Bureau SILIVASK, Chairman of the Võru Executive Committee of the City Soviet of People's Deputies TYNISMJAE, members of the Komsomol and employees of Soviet offices.

A total of up to 1, 000 people were killed in the Uyezd.

The originators and organizers of mass slaughters and tortures are the following people:

German Nazi officers SCHUTZ, SANDERBERGEN, Commissioner of the Peterski Uyezd BEKING, fascist commandants of the city Hauptmann SEUMELER, Major KATELKE, Võrumaa Police Prefect ENNOCK, Chief of the fascist organization "Omakaitse" Major TIIGRE, and his assistant Captain TIVEL, Assistant Head of Prison RAA, Chief of Prison Internal Schedule ANDERSON and all chiefs of the Omakaitse units who performed arrests and convoyed prisoners.

Signatures

State Archives of the Russian Federation. Fund 7021. List 97. File 15. Pages 19-20.
Certified copy. Typescript.

DOCUMENT 19

Reference of Military Office of Public Prosecutor on Facts of Atrocities of the Fascist Invaders and their Accomplices in the Estonian SSR

October, 1944

Prison of the Võru City of the ESSR

During the German occupation of the Estonian SSR, the prison of the Võru City contained constantly no less than 500 unconvicted Soviet citizens, including women and children. Prisoners were exposed to regular verbal and physical abuse by the administration of the prison and bore all horrors of the atrocities, were beaten unconscious, and shot.

So, witness PALM E.P. testified that “beating was so severe that I as the medical assistant of prison was called to bring round the beaten prisoners.”

Witness METZ K.V. testified that witnessed such a fact when in February, 1942, prisoner NURUMSALU was beaten unconscious and then died, and, despite of it, the fascist executioners took his corpse into the forest where they humiliated it, shooting at it.

Beside the tortures and brutal abuse of prisoners, fascist executioners carried out mass slaughters of prisoners for the purpose of systematic destruction of Soviet citizens. The prisoners were brought to the forest at night in motor vehicles by groups of 40 people, where they were shot. Only during a few days before the Red Army liberated the Võru City, the fascist butchers shot over 750 prisoners.

Among the shot prisoners, in 1942, the following people were shot: Secretary of the Võru Uyezd Committee of the C.P.S.U.(B.) (Communist Party of the Soviet Union (Bolsheviks)) KULBERG, Chairman of the Võru City Council Mihkel TYNISMJAE, Chairman of the Uyezd Ground Management SOMIK, Head of Department of National Education Charles SILIVASK, and other Soviet and Communist Party workers of the Võrumaa Uyezd of the Estonian SSR.

Executions were made by members of the fascist organization Omakaitse. Deputy Director of the Võru prison Arnold UNDE personally took part in mass executions and abuse of prisoners.

Beside UNDE, the following people personally participated in the abuse and beating of prisoners: Prison Assistant Director Elmar RAA, Prison Senior Supervisor ANDERSON, supervisors SOAJMRE and SAAL.

Prison 1 of the Tallinn City

1. By survey of all premises and territory of the prison in which the following documents were found:
 - A) daily titular list of the convicted and arrested for the period from January, 1 till September 6, 1944;
 - B) reports of prison Commandant about daily movement of prisoners in 1944 (No other documents containing information on the amount of prisoners in 1941-1943, or about the custodial control, were found.);

it is established that the fascist invaders destroyed all documents on Prison 1 of the Tallinn City or evacuated them out of the Estonian SSR to conceal the documents of abuse and torture.

It is determined from the above-stated documents that in 1944, about 1500 people were daily contained in the Tallinn prison 1, of them up to 550 women.

The greatest number of the prisoners reached up to 4, 175 in August 5, 1941, while the prison was designed for only 1300 people.

2. 6933 convicted were imprisoned in the facility in 1944. Besides, on January 1, 1944, 2689 people were contained in the prison.
3. The prisoners were contained in exclusively unsanitary conditions, in extremely overcrowded chambers: up to 100 people were contained in a chamber, whereas only 20 were supposed to be contained nominally.

Nutrition of the prisoners was very poor: 200 grams of bread substitute prepared from flour with an additive of wooden sawdust, 1/2 liters of watery soup and 1/2 liters of water were given out to a prisoner daily.

No other provisions were given out to the prisoners.

Thus, prisoners lingered and as a result of their long stay in the prison suffered from dystrophy. Patients didn't receive any help, they were contained in similar conditions.

The administration of prison regularly verbally abused prisoners who were unjustly beaten, and for the slightest offense confined them in a punishment cell for long terms that reached up to a month.

It is established from the official data that fascist invaders shot over 5000 innocent Soviet citizens for only 1 year (1941).

All of the above-stated is proved by testimonies of GONCHAROV A.V., MOOZE Jan, SEEBERG Alexander, and others.

So, witness Goncharov A.M. evidenced that being in prison 1 of the Tallinn City and being wounded he did not receive any medical aid, as well as other several dozens of wounded men. The administration of prison answered requests of wounded men for rendering them medical assistance like this: "You are Russian, and it is

forbidden for us to treat Russians.” The same witness testified that the Germans who served in the prison as employees, severely physically abused prisoners, beating them with sticks or any other objects that came across.

Estonian witness Jan MOOZE testified that he was imprisoned on the 6/14/44 for evasion service in the German Army and remained in confinement until 9/21/44. On the second day of imprisonment, MOOZE was wounded in the leg during his attempt to escape from the prison and, being wounded in prison, did not receive any medical assistance.

Estonian witness Alexander SEEBERG testified that, being in prison, he also witnessed incidents when the administration of the prison would beat prisoners without any reason. So, he witnessed how one prisoner was struck 25 times by a rubber stick until his body, all covered with bruises, was bleeding.

4. It is established by investigation that Commandant of the Tallinn Prison since 1941 till autumn 1943 was ILVES, who was superseded by LAAK.

Assistant Commandant of the Prison was MIHKELSON.

Among the supervisors of the prison who verbally abused prisoners and beat them, there was a German KAZ.

1. Assistant Military Office of the Public Prosecutor of the Leningrad Garrison, Senior Lieutenant of Justice

SOKOLSKI

2. Military Inspector of the Military Office of the Public Prosecutor of the Leningrad Army of Air Defense, Captain of Justice SOKOLOV

State Archives of the Russian Federation. Fund 7021. List 9. File 97. Pages 51-53.
A certified copy. Typescript.

DOCUMENT 20

Transcript of interrogation of Võru prison medical assistant Elmar Palm

September 6, 1944

Question: Tell me in detail of where you worked during the German occupation.

Answer: During the period of the German occupation of Võru from 1941 to August 1944, I worked as a medical assistant in the Võru prison.

Question: Tell me in detail about the Soviet and [Communist] Party activists contained in the Võru prison.

Answer: I know that in the Võru prison during the German occupation the Secretary of the Võrumaa Uyezd Committee of the C.P.S.U.(B.) KULBERG was imprisoned. He had been arrested in autumn 1941 near Musavjae and was brought to the Võru prison. Except for KULBERG, the following people were imprisoned: Chairman of the Võru City Council TYNISMJAE Mihkel, chairman of the uyezd territorial management HOMIK, chief of the uyezd public health department SILIVISK, head of department of national education SILIVASK Charles, chief of the People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs' Võru city prison NURUMSALA, secretary of the Komsomol organization of the Võru city, and many others. The German-Estonian police severely beat all of the above-mentioned people. The beating was so heavy that I was called to bring round the beaten prisoners.

Question: And what was the further destiny of the political prisoners of the Võru prison?

Answer: Everyone that I named in my previous answer was shot in February-March, 1942, by members of the fascist organization Omakaitse.

Question: Where did the executions of prisoners take place?

Answer: The executions of prisoners took place near a cemetery and in the Konalja region [...]. I also know that after a while, inhabitants of Võru decorated the places of execution and the tomb with flowers.

Question: How many people were shot in the Võru city during the period of the German occupation?

Answer: By my calculations, German and Estonian fascists shot about 700 prisoners only in the Võru prison.

Question: Did the prison employees participate in beating and executions?

Answer: I know that supervisor SAIMRE and senior supervisor ANDERSON took part in beating of prisoners and executions. I happened to see supervisor SAIMRE once in autumn 1941, he smelled of vodka and his hands were covered with blood from the beating of prisoners.

Question: Which workers of the Võru prison live in the town right now?

Answer: The supervisors of the Võru prison employed during the German occupation live in the Võrumaa uyezd.

METZ Charles lives on Maleeva Street. Supervisor SIMUL Jan lives on Vabadusi Street in MAITSE's house, supervisor ROHLAND lives on Maleeva Street, 40. Supervisor PERHMEE Vidrick lives on Rooski Street, 1, supervisor METUS Jan works on a tannery, JEGEVA Albert lives in the Semerpalu uyezd, supervisor PATEEN lives on Krejtsvald Street, supervisor SAMASON lives in the Võru volost. There also lives wife of the prison assistant UNDE on the street [...].

Question: What else can you add to your testimony?

Answer: I have nothing else to add to my testimonies.

The transcript is read through and written down from my words correctly. The interrogation was conducted by Captain of the State Security

GAVRILEVICH

State Archives of the Russian Federation. Fund 7021. List 97. File 9.
Pages 1, 1 overleaf, 2, 2 overleaf, 3.

Original. Typescript.

DOCUMENT 21

Transcript of interrogation of Charles Metz, supervisor of the Võru prison in 1927-1940 and 1941-1944

September 8, 1944

Warned about the responsibility for false swearing in accordance with Article 95 of the UK [criminal code].

(METZ)

Question: Tell me in detail, how did you manage to keep your job in the prison with the arrival of Germans to the Võru city in 1941?

Answer: Approximately in July, 1941, after the Red Army units left the Võru city, supervisor ADER came to my apartment and told me the following: "Let's go to work back in the prison, the old workers are gathering there already". I listened to ADER's advice and went back to the prison where provisional director of prison UNDE admitted me. During the Soviet period, he worked as the chief of workshops of the Võru prison. When I came back to work, I saw there the former supervisors: Rohland KUSTAVA, lived on 40 Maleeva Street, RAUDSPE Vidrick, NAGBI Bengard - died in 1943, SIMUL Jan, lived on Vabadusi Street, 7, POTSEN August, lived on the Krejtsvalda Street, 13, SELL Jacob, lived on Rossi Street, 1, RAAG Erich, lived on Jurys Street, 4, VJAHU Juhanes, lived on Krejtsvald Street, 57, TOOM August, lives together with me in the same house - Maleeva Street, 23.

Question: And who was the permanent director of the prison and where did UNDE work afterwards?

Answer: UNDE was replaced by LUJCK, who arrived from Tallinn. LUJCK was replaced by KULLASALU Paul; he lived on Tartu Street 25. UNDE became deputy director of the prison until August, 1944

Question: How many prisoners were contained during the German occupation in the prison of the Võru city?

Answer: The amount of prisoners often varied during the German occupation, but there were always no less than 500 people in the prison.

Question: Were there children and women contained in the prison?

Answer: Yes, during 1941-1944, up to 30 women were contained in the prison, and children, but there weren't many of them.

Question: Who guarded the prison?

Answer: At first, the prison was guarded by members of the fascist organization Omakaitse, and later the supervisors guarded the prison.

Question: Tell me about the custodial control in prison during 1941-1944.

Answer: During this period of time, it was the same as during the days of the bourgeois Estonia.

Question: Tell me, whether there were any cases of beating of prisoners by the supervision staff?

Answer: I always was on sentry duty at the doors so I didn't see anything.

Question: Tell, whether there were any cases of executions of prisoners, where and how many executions?

Answer: I know that many prisoners were shot, but where and how many were shot, I do not know. Supervisors told me that only lately 750 people were taken from the prison for execution. The verdict was executed by members of the fascist organization Omakaitse. The deputy director of prison UNDE always attended the executions and participated in them.

Question: Tell me which prison employees treated the prisoners inhumanely?

Answer: I know that the assistant director of the prison RAA Elmar and supervisor SAAL beat prisoners.

Question: Who from the workers of NKGB, the People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs, Soviet and [Communist] Party activists were imprisoned during the German occupation?

Answer: During the German occupation, the following people were confined: the secretary of the uyezd committee of the C.P.S.U.(B.) KULBERG, chief of the People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs' prison 10 of the Võru city NURUMSALU, chairman of the Võru City Council TYNISMJAE, uyezd heads LOMIK, SILVACK, SILVASK Charles. I know that the chief of the People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs prison NURUMSALU was beaten in prison, and I even witnessed as he was beaten unconscious. After that, NURUMSALU died, but, despite of it, the Omakaitses took him into the woods and shot at there at his body. The secretary of the uyezd committee of the C.P.S.U.(B.) KULBERG was shot in the forest; along with him all of the above-stated persons were shot. It happened approximately on February 19[...].

Question: Who of the supervisors that you named remained in the Võru city with the advent of the Red Army?

Answer: The following people live in the Võru city of the Virumaa uyezd: supervisor PARGME Vidrick lives on Rooski Street, 1, JEJEVA Albert lives on Katerina Street, 8, METUS Jan, lives on Vejke street, 1, SIMUL Jan, lives [...].

Question: And where is UNDE Arnold now?

Answer: I do not know where UNDE Arnold is now.

Question: What do you wish to add to the testimony?

Answer: I cannot add anything else to the testimony.

*The transcript is read through and written down from my words correctly, for which
I undersign.*

(METZ)

The interrogation was conducted by Captain of the State Security

GAVRILEVICH

State Archives of the Russian Federation. Fund 7021. List 9. File 97. Pages. 4-6
overleaf. Original. Manuscript.

DOCUMENT 22

Evidence of Vidrick PARGME, supervisor of the Võru prison

September 12th, 1944

Warned about the responsibility for false swearing in accordance with Article 95 of the UK [criminal code].

(PARGME)

Question: Tell me, what do you know about the atrocities of fascist authorities in the prison of the Võru City?

Answer: Working in the prison of the Võru City as a supervisor from July 15, 1941 till August, 1944, I know that the supervision staff verbally abused prisoners. I personally did not see cases of beating of prisoners, but I know from the confined and other supervisors of the prison that supervisors of the period of the German occupation TASHEPU Leonhard, VEGI Johann and LUCKSET August regularly beat prisoners for the slightest offenses. TASHEPU and VEGI are natives of the Võru city and LUCKSET is from a village [...] of the Võrumaa uyezd, I haven't met any of them since the liberation from the German occupation, and therefore I consider that they left with the Germans.

I don't know their exact residence. The custodial control was rigid in the prison, and the heads of prison promoted all kinds of abuse of prisoners. Personally I as a supervisor never brought prisoners to interrogation, and therefore I can't tell, whether the prisoners were beaten during interrogation. I didn't observe any cases when prisoners were beaten by authorities during the fascist occupation, so I can't tell anything for certain.

As I was working as an escort, I personally didn't see when the convicts were taken from jail to execution, but I heard from other supervisors and from civilians that many convicts from the prison of the Võru City were shot.

Plenty were shot in July, August, September, 1941.

Question: Who shot the prisoners, where is the place of execution?

Answer: Within July, August, September, 1941, executions were made rather often. Executions of the prisoners were carried out by members of the fascist organization "Omakaitse", they usually came by cars at night, took out 30 prisoners, and drove them away out of town, where the prisoners were shot. I don't know how many people they shot at a time, but I do know that there was a case when 40 people were shot. The execution of the condemned prisoners was carried out in the Redo

forest, which is 5 km down the highway from the Võru City and 0.5 km to the right from the highway.

I do not know whether the surveillance staff participated in the executions. I didn't have any friends from the Omakaitstes and their last names are not known to me. The graves where the shot prisoners were buried, are in the Redo forest as it is specified above.

Question: How many people were shot?

Answer: Executions of the prisoners were carried out not only in the Redo forest, but also in the Kona forest which is down the road from Võru to Rjapino, which is 4 km from the city and 3 km from the Kaka village. How many times and how many people were shot there, I do not know. I also do not know how many people were shot in the Redo forest, and I only know that there was a case when 40 people were shot. It was in the end of July, 1941, some days after Võru was occupied by the Germans.

Question: Who put flowers on the grave?

Answer: Some citizens and I went to put flowers on the grave but I don't know their names, as it was done absolutely secretly. Two of my friends had been shot, they are: RAUBA Benhard, shot as a political prisoner, because his brother left to the Soviet Union, and ROOTS Rihard, for his arresting a German paratrooper in the forest in 1941, before Võru was occupied by the Germans. When I brought a bouquet of flowers to the grave, there already were some bouquets and crosses, therefore I think that there were other citizens besides me.

Question: Characterize UNDE and the director of prison.

Answer: Unde Arnold was the deputy director of prison of the Võru city during the period of German occupation, the director of prison was KULASALU Paul - both of them are Estonians. In my opinion, they were quite good chiefs, I personally didn't see anything bad in them, as well as the other supervisors, and the prisoners did not complain of them. I cannot characterize them in more detail. I've never heard of their beating the prisoners, and I can't tell whether they knew that the prisoners were beaten by the supervisors. The prisoners were fed by the established rates; the products were of good quality. 300 grams of bread were given out daily. The discipline was strict.

Question: Whence do you know about the executions and about the grave?

Answer: I already told you that I heard about the executions from the surveillance staff and from prisoners. When the Omakaitstes came, the number of prisoners decreased by 40-50 people, and for some reason, everyone told that they were taken away to execution. Everyone in the city knew about the places of execution and about the locations of graves, and I found it out from civilians. Some people said that they heard shots after the prisoners were taken away. Many civilians knew that prisoners are shot in the mentioned woods. The transcript of interrogation

is read to me in Russian and Estonian languages, and written down from my words correctly, for what I undersign.

(PARGME)

The interrogation was conducted by

SOLOVIOV

KAARDIMLE

State Archives of the Russian Federation. Fund 7021. List 9. File 97. Pages 7-9 overleaf.
Original. Typescript.

DOCUMENT 23

Transcript of interrogation of witness Maria Pakkas on execution of Estonian political prisoners in the Klodi Village of the Rakvere Volost of the Virumaa Uyezd in October, 1941

October 7, 1944

I, officer of the criminal investigation department of the UO People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs ESSR USTINOV, on this day, interrogated as a witness:

PAKKAS Maria Denisovna, B 1898, Estonian, non-party member, 5 classes of education, from a family of peasants, native of the Sioalus Village of the Sõmeru Volost of the Virumaa Uyezd, lives in the Rakvere City, Vejdu Street, 40, apt. #4, a housewife. [Witness] was not convicted.

[Witness is] warned about the amenability for false swearing under Article 95 of UK [criminal code] RSFSR.

Question: Clarify, citizen PAKKAS, what do you know about the execution by fascist invaders of Estonian political prisoners in the Klodi village of the Rakvere Volost of the Virumaa Uyezd of the ESSR in 1941.

Answer: Under the German occupation in 1941 of the Virumaa uyezd territory, special team-services consisting of Estonians were made, such as administrative and security ones, for prisons and camps where from the very first days of the German occupation, the best sons of Estonia were taken and imprisoned, the people that actively participated in public work during the Soviet regime; they were massively shot in a specially allocated place in a forest near the Klodi Village.

My sister's husband POLDVA Charles was the managing director of the Kullari estate in the Arupyalee Village of the Rakvere Volost during the Soviet regime in 1940-1941, also was a member of the Estonian C.P.S.U.(B.). For this as for [his] political activity in [...] he was imprisoned in the Rakvere City, but, holding him in the prison only for a week, he was released, but in a few days, members of the «Omakaitse» from the Klodi Village PALM, PAYU and POLITRI came to POLDVA's apartment, took him back to the prison of the Rakvere City. And in 10/18/41, POLDVA Charles together with other Estonian political prisoners were shot in the forest near the Klodi Village. The wife of the shot, i.e. my sister, was informed about this long time after the execution. One gentleman, his last name is ROSENBERG, saw how a group of political prisoners consisting of no less than 10 people was taken on a motor vehicle to execution, and POLDVA Charles was in this group, but I do not know where ROSENBERG lives. The place of execution of

political prisoners was guarded by police, therefore, I never was there and I also don't know how many political prisoners were shot in the Klodi village.

I have nothing to add to this case, the transcript of interrogation is read to me in the Estonian language, and written down from my words correctly.

Translator attended the interrogation

*The interrogation was conducted by officer of the Criminal Investigation Department
USTINOV*

State Archives of the Russian Federation. Fund 7021. List 97. File 4. Page 22.
Original. Typescript.

DOCUMENT 24

Transcript of interrogation of witness Charles Kittara on execution of Estonian political prisoners by fascist invaders in 1941 in the Klodi Village of the Rakvere Volost of the Virumaa Uyezd

October, 7, 1944

Question: Clarify, citizen KITTAR, what you know about the execution by fascist invaders of Estonian political prisoners in the Klodi Village of the Rakvere Volost of the Virumaa Uyezd of the ESSR in 1941.

Answer: In August, 1941, fascist armies occupied the Virumaa Uyezd territory of the ESSR and right away, began severe repressions against the partisans, Soviet and economic leaders and everyone who actively participated in the construction of the Soviet regime in the Estonian SSR.

On 8/28/41, I personally was arrested and imprisoned in the Rakvere prison for active work in a trade union during the Soviet regime. Then on 10/9/41, I was transferred into a political prisoners' camp and on 2/9/42 I was sent to a camp on peat bogs in the Lehtas Village, where I was kept until 8/29/42. Being confined in the Rakvere prison together with other political prisoners, I witnessed that political prisoners were cruelly beaten at interrogations, usually the confined were taken away for interrogations at 12, 1 and 2 am, and the prisoners came back beaten, with swelled faces and so on. Very often, political prisoners were taken away somewhere at night on motor vehicles, and they never came back. I personally saw three times as political prisoners were taken away on motor vehicles 7-8 at a time, there were hearsays that the arrested were taken away and shot in a forest near the Klodi Village. I know that in September, 1941, a worker of the People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs, an Estonian RATTUR was shot near the Klodi village, in the same month, a representative of the Rakvere Volost Executive Committee of the Papti Village PELVE Charles was shot. Peasants who had insufficient land in the past were also shot there; during the Soviet regime, they received plots from landowners' land: KEREM from the Klodi Village, Slebar from the Veldi Village who during the Soviet regime in 1940-1941 helped the government to expose a hostile element - gangsters.

If in 1941, executions of political prisoners were mass, then in 1942-1944 executions of political prisoners did not stop. Thus, during the German occupation, no less than 300 Estonian political prisoners were shot in the Klodi Village, I know that an employee of the People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs OSMENOV Andrey, director of a furniture factory PIRKSI Jugen, an employee of People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs VEJNE Rutomir, Chairman of the Volost Executive Committee VESI Lemete, activist KIWIMJAE and a number of other comrades were

shot there. For refusing to bury the killed political prisoners, citizen KRIT Ante was shot. He was shot by an active helper of Germans SALU Ante from the Semeri Volost. But such repressions could not break the will power of Estonian people to struggle. So, in the Kudimilaa SEPINS Kiy was shot for tearing down German eagles and setting up the Soviet flag. People aged 13-86 were kept in prison; there were cases when one person was imprisoned 3-4 times, each time on political grounds. Political prisoners were taken to execution not only from prison: 2-3 political prisoners were daily taken away from camps - and they never came back. Certainly, they were shot. So the Sala Volost militia officer was taken away and he never came back. Henchmen of Germans from Estonians took active participation in repressions against Estonians. In the camp for political prisoners the chiefs were: TIVAS and LEYTER, the chief of camp in the suburbs of the Rakvere city was LINNEMENI, the supervisors were VAAS, KULLICK and ADRIP, they treated the prisoners cruelly. But the political prisoners were especially severely treated by employees of the Rakvere prison, German henchmen: chief of prison SIIL, KLOSIIP, supervisor KNORIT, sergeant-major VIHTRICK, supervisor KAUIIL who constantly beat the prisoners and attended executions of political prisoners.

There is nothing more to add to this case, the transcript of interrogation is read to me in the Estonian Language and written down from my words correctly.

Translator attended the interrogation

*The interrogation was conducted by officer of the Criminal Investigation Department
USTINOV*

State Archives of the Russian Federation. Fund 7021. List 97. File 4. Pages 25-27.
Original. Typescript.

DOCUMENT 25

Act of the Committee for Investigation of Atrocities of Nazi Invaders and Their Accomplices in the Virumaa Uyezd

December 15, 1944

The Commission composed of: Chairman: A. JANSON, members: MATVEEV, ENGER, SPAJEV, and Executive Secretary K. LAIDMAN,

having examined available materials: transcripts of interrogation of citizens, acts of excavations, and materials collected by particular members of the Commission - have documented the following:

In the Virmaa Uyezd by the atrocities of German aggressors and their helpers, in addition to the known persons, were destroyed by shooting, tortures, famine, etc. and buried in mass graves the following numbers of people:

In Kiviõli	6000
In Kohtla-Järve	44000
In Ereda	1800
In camp Azeri	600
In Voldfieldse	42000
In Palermo-Rakvere	44600
In Klodi-Rakvere	44400
In Midriku-Vetiku	200
Total	15600

In Rakvere the following names of organizers and executors of the Massenmord are known:

1. General ASHENBART, German - commandant of the Rakvere City;
2. COK Paul, Estonian - prefect of police of the Virumaa Uyezd;
3. SUVE Erich, Estonian - chief of political police;
4. SIIM, Estonian - member of the court, director of prison;
5. VASKA, Estonian - chief of self-defense ["Omakaitse"];

6. KYUTT, Estonian - local lawyer, judge;
7. VIHVELIP Arnold, Estonian - artist, member of the court;
8. ADLER, Estonian - executor of death sentences;
9. BAINO Hugo, Estonian - executor of death sentences in Rakvere on 15 December, 1944.

Chairman: A. JANSON

Members: MATVEEV, ENGER, SPAJEV

Executive Secretary K. LAIDMAN.

State Archives of the Russian Federation. Fund 7021. List 97. File 20. Page 10.

Original. Typescript.

DOCUMENT 26

Transcript of interrogation of witness Juhanes Kingo on executions of Soviet prisoners of war and civilians in the Kiviõli City of the Virumaa Uyezd during the period of Nazi occupation of the Estonian SSR

December 9, 1944

The Public Prosecutor of the Virumaa Uyezd SPAJEV interrogated the below-mentioned as a witness in accordance with Articles 162-168 of procedural criminal code.

I, KINGO, know that mass executions of POWs, evacuated civilians and Estonian population took place in Kiviõli of the Virumaa Uyezd. During the whole period of occupation, I lived here, i.e. in Kiviõli, and I knew that all of the orders for executions went through the chief of "Omakaitse" KUMISTE and KIRBOJ who issued the orders.

And I personally saw how once in May, 1943, near my apartment where I live, a POW was shot by this very LUMITSE. The POW had a sack and limped a little, he couldn't run away, so why LUMITSE shot him I don't know.

When I came up to the POW, he had a wound in a temple, was still alive. LUMITSE passed by, and the revolver was still in his hand.

I heard that LUMITSE is hiding in the village [...], of the Maidla Volost where his wife's parents live. LUMITSE's farm is in the Erra Volost, in the Varinurme Hamlet where he lived before. And where is LUMITSE now, I do not know. Except for LUMITSE, policemen LEPPASAAR and AOMER were also here, they also carried out mass executions and beating of the captured. Where they now are, I don't know.

There is nothing more I can add, transcript was written down from my words correctly and read to me.

The interrogation was conducted by Public Prosecutor of the Uyezd, Lawyer of the 1st Class
(Signature)

State Archives of the Russian Federation. Fund 7021. List 97. File20. Page 21.

A certified copy. Typescript.

DOCUMENT 27

Act on atrocities of fascist aggressors in the Kiviõli settlement, Virumaa Uyezd

October 7, 1944

We, the undersigned, Chairman of the Erra Volost Executive Committee, Erra Deputy of Workers' Councils ESIPOV, citizen of the Kiviõli workers' settlement KLAUS Theodor, created the following protocol about the villainies of fascist authorities in the workers' settlement of slate development Kiviõli during occupation of the latter by fascist armies:

Based on personal observations and interrogation of inhabitants, it was established that in the vicinities of the Kiviõli slate development there were 3 concentration camps. The first camp for civilians, being, in fact, a transition camp with the capacity up to 200 (two hundred) people, the second camp for POWs with two branches and total number of prisoners up to 6, 000 (six thousand), and the third camp for the Jewish population, with two branches and up to 2, 000 (two thousand) people in it.

By interrogating local residents, it has been established that mass destruction of prisoners in camps occurred around the coking coal mountain of the Kiviõli slate factory.

By survey of the site of execution, mainly 6 places are determined around the coking coal mountain and the seventh - 200 (two hundred) meters away from the bottom of the coking coal mountain to the northwest. Corpses of victims – both shot ones and those who died in the camp from exhaustion, beating and illnesses – were first thrown in burning peat holes, and lately, when the peat was extinguished, the shot and dead were buried at the bottom of the coking coal mountain. The corpses were then covered in the process of a regular coke dumping from the conveyor.

Thus, the commission concludes that the amount of shot, tortured and deceased from illnesses victims makes about 6, 000 (six thousand) people,

about which the present protocol is created.

*ESIPOV, CLAUS,
KONGI, VARI, PURK*

State Archives of the Russian Federation. Fund 7021. List 97. File 2. Pages 2.
Original. Typescript.

DOCUMENT 28

Transcript of interrogation of witness Lavrenteva B.N. on atrocities of Nazis and their accomplices in the Triangle concentration camp, Virumaa Uyezd

October, 1944

I, uyezd militia officer of the Virumaa UO People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs of the ESSR NICKOLAEV, interrogated as a witness LAVRENTEVA Barbara Nikiforovna, B 1898, born in Leningrad, resident of Kiviõli of the Virumaa Uyezd of the ESSR, house # 8.

On the merits, I can testify the following:

In November 1941, the Germans evacuated us from the Urizk City to the Polnovsky area of the Leningrad region. From the Polnovsky area I was evacuated to Estonia to Kiviõli where I was confined in the Triangle camp. In this camp I stayed for 3,5 months from January 31, till May 15, 1944. The majority of inhabitants in this camp were civilians which were absolutely innocent. There were civilians in this camp, Estonians - local residents - and Russians. Cruel treatment and murders, beating by the heads of camp, Germans, were beyond all bearing. The chief of camp was Estonian, his last name IRODIS. A German BUCKS had a higher rank; he was engaged in physical tortures. The chief was a German rear SD, his last name SIFIL.

There were from 70 to 130 people in the camp. The chief of camp IRODIS shot many civilians that were in the camp. On February 3, 1944, at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, the chief of camp IRODIS took away 6 people from the camp on a motor vehicle. From them I knew well: IVANOVA Xenia and her son IVANOV Anatoly from Ljadsckaya area of the Leningrad region, FEDOSEEVA, an 18-year-old from the Gdov city, and three more people - I don't remember their names or where they came from.

These 6 people were taken away from the camp and didn't come back. These people were shot. A Russian foreman MELNIKOV Ivan from the Moscow city told this to us. IRODIS would often beat people with a lash or with the handle of a weapon.

It happened that IRODIS came to the cells, took prisoners to the commandant's room, and started beating the innocent people almost to death.

In executions IRODIS, BUCKS, and PAULBERT participated more than others. These fascists shot many people who were in the camp. Only I do not remember when, and how many people. One POW – his last name SMIRNOV- was tortured for a long time and also humiliated – as though for a flight from camp:

matches were put and lit up under his nails, and he was beaten awfully, and subsequently this POW was shot by PAUK - a Ukrainian security guard of the camp. It was in August, 1944.

BUCKS happened to come to our camp and gave orders to everyone, or someone, to climb on the roof of the car – and then the arrested people were ordered to bark like dogs. Or such people shouted to unconsciousness – and he gave the order to jump from the roof.

For any reason, for failing to carry out work order, prisoners were put into a punishment cell, or they were beaten. We were fed very badly: we were given 250-300 grams of bread a day.

These butchers didn't reckon with anyone, they shot many local residents - Estonians, but their last names I don't know. I wasn't beaten as an old person. I can add nothing more; transcript of interrogation was written down from my words correctly and read to me aloud.

Signature: LAVRENTEVA

The interrogation was conducted by the Virumaa Uyezd militia officer of the UO People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs ESSR NICKOLAIS

State Archives of the Russian Federation. Fund 7021. List 97. File 2. Pages 4-6.
Original. Typescript.

DOCUMENT 29

Transcript of interrogation of Doctor Lavrova L.P. who examined convicts of the Tallinn Prison 1 after its liberation from fascist aggressors

October 10, 1944

Warned about the responsibility for false swearing and for refusal of giving evidence in accordance with Articles 92nd and the 95th of UK [criminal code] (signature of the interrogated)

On the merits, testified the following:

After graduating from the Ivanovo Medical Institute in July, 1944, I was directed to work as a doctor in the Estonian SSR, in particular, in the Tallinn City where I have arrived on September 24, 1944. After the arrival in Tallinn, I was directed to Prison 1 where I found five seriously ill convicts in the prison hospital, and all these people were Estonians. And at a careful survey, one of the five turned out to be dead, another person died later that day, but I do not know their last names. The three survived were directed to a hospital for treatment. All of the patients were very famished. Besides, on the same day, 15 other prisoners were found in a cell, 4 of them were walking patients, and others with a confinement to bed, but all of them were wounded and, in general, POWs. When I began to examine these patients, all of them were laying in one cell on a dirty floor, and at the examination of wounds I found worms and pus in the wounds and it testifies that they didn't receive appropriate medical care. At conversations, the patients declared that while being in prison, the German command of the prison fed them exclusively badly, giving them daily 200 grams of bread prepared from rye flour with wooden sawdust, and half a liter of potato soup, which was watery. Besides this, three corpses of men were revealed in cells, and it was established at their external examination that all of them were very famished and, generally, all of them died 4-5 days before my survey, i.e. before 9/24/44. It wasn't possible to ascertain last names of the people as they did not have any documents. At the survey of cells and hospital rooms, no documents related to case histories of prisoners were found. However, I found a book of record which was torn, and, thus, nothing could be ascertained by this book. I have nothing more to add to this case. The transcript of interrogation was written down correctly and read to me.

(LAVROVA)

Military Inspector, Captain Sokolov

State Archives of the Russian Federation. Fund 7021. List 9. File 97. Pages 30, 30 overleaf, 31.
Original. Manuscript.

DOCUMENT 30

Transcript of interrogation of Red Army POW Nikulin N.S.

October 11, 1944

Warned about the responsibility for false swearing and for refusal of giving evidence in accordance with Articles 92 and 95 of UK [criminal code] (signature of the interrogated)

(NIKULIN)

On the merits, testify the following:

Till August 28, 1941, I was in the military service in the Red Army. I was a Red Army man of the 224th rifle regiment, but I don't remember the division. On the 28th of August, 1941, in Tallinn, our whole regiment was captured by Germans as we had no time to be evacuated by sea and were captured on a quay in Tallinn where we were expecting a steamship. Right after capture, I was sent to the Mitava [Yelgava] city of the Latvian SSR, there I spent a month in a quarantine and together with other captured soldiers was engaged in construction of barracks. But in a month, i.e. on September 28, 1941, from the Mitava city I, as well as others prisoners, was sent to work to an owner as a worker. My owner was a Latvian URMAN Peter who lived and had two manors in [...] of the Zosa volost, of the Jacobschtad [Ekabpils] uyezd. I was the only prisoner who worked on these farm jobs from September 28, till June 21, 1943. I had to work very hard from dusk till dawn; the owner was treating me roughly, and fed me when I was half-starved. He didn't beat me, but he treated me roughly, abused and forced to work almost without rest. In June, 1943, my owner URMAN received a summons from the volost police. When I arrived to the police station, there were already 10 other POWs. From this police station all of us, that is, 10 people, were sent to a POW camp in the Kohtla-Järve settlement of the Estonian SSR that is 60 km away from the Narva City. In this camp I was up to September 11, 1944. Thus, I spent one year and 2 months in the camp. Up to 3 thousand POWs were contained in this camp. We lived in overcrowded barracks, absolutely unsanitary: dirty, damp, and full of bugs. Every day, we were sent to work on the construction of a slate distillery in the area of the Kohtla-Järve settlement. We worked up to 15 hours a day and the work began at 4 am every day. We weren't given anything to eat during work. We were fed only twice a day, i. e. in the morning before work and in the evening after work. The rate was 300 grams of bread a day and two times a day we received soup, which was very liquid, simply water with some greens, and in summer they simply cooked grass. Germans supervised us at work, their last names I cannot name. They were always near us with a stick in their hands, and as soon as you would

hardly turn away from work to unbend your back, you would be struck by a stick. We were also beaten by rubber lashes. I personally was punished quite often, and once I was beaten by a German by a rubber lash just because I was working not in the brigade where I was supposed to. From awfully heavy conditions in the camp, from bad dining and beating, the people contained in the camp were regularly ill, most of them famished. But if you got sick you weren't released from work until you couldn't move, so about 20 tortured POWs left the camp each day. I do not know cases when somebody died in the camp, it was done so that they tortured to the incurable condition, and those who were tortured to death were sent somewhere. What happened to these people after that, I do not know. Under such heavy conditions, I decided to escape from the camp by all means. On August 16, when we were sent to work, I tried to run away, but security guard (I don't know his last name) shot from a rifle and wounded me in the thorax. Because of this wound, I was first sent to an infirmary at the camp, and on September, 11, together with other patients, overall there were 41 people, I was sent from the infirmary. First, we thought that we were taken to some hospital, but it appeared that we were brought to Tallinn Prison 1. I was still in grave condition, I could not move, and I didn't receive any medical treatment. In such condition I was imprisoned. There were 75 people in the cell where I was. I stayed here from 9/11/44 till 9/25/44 when, with the arrival of the Red Army to Tallinn, I was sent to a hospital for treatment where I am at present. The custodial control was awful in prison, we received little food, there were days when we didn't receive absolutely anything and on other days we were given 200 grams of bread, some soup, and it was simply water with some grains of oats or other groats. When I was in a cell, a number of prisoners were daily beaten by supervisors for any petty or imaginary offense. The supervisors came with sticks in their hands and beat the prisoners.

Each day, prisoners in the cell were drawn up for a check. Once I, being sick (wounded), could not rise quickly for the check - then the supervisor struck my back with a stick. We, and there were several wounded men in the cell, didn't receive any medical care at all. We were left to the mercy of fate. I know that in the last days before the Germans retreated from Tallinn, the arrested people were sent somewhere from prison, but where, I cannot tell. Noone was sent from our cell, but when prisoners from other cells passed our cell they peeped and whispered: "It will be your turn soon". So we waited every minute that we will be sent somewhere but it never happened, and our cell remained untouched, and when the prison administration left, the prisoners themselves opened the cell and those who could move - left, but where, I cannot tell.

13 of us - seriously ill patients - remained in the cell, and with the arrival of the Red Army all of us were sent to a hospital.

Question: Can you name the prison employees and their last names?

Answer: I cannot name the last names of the prison workers, because I do not know them.

Question: What can you add to your testimony?

Answer: There is nothing more I can add. The report was written down from my words correctly and read by me.

(NIKULIN)

The interrogation was conducted by [...]

State Archives of the Russian Federation. Fund 7021. List 9. File 97. Pages 32-34.
Original. Typescript.

DOCUMENT 31

Transcript of interrogation of witness Alexander Siberg about conditions in Prison 1 of the Tallinn City

October 11, 1944

Interrogation was conducted through a translator from the Estonian Language TENS Martha, who works as a senior nurse in an infirmary for Russian POWs in Tallinn. Translator TENS Martha is warned about the responsibility for false translation in accordance with Article 95 of the UK [criminal code] of RSFSR.

(TENS)

Warned about the responsibility for false swearing and for refusal of giving evidence in accordance with Articles 92 and 95 of UK [criminal code] (signature of interrogated)

(SIBERG)

On the merits, testify the following:

On April 22, 1944, I was arrested by a field gendarmerie for evading service in the German Army and I taken into custody in Pernov prison where I was detained for 8 days, and then I transferred to the Tallinn prison, where I was held up to the day of liberation of Tallinn by the Red Army, that is till September 22, 1944. The first five weeks in the Tallinn prison, I was contained in a general cell with up to a hundred prisoners in it, [virtually] one on another. The custodial control was very severe. In spite of the fact that there were up to a hundred men in the cell, no walks were allowed. The dining was exclusively bad, we were given out 200 grams of bread substitute a day, and watery soup and tea once. The administration of the prison beat the prisoners without any reasons. [...] there was one case when one prisoner received 25 impacts on his back by a rubber stick as a punishment, and this person was beaten until he bled and his body was covered with bruises. Besides, the prisoners were always held in exertion, and we were taught to welcome the Germans. Then I was transferred to the prison hospital of the same prison where the routine was the same. When I was in the prison hospital, I saw how severely sick patients, those who couldn't move themselves, were taken somewhere, but where, I do not know. In September, 1944, because of my unhealthy condition, as I, as well as other prisoners, was fed badly, I could not move myself and had to lie. Therefore, I cannot give evidence about anything on where the Germans put prisoners from the Tallinn prison. There is nothing more I can add to this case.

The report was written down from my words correctly and read to me through a translator.

SIBERG

Military Inspector Captain of Justice

SOKOLOV

State Archives of the Russian Federation. Fund 7021. List 9. File 97. Pages 43-44.
Certified copy. Typescript.

DOCUMENT 32

Transcript of interrogation of witness Alida Bernadt on executions by Germans and Omakaitse activists of peaceful citizens at the Metskalmitsu cemetery near Tallinn

October, 1944

Interrogation was made in the apartment of the witness. Witness was warned about the responsibility for false swearing and for refusal of giving evidence in accordance with Article 95 of UK [criminal code]

(BERNADT)

Every summer, I live on the farm of my mother-in-law near Tallinn, in the Iru Volost, in the Lepiku Village, in the Ljukati Manor. This manor is less than a kilometer away from the Metskalmitsu cemetery. The manor is in the woods so the vicinity is not visible. In the summer of 1944, I heard shots from the forest, but I didn't know what these shots were. On the night of August 23, 1944, I heard shots from the cemetery again. In the morning on August 23, 1944, German soldiers and members of the Estonian organization "Omakaitse" came to our house in the Ljukati Manor, among them was TILLING, whom I knew. They searched for the runaway people and asked us whether we saw naked people that were brought to the forest for work and ran away. They even searched the garden, but didn't find anyone. Next morning, when we were milking cows, a person showed out from the cattle-shed and asked to eat. As we approached closer, my mother-in-law and I, it appeared that there were two young men, absolutely naked. They told us that on August 23, 1944, together with other 120 prisoners they were brought from the central Tallinn prison to the Metskalmitsu cemetery. Before this, they were all undressed, put in closed cars and brought to the cemetery. Here they were drawn from the cars onto a small glade, and were opened fire at from machine guns. People scattered in all directions, and these two young men managed to escape and hide in our shed. One of them, 22 years old, was from the Tartumaa Uyezd, and the other one, 27 years old, from Petseri [Pechora]. They were mobilized to the German Army to fight against the Red Army, but run away from the German Army, were arrested and sentenced to death penalty for it. They were hiding at our manor for two days, after that I gave them some clothes and products and they left. They told us that they will go home.

On August 25, 1944, everyone from our farm heard shots and something like an explosion in the early morning, then smoke appeared and the smell of burnt meat. I assumed that executions took place there, and to check the assumptions, I took a basket, as though to gather mushrooms, and went together with my mother-in-law to

the forest, to the cemetery. From one hill I clearly saw a place of fire and the guards that surrounded the place. I came closer to the place and one of the security guards approached me and started talking to me in German about mushrooms. He asked me whether there are a lot of mushrooms in the woods or not, and I answered that there were little. Then he suggested that I go further where there are many mushrooms. During this conversation with the German security guard, I saw that on the bottom of a small pit something was burning, the strong smell of burnt meat was heard and half-naked people only in trousers were standing around the fire, and stirred it with long poles. We were afraid to get any closer and so we went further. This whole place in the forest was surrounded by German guards. At the same time, when I passed by the fire, I saw next to it a sentry box and an iron barrel in which gasoline is usually carried.

On August 29, 1944, I came up to this place again to see what was going on there. There was already no one, the place of fire itself was cleaned and sanded, but scorched bones were still seen. Buckets, barbed wire, an ax, and a disassembled booth laid nearby – all of this was covered with knots. There were also long logs of birch, and a barrel for gasoline. On the edge of the pit, there was a construction that looked like a bench. It was built in the following way: at the bottom there were two logs about 2 m long and placed at the distance of approximately 1.5 m from each other. Two logs of the same length were put across the bottom ones, about 1.5 m from each other. 2 long boards, 0.5 m from each other, were put on top of 2 logs, that's why I suppose that a person could lie on this construction on his back without falling down. On the ground, in one end of this construction, there were traces of a small fire, and on the other end - some bone traces. I thus thought that this construction was used to torture people. After that, I came to the place of fire a couple of times but the construction wasn't there. The last time I came to the cemetery was after the retreat of the German Army – then I saw 3 large logs that looked like beams, one of them was shorter than others. All of the 3 logs, especially the short one, were covered with blood.

Question: Tell me, who is TILLING and where do you know him from?

Answer: TILLING was a member of the organization “Omakaitse” in the rank of a Captain. This organization pursued the aim of execution of all the people who were loyal to the Soviet regime. I know him because I often took a scheduled bus that cruised between Tallinn and Koze, and TILLING went on the same bus. I found out that his last name is TILLING from local residents who took the same bus.

Question: What did the two men that ran away told you about other prisoners, who were they?

Answer: They informed me that these prisoners were just like them. They didn't inform in detail.

Question: Specify what did the two people that escaped the execution, the ones that you sheltered, tell you about themselves.

Answer: The younger one, 22-years-old, from the Tartumaa Uyezd, told that he was mobilized in the German Army, was in the army for one month, and as he was forcefully mobilized and did not wish to struggle against the Red Army, he ran away, but was caught and arrested. He was imprisoned for 8 months and on August 23, 1944, among the same 120 people, he was undressed and brought to the Metsakalmitsy cemetery for execution, where during the execution he managed to run away with another prisoner. The second one, 27-years-old, from the Petseri City [Pechora], told that he evaded the forceful mobilization in the German Army, was arrested, then among the same 120 prisoners he ran away during the execution. They didn't tell anything else about themselves. Whether they were sentenced to death penalty by court, they didn't tell.

From my words, it is written down correctly.

(BERNADT)

*Military Inspector of the Military Office of Public Prosecutor of the Leningrad Front Air
Defense Guard, Captain of Justice*

CUZIN

State Archives of the Russian Federation. Fund 7021. List 97. File 3. Pages 3-6.
Certified copy. Typescript.

DOCUMENT 33

Concluding remarks of the Military Office of Public Prosecutor of the 77th division of air defense of the Leningrad front about the villainies of fascist invaders and their accomplices in the Tallinn forest cemetery

October 9, 1944

Military Inspector of the Military Office of the Public Prosecutor of the 77th Division of Air Defense of the Leningrad Front, Guard Captain of Justice KUZIN Ivan Jakovlevich, having examined the materials of investigation,

DETERMINED:

8 km from Tallinn, near the road, between the Pirita Estate of the Lepiku Village there is a forest cemetery Metskalmitsu. The Lipeku Village residents during the whole summer of 1944 heard shots from this cemetery. On August 7, 1944, the Commandant of the forest cemetery KYUTT who passed by the cemetery, noticed 4 policemen from the SD police near a chapel which guarded 6 people dressed in pants only, which worked on the clearing of a natural deepening formed like a small ditch. When KYUTT began forbidding the policemen to carry out any works in the cemetery, one of the policemen informed him that their work can only be forbidden by their chief BERGMAN who is in Tallinn on the Toompüjeste Street, 4, and the policeman informed KYUTT that they arrived on the order of chiefs which will come to him and explain the purpose of their work in the cemetery. On the same day, 2 German officers from the SD police came to KYUTT's house and informed him that experiments will take place in the forest cemetery, and warned him not to approach if he sees smoke above the cemetery.

Since August, 8 up to September 19, 1944 German SD police under the pretext of "experiments" in the Tallinn forest cemetery regularly carried out mass executions of people which were then burnt on fires in a natural deepening specially adapted for this purpose, in order to hide traces of their terrible villainies. Remains of scorched bones and ashes were buried in different places of the forest cemetery. The place where the shooting and burning of corpses had been performed was carefully hidden.

As it is established based on evidence of witnesses KYUTT Juhan; the son of Maja; BERNADT Alida Tomovna, VJALJAOTS Mercedes Aleksandrovna; and also in the letters found in the place of villainies in Estonian, Jewish, and other languages, and examination of personal belongings of the victims, the shot and burnt people were of Estonian, Jewish, and other nationalities.

Survey of the place of executions and burning of the people's bodies performed October 7, 1944 in the forest cemetery, revealed a natural pit sized 25 by 4 by 1 m,

covered with sand. Removal of the sand revealed an incalculable amount of remains of burned human bones and muscles mixed with ashes, human skulls, not completely burnt. In one location, unearthed fragments of 2 charred corpses were identified as an unknown man of about 30 years old and a woman. In both cases, the top parts of corpses' skulls were seriously fractured, indicative of that they were fired at point-blank. By a specially made forensic medical examination of the sites of brutal crimes in the forest cemetery, performed by head physician of the II Tallinn Hospital Doctor LOHEY August Tomasovich, it was established that the found bones are human and were burnt no longer than one month ago. The amount of the burnt bodies in the pit is determined to be over one thousand. This conclusion proves to be true by the pit found 10 m away from the place of execution and burning of bodies, from which only 575 aluminum kettles and deep bowls with various food found were extracted, is another evidence of lumpsum mass executions of people who did not expect it, of which evidence of interrogated witnesses KYUTT, BERNADT, and others also tell.

So, for example: *witness KYUTT, Juhan son of Maja, testified:*

“On 8/7/1944, when the police were prohibited to do any work in the forest cemetery, I noticed 10-12 cubic meters of birch and 3 barrels with fuel near a pit. At about one o'clock in the morning on August 8, 1944, I heard single shots from that place in the forest cemetery where on 8/7/1944, the SD police worked on clearing of the pit, and also bursts of fire and volleys, which proceeded up to 4 o'clock in the morning. Then there was something like an explosion and there was a flame, which was accompanied by black smoke. The smoke in the air had the smell of burnt meat. A similar thing happened on August 15, 1944. On August 17, 1944, I came to the place of the fire. Everything was swept, but instead of birch firewood, I saw 12-15 cubic meters of pine firewood. On September 18, 1944 in the morning, I went on a cart to Tallinn and personally saw how 4-ton vehicles covered by tarpaulin and filled with people, 25-30 in each, moved from the city. Each truck had 3 armed policemen in the back of the body. The trucks turned to the forest cemetery, in the direction of the pit where executions and burning of corpses were carried out. On the license plates of the motor vehicles, I saw inscriptions “POL,” meaning that the motor vehicles belonged to the police. In one of the trucks, behind a policeman, I noticed 4 decently dressed men that made an impression that they were Estonians.

On September 18, 1944, during only one hour, 10 four-ton motor vehicles with 25-30 people in each arrived at the wood cemetery. As I was coming back from Tallinn on this day, I saw 3 other police trucks filled with people that turned to the forest cemetery to the place of the pit. I can mention that on 9/18/1944, the Germans executed people, who were brought from Tallinn, since early morning. The place of the execution was surrounded by the police. In the morning of 9/19/1944, flame and smoke rose from the cemetery and the smell of burnt meat and shots were heard all day long. The flame and the smoke stopped on September 20, 1944.”

Witness BERNADT Alida Tomovna testified:

“At night on August 23, 1944, I heard the shots from the cemetery again. In the morning on August 23, 1944, German military and members of the Estonian organization Omakaitse came to our house in the Ljukati Manor. Among them was TILLING, whom I knew. They searched for the run-away people and asked us whether we saw naked people who were brought to the forest. They even searched the garden, but didn't find anyone. Next morning, when we were milking our cows, a person showed out from the cattle-shed and asked to eat. As we approached closer, my mother-in-law and I, it appeared that there were two young men, absolutely naked. One of them, 22 years old, was from the Tartumaa Uyezd, and the other one, 27 years old, from Petseri [Pechora]. The younger one, the 22-years-old, from the Tartumaa Uyezd, told that he was mobilized in the German Army, was in the army for one month, and, as he was forcefully mobilized and did not wish to struggle against the Red Army, ran away, but was later caught and arrested. He was imprisoned for 8 months. The 27-years-old one, from Petseri, told that he evaded from forceful mobilization in the German Army, was caught and arrested. On August 23, 1944, together with other 120 prisoners, they were brought to the Metskalmitu cemetery. Before this, they were all undressed, put in closed trucks and brought to the cemetery. Here they were drawn from the trucks on a small glade, and were opened fire at from machine guns. People scattered in every direction, and these two young men managed to escape and hide in our shed. They were hiding at our manor for two days, after that I gave them some clothes and products and they left. They told us that they will go home. On 8/25/1944, everyone from our farm heard shots and something like an explosion in the early morning, then smoke appeared and the smell of burnt meat. I assumed that executions took place there, and to check the assumptions, I took a basket, as though to gather mushrooms, and went together with my mother-in-law to the forest, to the cemetery. From one hill, I clearly saw a place of fire and the guards that surrounded this place. On the bottom of a small pit, something was burning, the strong smell of burnt meat was felt, and half-naked people in trousers only were standing around the fire, and were stirring it with long poles. We were afraid to get any closer, so we went further. This whole place in the wood was surrounded by the German guards”.

Witness Panno Ioske Petrovich testified:

“During the period of occupation by the Nazi German armies of the Lepiku Village, approximately from the beginning of September, 1944 to September 19, 1944, I heard shots from my house which were heard from places in the forest cemetery at night. Single shots and bursts of fire proceeded all night long. After the shots, dense black smoke with the smell of burnt meat rose above the cemetery.

In the Lepiku Village, near the forest cemetery and near my manor, there was a Gestapo garden. The senior in this garden was Oberwachtmeister REIHARD who informed me that their most important chief is the chief of the SD police of all Estonia, a German MÜLLER who knew well that executions of people and burning

of their corpses on fires were performed in the forest cemetery. MÜLLER could've been the organizer of the executions.”

Witness Vjaljaots Mercedes Aleksandrovna testified:

“In the beginning of September, 1944, I received as a parcel a linen bag with my address and name on it, from my friend Selma MURS who lives in the Viljandimaa Uyezd, in the Tănassilma Volost. Husband of Selma MURS, Gustav MURS, was at that time in confinement in the Central Prison in Tallinn where I forwarded packages. The last package I received was on September 10, 1944.

Gustav MURS had a tiny manor in the Viljandimaa Uyezd, in Tănassilma Volost, he had one cow, he had no horse. During the Soviet regime in 1940-1941, MURS was an active figure”.

The above-stated bag with the address of witness VJALJAOTS was found among other personal belongings of the shot people who were buried in the ditch near the place of burning of corpses of the shot prisoners in the forest cemetery.

Based of the stated above and from all of the investigation material on the given case, it is established that fascist authorities during the occupation of Estonia, and in particular of the Tallinn City, regularly destroyed people - Estonians, Jews, and of other nationalities - by their mass execution by shooting and burning of their corpses.

For the period from August 8 till September 19, 1944, as it is established by the investigation materials, over 1, 000 people were shot and burnt in the Tallinn Metsakalmitsu forest cemetery.

Military Inspector, Guard Captain of Justice

CUZIN

State Archives of the Russian Federation. Fund 7021. List 97. File 3. Pages 36-39.
Original. Typescript.

DOCUMENT 34

Act on atrocities of fascist invaders in the Läänemaa Uyezd of the Estonian SSR

January 27, 1945

We, the undersigned: MINNE, B. RYMUS, M. KAAR and M. EJOVA - members of the Commission for the Investigation of Villainies of German Invaders – have created the present protocol.

The German units entered the southern part of the uyezd in July, 1941. Punishments of the peaceful population began the very same moment. As a result of military actions, civilians, arrested by the Germans: NIMS Edrick, MYUURSEP August, SIYG Alexander, and others were killed in the Lihula borough on July 16, 1941, which proves to be true by testimonies of their relatives.

The administrative center of the uyezd, the Haapsalu City, was captured on August 31, 1941. The Haapsalu City is a resort place and a small port town located on shore of the Moonzundski Channel. Arrests among the civilians started right after the seizure of the Haapsalu City. Chief of the Haapsalu railway station TAMMISTE, chief of station Taebbla KURRIK, teacher REESAAR, pianist TEDDER, medical assistant HIEMYAGI, peasant MILLER, city resident Minna OLLO, drivers TAMMISTE, IYE, and many others were arrested. Executions were carried out on a verdict of the German security police, which can be seen from civil registrations. The arrested people were concentrated mainly in the Haapsalu prison. Executions were performed in the vicinities of the city – in the Troy field, in port Rohuküla, etc.

Based the collected data from volosts of the Läänemaa Uyezd, for example, Asuküla, Piirsalu, Velise, Kirbla, Taebble, etc., it is obvious that executions were made not only in 1941, but also during the next years of occupation, for example, on May 8, 1942, RAHU Hilda Gustavovna, B 1910, native of volost Taebbla, was executed, which proves to be true by civil registration where it is noted that she was executed on verdict of German security police and SD.

The German invaders behaved especially outrageously on the Hiiumaa Island during the first months of occupation, and particularly in October and November of 1941 (the Hiiumaa Island was occupied by the Germans only in the second half of October, 1941). Many local residents who were evacuated from Haapsalu to the Hiiumaa Island were shot, for example, Chairman of the Haapsalu Executive Committee KAAR Edward was killed by the Germans in the Kjjajna Volost. Many peaceful residents were shot in the Krjadla City. Arrested people from other volosts of Hiiumaa were delivered there. On November 27, 1941 - during one day - 31

people were killed in Krjadla. A known [agronomist] HENNIN Alexander, a [road constructor] IORDANSKI, a POW, officer NAVROTSKI, and many others were shot. LIPP August, PIHLAMJAGI, the Käina Volost Secretary Holman PRIIDU, and many others were shot by the Germans in Käina. Simultaneously, Soviet officers SKOROBOGATOV, ALEKSEEV, and LOMIN were killed by the Germans in Käina. The massacres are supported by testimonies and death certificates, and by top secret documents of the German security police that were found just recently, based on which the death records are attached to the records of civil status.

It is established that over 1, 000 residents of the Haapsalu City and the Läänemaa Uyezd were shot [at this period of time].

We consider the German military command, heads of the German political police, and SD to be guilty of the villainies mentioned above, in particular, organizer of bloody massacres in the Haapsalu City – German commandant of the local army - Major ROGALSKI, SD chief BERGLEELER, and Charführer GROSS.

Chairman of Commission of Läänemaa Uyezd

Members of Commission

State Archives of the Russian Federation. Fund 7021. List 97. File.16. Pages 18.
Original. Typescript.

DOCUMENT 35

List of shot political prisoners of Haapsalu prisons, according to reviewer of External department of Estonian Political Police

October 8, 1944

Cover letter (original, typescript)

To member of the Estonian Republican Commission on the Investigation of Villainies of Fascist Aggressors, comrade KUMM

The applied list of 13 political prisoners shot by the German political police is created based on extracts of pages 27, 34, 35, 60, 61, 71, 72, 73, 84, and 145 of a book of death registration of the Haapsalu City. Copy of the form of death record is applied.

The book of death registration was [before kept] in the Haapsalu City Council and now it is kept in Registry Office agencies.

*Chief of the Uyezd Executive Committee of the POARM-8 Branch
Lieutenant Colonel Kushnir*

Translated from Estonian

October 4, 1944

	Last name, name patronymic	Date of birth	Place of residence	Profession	Time of killing	
1	TAMMISTE Eugen	10/9/1921	Haapsalu Railway house 3	Student	4/23/1942	
2	REESAAR Martin	12/25/1885	Haapsalu	Worker	9/3/41	
3	HIIEMJAGI August-Leopold	10/7/1911	=	Construction worker	11/19/41	
4	OLO Hermine-Pauline	12/2/1906	KURESSARE Pikk Street, 15	Housewife	11/24/42	Wife of Secretary of Läänemaa Uyezd Party Committee

5	TAMMARU En	7/19/16	Haapsalu	Baker	9/03/41	
6	TAMMISTE Vladislav- Adam	6/27/1896	Haapsalu	=	11/19/41	
7	RAHU Hilda	9/12/10			5/8/42	
8	KAALIK Reimund	5/17/1912			2/5/1943	
9	KORIS Arkadiy	7/11/1905			5/8/42	
10	KRUUSBERG Oscar	3/19/1909			10/10/42	
11	KIIVRAMEES Voldemar	1/16/1922			6/19/42	
12	RIHU Herman	3/28/1909	Haapsalu Sadama Street, 14	Unskilled worker	5/8/42	
13	LIPL Vidrick	9/7/1920	Haapsalu Pariisk Street, 19	Officer of Criminal Investigation Department	8/8/1944	

The present extract is made from a book of death registration of the Haapsalu Registry Office.

Chairman of Haapsalu Executive Committee PIIT

Translated from Estonian

Record 9 OLO Hermine-Pauline

In the year one thousand nine hundred and forty two, on the twenty fourth day of November, Hermine-Pauline OLO, nee KALJIB, was killed.

Place of death - Saaremaa, volost Kuressaare.

Permanent residence - the city of Kuressaare, Pikk Street, 15.

Date of birth - December 2, 1906; birthplace - Oru Volost.

Occupation - without a certain occupation.

Reason of death - killed on adjudication.

Marital status - married.

Will be buried -----

The present act is made on January 20, 1943, by the Estonian Political Police based on letter of advice of a reviewer of Review Department of 1/16/43 #20.

Signatures:

Informer

The copy is sent on 1/20/1943, introduced to the book of register. 5

P. 311 Haapsalu 1 term. order.

State Archives of the Russian Federation. Fund 7021. List 97. File 16. Pages. 23-25.
Certified translation from Estonian. Manuscript.

DOCUMENT 36

Extract from transcript of interrogation of supervisor of Haapsalu Prison Ferdinand Kuuzemets

October 4th, 1944

KUUZEMETS Ferdinand Janovich, B 1914, native of the Läänemaa Uyezd, Piirsalu Volost, Jagna Village, Ruuziku Manor, lives in Haapsalu on Vynnu Street, 40.

[Witness] was warned about the responsibility for false swearing in accordance with Article 95 of RSFSR UK [criminal code].

Question: When, where, and who carried out executions of political prisoners in the Haapsalu Prison and who exactly was shot?

Answer: During my service in the prison of the Haapsalu City, only three cases of executions of political prisoners are known to me. The following people were shot:

KRUUZBERG (I don't know his name and patronymic) about 30-35 years old, lived in Haapsalu, Võnu Street 40;

HAABSAAR (I don't know his name and patronymic), during the Soviet regime in 1941, worked in militia of the Läänemaa Uyezd.

The last name of the third I do not know, but I know that he worked in militia as a representative.

The above-mentioned people were shot on order of the chief of the Haapsalu political police REJNANTS. I don't know who executed the sentence. I only know that the condemned people were taken away in the end of October or beginning of November, 1942, in a closed vehicle, by people dressed in military uniform. Later I heard from one frontier guard whose last name I don't remember that these condemned were shot in the Ungru woods, in the area of the Rohuküla port. The corpses are buried in an old entrenchment.

Interrogator: Officer of the Criminal Investigation Department of the Läänemaa NKGB

Lieutenant KJAND

State Archives of the Russian Federation.
Fund 7021. List 97. File 16. Page 30, 30 overleaf. Original. Manuscript.

DOCUMENT 37

Extract from transcript of interrogation of supervisor of Haapsalu prison Juhannes Vajkjull

October 5, 1944

VAJKULL Juhannes Janovich, B 1916, native of volost Oru, Piilama Village, manor Kubja, former supervisor of the Haapsalu Prison, Lives in Haapsalu on Luha Street 3.

[Witness] was warned about the responsibility for false swearing in accordance with Article 95 of UK [criminal code] RSFSR.

Question: How many (political) prisoners of the Haapsalu Prison were shot by German authorities during the period of your work in the prison?

Answer: By my personal calculations, from 30 to 40 political prisoners were taken for execution from the Haapsalu prison.

Question: Did you personally see how the political prisoners were taken away for the execution?

Answer: Yes, I personally saw it. Usually, the political prisoners were taken away from the prison to execution early in the morning, in twilight.

Question: Name the shot political prisoners.

Answer: 1. MILLER, 55-60 years old, a worker, lived in volost Azukjula, manor Uemiiza. His son, a militiaman, was also shot.

2. KORIS, a driver, lived in Haapsalu
3. ERMAA, 18 years old, member of the Komsomol, from a destructive battalion, she lived in the Oru Volost. Her mother was also arrested. I don't know what happened to her.
4. RANNAMJAE, 18 years old, member of the Komsomol, lived in the Oru Volost, in the Rannakjula Village.
5. KRUUSBERG, lived in Haapsalu on the Võnu Street, 40.

Question: Where were their corpses buried?

Answer: According to hearsay, corpses of the shot prisoners were buried in the Troy field (Troyvjali), approximately 2-2,5 km from Haapsalu, by the Lihula highway.

Interrogator: Chief of the UO NKGB, Senior Lieutenant of the State Security

ORLOV

State Archives of the Russian Federation. Fund 7021. List 97. File 16. Page 33.
Certified copy. Manuscript.

DOCUMENT 38

Extract from transcript of interrogation of witness Juri Norkroos on executions of political prisoners at Haapsalu prison in 1941-1942

October 5, 1944

NORKROOS Juri Jurievich, B, native of Läänemaa, Oru Volost, village Soolu, Kaariku Manor, lives in Haapsalu at 6 Karja Street.

[Witness] was warned about responsibility for false swearing in accordance with Article 95 of RSFSR UK [criminal code].

Question: What do you know about executions of political prisoners in the Haapsalu prison?

Answer: The following political prisoners shot by the German invaders are known to me:

1. PIKKER Edward, 42 years old, lived in Haapsalu on Posti Street, shot in autumn 1941;
2. KRUUSBERG Oscar, 38 years old, lived in Haapsalu on 40 Võnnu Street, shot in 1942. In the cell where KRUUSBERG Oscar was imprisoned, I later saw a sign on the wall, where KRUUSBERG usually sat: "If I will be killed, then KUULBASCK is guilty in it" (KUULBASCK worked as a forester in Paralepa);
3. TAMMISTE, 50 years old, a railway employee, shot in December, 1941;
4. KALJURAA Lembit, 25 years old, lived in the Läänemaa Uyezd, Taebla Volost, Tabavere Village, Tykke Manor, arrested in autumn 1941, shot in December of the same year;
4. SELISTE Jan, 45 years old, shot in autumn 1942;
5. HAABSAAR, 20-23 years old, former militiaman on the Hiiumaa Island, shot in autumn 1942 together with KRUUSBERG Oscar and SELISTE Jan;
6. ELLISTE Oscar, 30 years old, member of the Communist Party, worked in militia, lives in Taebla Volost, in Pjalli Village, shot in autumn 1941;
7. ELLISTE Maria, wife of ELLISTE Oscar, 27-28 years old, shot together with her husband;
8. MILLER Jan, 60 years old, shot in autumn 1941;

Question: Do you know who carried out the executions?

Answer: Members of the organization “Omakaitse” TALVAR and LAAK participated in the executions.

TALVAR - a former member of “Kajtseliita”, lived in Haapsalu on the Videmani Street.

LAAK - a former officer of the Estonian bourgeois army.

With TALVAR and LAAK there were the German soldiers.

Interrogator: Officer of the Criminal Investigation Department of the Läänemaa Uyezd,

Lieutenant KJAND

State Archives of the Russian Federation. Fund 7021. List 97. File 16. Page 29.
Original. Manuscript.

DOCUMENT 39

Act of Committee for the Investigation of Atrocities of Nazi Invaders in the Viljandimaa Uyezd

March 15, 1945

Protocol of Committee for Investigation of Atrocities of Nazi Invaders in the Viljandimaa Uyezd, consisting of Chairman of Committee ABORI O.V., members of the Committee: PIIP E.I, PUNG A. UNDUSK A.K., based on protocols of Volost Committees, witnesses' evidence, and survey of the sites of the war crimes, has established the following:

During the period of the German occupation, the population of the Viljandimaa Uyezd was exposed to arrests, tortures, and executions. Peaceful citizens were shot without trial and investigation. Reception of land plots from the Soviet authority and work in Soviet establishments were considered as a crime which was punished by death.

Prison in Viljandi was overcrowded all the time. People were continuously taken out from there to execution. The German aggressors also carried out executions of peaceful citizens.

Thus, since autumn 1941 till autumn 1944, about 3000 people were shot by the Germans in the Mjannimjagi region which is 2 km to the south of Viljandimaa, and 200 people were shot and buried in the Viiratsimjagi region behind a lake near Viljandimaa.

Executions were carried out continuously during the period of the German occupation. In the Mjannimjagi and Viiratsimjagi regions, mainly prisoners from the Viljandi prison and nearby camps (peaceful citizens) were shot.

There were two POW camps in the territory of the Viljandi City. Conditions of sustaining the prisoners were awful. Medical care was absent; prisoners were used on excessive physical work. Soviet POWs died of exhaustion, beating, and were also shot. During the period of the German occupation, nearly 10 000 people died in POW camps, they were buried near the camp in a place called Hundimjagi, where there are 9 mass graves. On some of them there are inscriptions which were cut out on wooden crosses by POWs themselves: 1600 people, 1864 people.

Thus, in the territory of the Viljandimaa uyezd during the period of German occupation, at least 5000 peaceful citizens and 10 000 POWs were killed.

Guilty of the named atrocities are:

1. Ober-Lieutenant and Commandant of Viljandi GAUFE, KUPPERS, BRUMS;
2. Director of prison of Viljandi TRUUVJALI and his accomplices PJARS and TAMM. The most bloodthirsty people in the prison were Sergeant-Major VILISTVER Elmar, Senior Supervisor A. NIMMIK, and Matron of the prison's female branch SIBRITS;
3. Chief of "Omakaitse" of the Viljandimaa Uyezd Major PORI;
4. On the political part from "Omakaitse" there was a traitor Major SAAR;
5. The Uyezd foreman HANSEN and his German chief BREIER;
6. Management of the Viljandi camps "Schtalag 332", chiefs Major FAUST and Doctor OTTO.
6. Agents of the Gestapo KORCKMANN, TAMPERE, and JUNKUR;
7. Prefect KUTSAAR;
8. Executions were carried out by: officers KINK Heinz and members of the "Omakaitse" VALLIMJAE, VARES, and FRIDRICHSON.

Chairman of the Committee

Members of the Committee

(signatures, Seal of the Executive Committee of the Viljandimaa Uyezd)

State Archives of the Russian Federation. Fund 7021. List 97. File 19. Page 1.
Original. Typescript.

DOCUMENT 40

Report 91 of Leningrad Front “On Atrocities of German and Estonian Hitlerites against Soviet POWs and Civilians in Estonia”

September 3, 1944

In the report 71 of July 14, data about “death camps” for Soviet POWs and civilians, organized by Germans in Estonia, was cited. I adduce here new records on the atrocities of German and Estonian Hitlerites that were reported by former Red Army servicemen KILJAKOV and ANTONOV, who escaped from a fascist prisoner-of-war camp.

KILJAKOV Konstantin Nikolaevich, born in 1917, collective farmer from the Zhiguli Village of the Stavropolski Region of the Kujbyshevskaja Oblast, Russian, since 1935 up to 1941, was member of the Komsomol (Leninist Young Communist League of the Soviet Union), taken in captivity by Estonian fascists on 9/4/1941, gave the following evidence:

Camp at the "Dvigatel" factory

Germans kept us for 2 days in a bath[room], without giving us any bread or water. On September 6, we were delivered to Tallinn and placed in a shed in the territory of the “Dvigatel” factory. In this shed, there were a couple of hundred POWs. Estonians guarded the barrack. We were fed disgustingly. Everyone received only 2-3 rusks a day. Not everyone was taken to work, but only those who first left the shed in the morning. Aspiring to get to work to get something to eat, POWs crowded in the morning at the door, and when the doors opened, everyone got into a scramble. The chief of this camp, a short mustached Estonian, dressed in a black tunic and trousers with red stripes, was always present at this. He pricked the running out POWs with a saber, pricked out their eyes, dissected their cheeks, etc. Other security guards didn't behave better and beat the prisoners with anything they could find, often for no reason at all.

The POWs were taken to work by streets. Population of Tallinn behaved unfriendly to them. Often mockery was heard: “The invincible got their war”, etc. There were cases when stones were thrown in our column, we were spit at.

Camp at the Tallinn aerodrome

In the beginning of October, 1941, I, together with dozens of POWs, was transferred to a camp located in the territory of the Tallinn aerodrome. We were putting the take-off platform in order and were placed in barracks. The guardianship of the camp was carried by unit 3/373. Each security guard carried a bandage with this number on a sleeve. This unit consisted of Poles, Czechs, and Germans.

Nutrition. In the morning, POWs were fed with soup prepared from grass that was mowed down on the aerodrome and chopped up by shovels. In the evening, we were given 150-200 grams of bread and $\frac{3}{4}$ of [] of flour mash.

Treatment. At the distribution of bread, a German, the Commandant of camp, would beat each prisoner who tried to choose a bigger portion with a birch club. During work, security guards continuously hastened the prisoners by impacts of thick rubber hoses from the railway brakes. There was this one time when one of the POWs swore, because he couldn't sustain these mockeries. It appeared that a security guard understood Russian. The security guards brought the prisoner down on the ground and beat him with rifle butts until his face turned into a shapeless bloody mess. Then 3 heavy pieces of turf were put on his extended hands and he was forced to run like this, hurried up by blows of clubs. Eventually the man fell down and foam went from his mouth. Only then he was carried away on a stretcher.

Often security guards "amused themselves." Someone of them threw a cigarette stub and pointed a finger at it, for a prisoner to pick it up. The prisoner bent down to lift the stub. The security guards shot from rifles so that the bullets whistled above the prisoner's head. The prisoner threw the stub, and the security guards laughed loudly.

I remember one time an old Estonian woman came to the camp. She brought a basket with slices of bread to give to the prisoners. The security guards took her to the control post and, obviously, beat her there, for she came from there with swelled and tearful face. They took away the bread, and the commandant of camp threw it into the dirt. The belly-pinched prisoners got into a scramble, and the security guards beat them with rubber clubs.

Tallinn political prison

On October 23, 1941, I was transferred to the Tallinn Political Prison. I was accused of the following: a. attempt to prepare a flight from camp, b. concealment from the German authorities that I was a political leader, c. participation in undermining civil buildings in Tallinn.

I agreed upon the flight with a POW MOSHKIN, a former military man of our battalion. One more POW knew about this - a seaman friend of MOSHKIN.

I was put into cell 7a. On the 4th interrogation, in the end of December, the Estonian inspector declared to me that the charge was made correctly and I must be shot. He took me in to the chamber for walks and ordered the sentinel to shoot me. The sentinel lifted his rifle, but suddenly the inspector asked: "Do you know any civilians in Tallinn?" I told him that a girl Elli AERO knows me. Then the inspector sent me to the cell 12b or 14b where I stayed till the day of my release. In the beginning of February, the inspector called me on interrogation and informed me that my case is closed and that I will soon be sent to a camp. I told the inspector that I don't have any warm clothes and therefore I would like to stay in prison till spring. The inspector gave up on me and sent me back into the cell. In the beginning of June,

I was called before a commission which consisted of 3 Estonian officers and translators. Members of the commission asked me some questions: my last name, party membership, in what unit I served, etc. On June 22, 1942, I gave a written undertaking not to tell anything that I had to hear and see in prison. Then I was sent to camp.

Estonian writers Tamlan and Ruven. Since October 23 to December of 1941, together with me in cell 7a there were Estonian writers TAMLAN and RUVEN. I was in good relations with them, especially with RUVEN.

RUVEN was entirely a Soviet person. He told me that he will not manage to leave the prison, as his nominee was exposed in elections in the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR. RUVEN told me that at interrogation he declared the following: "I was a Bolshevik and I shall remain a Bolshevik, do with me whatever you want to". He behaved vigorously. RUVEN gave me his address - Tallinn, Nurme, 6-26, and asked, if I managed to leave prison, to inform his wife on him.

Writer TAMLAN behaved reservedly, didn't talk about politics, according to RUVEN, he was completely a Soviet person. The further destiny of RUVEN and TAMLAN isn't known to me.

Other prisoners from cell 7a were Estonians that worked in various Soviet establishments, and some Russian POWs. From the Russian POWs in 7a, I remember younger political chief Peter TIMCHIK, former secretary of the Komsomol organization of the regiment. The captivity and prison did not break him down, he remained a convinced Communist. A certain Lieutenant Jura of 29-30 years old was also there. His last name I don't know. This Jura deliberately shot himself in the hand and came to Germans. This fellow was anti-Soviet, he called himself a boxer. He begged Estonians for cigarette stubs and for this danced for them on plank beds, making different acrobatic tricks.

Estonians had a bad attitude towards Russians. They called us an abusive nickname "tibla," forced us to sleep at a close-stool, and we were to take it out every morning. For a small self-made cigarette Estonians took 100 grams of bread. They didn't wish to talk in Russian and on any question they invariably answered - "tibla". From all of the Estonians that I saw in prison only RUVEN and TAMLAN treated Russians in a companionable way.

In cell 6, I got acquainted with prisoner TRUTNEV - a Russian from Narva. During the Soviet regime, he was the chief of branch in the same prison. From his statements it was seen that he was quite a Soviet person. He knew the Estonian Language and sometimes translated the conversations of Estonians. "They're abusing Russians again", - told TRUTNEV. I don't know what happened to him.

In cell 8, I met 2 anti-Soviet Russians - Michael KLIMON, 33-34 years old, a brunette with a moustache, an engineer from Leningrad, and Michael POPOV, a round-shouldered high brunette with magnificent hair, worked as a mechanic on a oil-

tanker. They were kept separately and in conversations continuously eulogized German techniques and organization.

Nutrition. The day-time diet of a prisoner consisted of 500 grams of rye bread mixed with straw chaff, and 6-7 pieces of small sprats.

Guardianship and custodial control. The prison was guarded by the Estonian police. Policemen came into cells only for check-ups. Those sentenced to execution were taken out from the cell at night. Where and how the executions were made – the prisoners didn't know.

Tallinn City camp

In this camp I got after the prison. It was protected by the Germans. The German commandant and the camp police were Russian POWs who bossed around inside the camp. The camp had a brutal routine. For the slightest fault, POWs were beaten by the commandant or policemen and sent to a punishment cell.

The prisoners were taken to the city for various tasks. Everyone aspired to get to work wherever possible to get some food. After selecting the necessary amount of people, policemen dispersed others by club blows.

Nutrition. The day-time diet of a POW consisted of 10 ship's biscuits, 3 grams of jam and 1 liter of soup prepared from unprepared vegetables.

There were also 80-100 deserters in the camp. They were placed separately. For work they were also taken separately. Their dining was a little bit better than ours. Prisoners avoided these deserters and called them venal cowards.

Camp in Sillamäe

I spent about 10 days in the Tallinn City camp. On July 2, 1942, together with a hundred of other POWs, I was sent to a camp which was located in a manufacturing settlement in Sillamäe near a slate distillery factory. There were 35 prisoners in the camp before us. Estonians in civil clothes guarded the camp, some of them wore the uniform of an Estonian railwaymen. The camp commandant was a short middle-aged Estonian. Every morning, 2 German soldiers came to camp for a check-up.

The custodial control in the camp didn't differ from other camps. Beating of prisoners with sticks and rifle butts were a usual occurrence. The commandant often beat the prisoners personally. As he got drunk, he gathered up the prisoners and forced them to sing and dance, and then threw them some potatoes.

Nutrition. Every prisoner received daily 250 grams of moldy bread and a liter of flour mash or horse-flesh soup.

In this camp I got acquainted with a POW Ivan ANTONOV, a former seaman. We decided to run, but on August 3, 1942, together with a party of 100 people, we were transferred to Kiviõli.

DULAG 377 in Kiviõli

In Kiviõli we were placed right in the settlement, in two barracks where nearly 140-150 people were held. The camp was guarded by Estonians.

We worked on construction of barracks and OT headquarters (organization "Tod"). The security service at work was carried by the same Estonians and Germans dressed in civil clothes, who supervised the work. Soon these Germans began to wear the OT uniform. The Germans treated us awfully at work. They forced us to work without a break, continuously beating us with sticks. Any disobedience entailed beating. In September, 1942, 3 prisoners escaped from our camp. We were formed up and brought to a guard house, where we where we stood barefooted and undressed up to 12 one o'clock in the morning. We were always asked the same question: "What do you know about this flight?" - Everyone kept silent. Then we were taken back to barracks, and in 3 one o'clock in the morning, we were raised and sent to a shed where three disfigured corpses of fugitives were brought. These animals tried to intimidate us like that.

In the autumn of 1943, new groups of POWs arrived. We were merged together and a camp under the name DULAG 377 was organized.

The camp was protected by German soldiers. Its commandant was a German Major; his last name is not known to me. Inside the camp the sentry consisted of three German corporals and policemen from among Russian POWs.

Custodial control. For any act that a corporal or a policeman didn't like, a POW was punished in a most ruthless way. Usually in such cases, a guilty POW and often his roommates were turned out to the court yard and forced to begin the "physical training" - running, lying down, standing up, lying down again, etc. These mockeries usually proceeded up to 2 a.m., when these people were reduced to full exhaustion. Because all this was done to people that were tired from 12-hours of wearisome work on the construction where they were also beaten, this was done to people who weakened of famine and back-breaking toil, it is no wonder that many, after becoming completely exhausted, fell on the ground. But they were forced to rise by clubs' blows.

Besides, the commandant of the camp on denunciations of police and German craftsmen punished POWs by putting them into a punishment cell for a term from 7 to 21 days. Only bread and boiled water were given a prisoner in the punishment cell and a half-liter of soup every 2 days. For attempt of flights and special faults, POWs, by order of the camp commandant, were sent to the penal camp in Kohtla-Järve, where conditions were especially awful.

Nutrition. The day-time ration of a POW consisted of 350 grams of bread, 1 liter of soup of potato peelings, and a liter of flour mash without any fat.

Construction of a new factory

In the autumn of 1942, construction of a new slate distillery, which was conducted by German firms, was started in Kiviõli. Among them there were following construction firms: Herman Klamt from Königsberg, Reihart, Dividok, Portofe, Schtoa, Buhmaer Firm installing electric equipment, and others, their names I don't remember. Each firm had a certain site of construction. POWs were spread into groups assigned to firms. I was sent to the site of the Klamt Firm.

Custodial control, treatment at work. The working day lasted 12 hours - from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. The POWs were used on subsidiary work under the direction of German craftsmen which treated us brutally. Masters adjusted prisoners with blows of sticks or shovels. The craftsmen beat the prisoners anyhow and anywhere. They could kill a POW, without accounting for it, and there were many cases like that. These cases were especially frequent in the autumn of 1942, during the digging of a foundation ditch 21 meters deep. We had to work during the cold autumn time under streams of water which were flowing from the water-bearing layers above. In this water tomb, prisoners worked for 12 hours without a break, wet and undressed. A master stood near the prisoners in rubber boots, holding a rubber hose in his hand. He generously struck prisoners with this hose for a slightest delay in work. Those who were totally exhausted and refused to work, the Germans would beat with hoses and clubs before the prisoner lost his consciousness. Then the beaten prisoner was poured cold water on, put in the box of a lift and lifted up. After that, the POW died in the camp infirmary. One master differed from the others by special cruelty, a Pole by the nationality, who supervised the casting. He had a glass eye, and for this he was nicknamed Squint. He beat the prisoners with a stick with an iron tip - beat out eyes, pierced cheeks, etc. I remember such a case. Squint saw how one of the prisoners rolls up a cigarette and ordered him to immediately throw it down and continue working. The prisoner answered that he will immediately continue working after he rolls the cigarette. Squint lifted his club. The prisoner lifted a shovel.

Squint ran to the administration office. Soon this prisoner was also called there. From the administration office he came back beaten, with his face in blood. 2 hours later, Squint, armed with a rifle, led the prisoner to the camp. On their way, he shot the prisoner in the chest.

These people were especially cruel as well: master of the metalwork branch - a tall German known among POWs as Tall Willy, a Pole master nicknamed Lame, and a German master whom we called Whistler because, if he noticed any malfunctions, he rushed at full speed to the victim, blowing his whistle, and ruthlessly beat him. Masters especially raged with the advent of the chiefs for, since they were all afraid to be sent to the army, all of them wished to show themselves as assiduous campaigners.

Only 2 German masters behaved humanely. Their last names KULINSKI and ANDREAS. It is interesting to note that both of them spoke Russian very well and opposed the Hitlerite regime.

KULINSKI - the inhabitant of Königsberg, born in 1893, learned Russian from his mother who was born in Siberia. She told him a lot of good about Russians and that's why he treated them nicely.

ANDREAS was in Russian captivity for some years during the First World War. "Russian treated me nicely, - he said, - so I will try to pay them back the same".

Enemy propaganda and moods of POWs

A certain PURICK, former commander of the Red Army, was engaged in enemy propaganda among the camp prisoners. In the beginning, he was contained with the rest of the prisoners, but he did not work. Then he left for Germany and stayed in Berlin for some time. From Berlin, he returned in the uniform of a ROA captain ["Russian liberation army"], with a revolver. German soldiers began to salute him and report to him.

PURICK started to read anti-Soviet lectures in the camp and to campaign for the entry in ROA. Prisoners were driven by the police to these lectures after work, often with the use of clubs. Policemen were on duty at the entrance of the room where PURICK lectured, didn't let anyone out before the lecture was finished. PURICK's lectures had no success. Nobody believed his chatter. Only a few people joined the ROA, self-seekers who thought to improve their financial situation. Then PURICK started to work with the prisoners individually. He chose those who, in his opinion, were the most pliable, and called them to his cabinet one by one. But all this yielded insignificant results. He managed to recruit only a small amount of cowardly self-seekers. Most of the prisoners regarded him with contempt, as a traitor, and did not believe any of his words. And how was it possible, knowing about the Germans' atrocities, to believe that the Germans ostensibly wish good to Russia? Prisoners believe in the victory of the USSR and think only of how to escape from the camp and return to their Motherland. Every prisoner would take a weapon in his hands to pay the Germans back with great pleasure.

Recently this PURICK organized a circle for amateur performances from cooks and policemen and began arranging concerts. Before each concert, he made anti-Soviet reports. He distributed anti-Soviet literature and fascist newspapers in Russian among the POWs. On his initiative, German films of gutter-pornographic content with subtitles in Russian were brought to the camp. Before the demonstration of each film, PURICK invariably made anti-Soviet speeches. Accompanied by a circle of amateur performers, PURICK traveled to other POW camps in Kohtla-Järve and Kohtla.

By his invitation, a certain Russian priest held a service in the camp, to which prisoners were driven by the police.

In July, 1944, PURICK began to work even more actively. He told prisoners that now Germany experiences some temporary difficulties which will end soon. Besides, he convinced them not to believe rumors that Germans will kill or poison all prisoners during retreat. As before, his propaganda didn't have any success.

There were many cases of flights in the camp. Usually, groups of 2-4 persons escaped. But almost all of these flights were unsuccessful, owing to the hostile attitude of Estonian civilians. It was easy to escape from the camp. But it was very hard to make the way through Estonia to the front line, for Estonians literally hunted prisoners. For each arrested prisoner, a person received a premium of 300 marks. Besides, he received one prisoner for agricultural works, and authorities reduced his rate for deliveries. Many of the prisoners who tried to escape were killed in forests. In such cases, prisoners were formed up and read out an order of the camp commandant that a POW trying to run away was killed, and so on. The bodies of fugitives were often brought back to camp and dumped in a hole under a slag mountain.

Some of the arrested persons were delivered back to camp. They were ruthlessly beaten, and then sent to a penal camp in Kohtla-Järve, the so-called death camp where it was very difficult to survive.

Camp Ostland

On August 10, 1943, I together with a group of 40-50 POWs, was transferred to a camp named Ostland where civilians were contained. I got there on recommendation of master KULINSKI which behaved nicely towards me. In the camp we were given certificates that gave us the right to go out on the days off without an escort in the Kiviõli area. The camp was fenced by barbed wire, and German sentinels from OT stood at the control post. This camp was divided into two - camp OT and camp Baltol.

Camp Baltol had a separate entrance. Byelorussians, Estonians, Poles, and Ukrainians who worked at an old factory, were contained there.

Byelorussians, Estonians, Dutchmen and unconvoyed prisoners were placed in the OT camp. All of the prisoners of this camp worked on the construction of a new factory and were assigned to different firms.

The commandant of camp was a German from OT.

In his submission was an administration office with one Estonian girl, Byelorussian Volodja and a Dutch – Willy – working there.

The unconvoyed prisoners at the issue of certificates were strictly warned that, in case of any violation, they will immediately be transferred back to DULAG 377 and, if they try to run, they will be shot on the spot without any trial.

The treatment of prisoners didn't differ much with what we saw in the POW camp. The camp punishment cell was always full. The commandant of camp and his assistant, a certain German SS member, often beat prisoners for no reason at all. Having got dead drunk, they rode horses in the court yard and beat everyone who came across with lashes. Once at night in the autumn of 1943, this commandant together with his assistant began to go through all barracks, taking away prisoners' things and groceries that they received in the mess-room, and beating prisoners as they passed by. It appeared in the morning that they have strongly beaten several Dutchmen, two Byelorussian girls, one Estonian, and three Poles. Soon a new

commandant with two German assistants were appointed to the camp. They were named "dog lovers" because they were always walking with dogs. These dog lovers put the prisoners in a punishment cell for the slightest fault and beat them with sticks and rifle butts.

Dutchmen. There were about 150 of them; they arrived at the camp in spring 1943. The Dutchmen hated Germans and worked only when a German master was standing nearby. They were respectful to Russians.

Poles. There were little of them. They worked on a site of another firm, and I can't tell anything about them.

Byelorussians-Westerners. There were several hundreds of them. They behaved very cautiously. They tried to not talk with us and, in general, avoided any conversations on political themes. Nevertheless, it could be understood by separate statements that they thought of the Germans in an extremely hostile way and waited for the victory of the Red Army

Estonians. They got into the camp on mobilization, obviously, for serving the labor duty. The majority of them were incited against the Soviets. Not many Estonians remained, for in autumn 1943, most of them left to a voluntary Estonian camp.

There were also some Jews from Vilno working on the construction. Each of them had a stripe shaved on their head, and a black six-pointed star sewed to their chest. They were treated worse than any of us. I cannot inform of any details for I didn't necessarily meet them.

The mood of the unconvoyed. Germans didn't carry on any propaganda in the camp Ostland. For money it was possible to buy a fascist newspaper "The Northern Word", published in Russian. No one believed in what was written in this newspaper. We all perfectly understood that Germans temporarily needed us and that's why they made us some indulgences. Everyone knew that only the arrival of the Red Army or a successful flight can free us from the German slavery. If only it was possible to get some weapons, the POWs would rise against the Germans.

Work of underground group. In the spring of 1944, I found out that an underground group was working in Kiviõli under the direction of a POW Simeon PARAMANOV. Simeon PARAMANOV was reckoned as a fugitive, but he was actually hidden by a Russian engineer KOLBAS that worked at an old factory.

The aim the of this organization was to set the POWs free by force of weapon. The weapon was thought to be received through a parachuter sent to us by the Volkhov front. The parachuter had a radio set with himself for which we found a power supply. Recently, the parachuter received a telegram with the following content: "We cannot to establish your identity and we will not send the weapon. Operate yourself. The Motherland will accept you, the woods will cover you."

Runaway from the camp. After this telegram, we lost any hope for reception of the weapon, and, together with four comrades, I started to prepare for a flight. On

July 26th, we left the camp and on August 5th, passed the front line. Luckily, we managed to avoid any meetings with civilians.

Miscellaneous

Mood of the Germans masters. I happened to talk only with ANREAS and KULINSKI. ANREAS often listened to the Soviet radio and told prisoner OSCHEVNIKOV, who worked with him, the content of reports of the Soviet Information Bureau. He did not believe in the victory of Germany. KULINSKI had the same mood as ANREAS. Having learned about the attempt to kill HITLER, he said: “It’s a pity that he wasn’t shot”. About the construction of a new factory in Kiviõli which proceeded down to the day of our flight, KULINSKI said: “All of this is made for propaganda, to show Estonians how much we are assured of ourselves. Vain work. Anyway, the Russians will come here soon”. From the statements of KULINSKI, it was seen that other Germans didn’t believe in their victory.

Construction firms were going to leave for Germany in the end of July, for the construction of the new factory had been finished and installation of equipment begun. The Germans terribly worried and hurried to leave for Germany as soon as possible. KULINSKI told me: if we don’t receive trucks in a couple of days, the Russians will cut us off from East Prussia.

Camp Triangle

Under this name, a camp in Kiviõli is known, where civilians, Estonian deserters, suspicious people, etc. are contained. This camp is guarded by Ukrainians from Western Ukraine which were named “Black-Skinned Petlyuravites” in Kiviõli.

The treatment in this camp was especially severe. After a 12-hour working day – the prisoners loaded cars with slate – they were lined up and beaten. Every night, prisoners were awoken 2 or 3 times, brought out to the court yard and subjected to different mockeries – they were forced to run around the barracks, carry each other on their back and so on. Once, 2 Russian boys from Kingisep were contained in the camp. One of them was 8, the other was 9 years old. The Germans considered them to be partisans. They were abused the same way as the adults were.

“*Black-Skinned Petlyuravites*”. The Ukrainian police consisted of Western Ukrainians – the population of Kiviõli was under their control. The policemen conducted raids, took away everyone suspicious to the Triangle, made searches and so on. They excelled in extreme cruelty and wore black uniforms, for what they were named “Black-Skinned Petlyuravites”. Everyone was very glad when during an air raid, a Soviet bomb hit the staff of these “Black-Skinned Petlyuravites”.

In February, 1944, a group of women with children arrived from Slanci to Kiviõli. They worked at an old factory and lived in barracks - 20-22 people in one room. In the end of March, they were sent further to Latvia or Lithuania.

ANTONOV Ivan Vasilevich, born in 1918, a collective farmer from the Dudino village of the Boronichski region of the Leningrad Oblast, a former

Komsomol member, extradited to Germans by Estonian fascists on 9/28/41 on the Ezel Island, passed the front line on 8/6/1944, testified the following:

Tallinn POW camp

On October, 1st and 2nd, we were sent through Viljandi to a POW camp in the Tallinn City. The camp was located in the southern part of the city near a cemetery. Up to 1, 000 private soldiers and an officers were contained in this camp. The POWs had an SU (Soviet Union) brand and the working number on their clothes. We were placed in a two-storeyed Estonian barrack which had 4 rooms, 250 people were placed in each of them. Everyone slept on the floor without blankets and mattresses. The officers were contained in separate rooms in groups of 7-8 people. Navy officers had their emblems taken off, and the infantrymen – the stars removed from their headgear. From the imprisoned officers, there was captain HARLOMOV - chief of artillery on the Ezel Island, who worked at VOBRA's staff.

Guardianship. The camp was fenced by barbed wire 2 meters high. Behind it there was a wooden fence 2.5 meters high. Before the wire fence, there was a thin wire which was forbidden to be touched. The one who even would occasionally touched it was killed without any warning by the guards. The guardianship in the camp was carried out by Estonian soldiers who patrolled inside and outside of camp. At night, the patrolling was strengthened by the tower post from where an Estonian sentinel watched that nobody from the camp climbed over the fence. A sentinel also stood at the doors of barracks. The camp was protected by 9 Estonian soldiers.

Nutrition. The camp ration was given out in the morning: half-liter of boiled water instead of tea. In the evening after work, we were given 1 liter of soup of rotten potatoes or of heads of rotten fish and one roll of bread divided for 4 people. At heavy work (loading coal, etc.), an additional half-liter of skilly soup and 100 grams of bread were given out. I was detained at work until the norm of loading was met or other work completed. Therefore, there were many cases when soup was already given out in the camp and, as we were late, we remained without food for the whole day, as it wasn't given out after 7pm. So we remained hungry until the next day's evening. The Germans, however, did not give out the fixed ration of bread completely, they often gave short weight. There was nobody to complain to. If someone asked: "Why is so little bread given out?" - he first lost a coupon for dining, then this prisoner was put on a bench, his trousers were removed and he was beaten with rubber clubs right there, near the kitchen. We were mostly beaten for this by "policemen" from among the Russian POWs, which sold themselves to Germans for some bread.

Beating of prisoners. The Germans beat us without any occasion. They beat us not only with fists, but also with boots, sticks, and rubber clubs. Not only German soldiers participated in the beating, but also German officers. So, in the camp there was a German Corporal named Willy, tall, fair hair. He was the supervisor of barracks. His favorite method to scoff at us was this: after he got drunk, at night, he rushed into our barracks, pulled down the first prisoner from a plank bed, undressed

him, tied his hands, and ordered to lie down on the floor with his face down. Then he would take a bucket of cold water and through a small aperture in it direct a jet of cold water on the head of the prisoner. If the prisoner started to move, Willy beat him with his feet. After such tortures many became mad, they forgot, where they went, mixed names of their comrades. Usually they were taken away somewhere, and we couldn't find out anything about their destiny.

In December, 1942, a German officer who arrived at the camp to choose some prisoners for coal loading, beat one prisoner with the handle of a shovel, for the prisoner found out that his work would be heavy and tried to hide from this work. However, the German officer caught up with him and knocked him down with one blow in the head with the handle of a shovel. The prisoner fell down, but the officer continued to beat him and ordered him to rise. The beaten Russian POW probably could not to rise, and only groaned. Then the officer ordered to lift him and when he got on his feet, the officer struck him with such force on the head with the handle of a shovel that it broke. The prisoner fell again. After that, the officer hit his head with an iron part of the shovel. The shovel got stuck in the head of the prisoner, and jets of blood ran from it. He was killed. We were taken to work. In spring, 1942, I worked in the German city garage repairing motor vehicles as subsidiary labor. Once, a German soldier ordered me to make a number plate for a car till lunch break, but as there was little time remaining, I didn't finish this job in time and went for dinner. I was late for dinner. For this, I had been forced to creep around the garage with my hands raised up till everyone dined, that is, for one hour. Then I was to crawl from the kitchen to the place of my work. I was deprived of soup on that day.

This other time, for sitting down to have a rest without permission during work, I was forced to carry ties 4 meters long and 30 cm wide. When I tried to lift one of those ties, I fell under its weight. But the Germans ordered me to lie down again on the ground and forced other POWs to load this tie on my back. As a punishment for falling down, I was to stand up with the tie on my back. But as I couldn't lift the tie, the Germans ordered to me to drag these ties. So I dragged these ties for 8 hours without rest.

However, the Germans also engaged Russian POWs, which served as policemen and translators who sold themselves to Germans for good dining [...]. They were engaged in assigning prisoners to various tasks, performing evening check-ups, formations, searches, etc. Policemen and translators did not work, and received as much food as they wanted. They beat us for the slightest fault. Beat us when we got in to other groups for work where we could receive an additional half-liter of soup. It usually happened so: the police lined everyone up, and then they chose 20-30 people for work. Those who wished to get into the group and came forward, were surrounded by the policemen and beaten with clubs. They shouted: "Break up!" But as everyone was very weak and could not run, the police drove everyone together and beat the prisoners with clubs. Before the beating, they told the prisoners: "You served in the army, you were taught to run. Did you forget? We'll teach you!" And so they would beat the prisoners until they got tired. In May, 1942,

the police beat me with rubber clubs unconscious for my exchanging half-liter of gasoline for 1 kg of bread. One policeman named Paul, the name of the other I do not know, knocked me down with a stick, then they poured water on me and lifted me up. As they were beating, they said: "The bread that you receive should suffice you! A prisoner is not allowed to eat more". I fell again. Then they started to beat me. One of them kicked me in the face and broken my nose. After that, they threw me out from the office where I was beaten. After I recovered consciousness, I went back to my barrack.

Translators from among the Russian POWs kept account of assigning prisoners to various tasks, dispensing the soup, and cutting off coupons off bread cards. Together with the police, they carried out prisoners check-up. There was a translator in the camp named MOHAMMED that could deprive a prisoner of the day-time ration of soup and bread if he was asked: "Why did I receive less bread today?" For such a question, he took away the prisoner's bread-card, forbade to give out soup to him, and transferred the prisoner to the police who beat him with rubber clubs.

In February, 1942, this translator and policemen beat my comrade POTEMKIN, the native of the Leningrad Region until he was bleeding, because he had some DM by which he wished to purchase some bread. When he came to the barracks and undressed - I saw strips of torn skin and bruises on his face. POTEMKIN told me that in the beginning, they beat him with clubs, and then with a lash and a thin wrapped wire.

There were also Russian doctors from among the prisoners. Although they did not scoff at us, they were rude to us and laughed at us. Those who had fever of 39 degrees Celsius were considered healthy and sent to work. Only those who couldn't walk were admitted in the medical unit. They didn't receive any medical care, however. We always heard the same words from them...

Many of these traitors went to the service to the German Army or the ROA. I know that a police officer named Valentin (Ukrainian) went to serve in the German Army in January, 1942. When in May, 1942, there was a recruitment into the school of espionage - 10 policemen voluntarily went to this school. Among them was BELOV Nikolay.

Attitude of the Estonian population of the Tallinn City towards the POWs. Many Estonians speak Russian. I happened to talk to some of them sometimes. When I asked one Estonian who worked in a topographical institute: "Why do you consider us your enemies? Why do you laugh at us?" He answered me: "You, Russians, in 1940 took away food from our population - bread, milk, cattle, our wives were undressed up to the bottom shirts and you dressed your wives. You have stolen 60, 000 Estonians to Siberia. We still don't know anything about them." He also added that Estonians will be at war up to the last person, and they won't let the Bolsheviks in.

When we were led to work, the Estonians that passed by laughed at us, and shouted to us: "Here she goes - the vigorous, mighty, invincible Moscow".

At work, we were guarded by aged Estonian soldiers. They forbade us to have rest, beat us with rifle butts if we didn't carry out the work on time. Working in a harbor on coal loading with 40 others prisoners, I remember the mockeries of one Estonian guard: we didn't manage to load 4 cars of coal until 6 pm. The Estonian that guarded us was therefore late together with us. To accelerate the loading, he lined everyone up facing the car and beat everyone in the back with a butt of a rifle. Some people fell from these blows, and he spoke: "You have to work faster, is that understood?" This Estonian lined us up 3 times and 3 times beat everyone with a rifle butt.

We never asked Estonians for any bread, as it was vain. We changed our underwear for bread. So, for a set of underwear, they gave 1 kg of bread, for 1 liter of gasoline – half-kilogram of bread. These Estonians didn't even want to hear anything about the establishment of Soviet authority in Estonia, but they also showed discontent with the Germans because they imposed taxed deliveries upon them and took away almost all the milk and cattle. They said that "The Soviets plundered, and the Germans plunder as well. Everyone is our enemy".

Estonian girls confined in the Tallinn prison. When I had to work in the topographical institute on preparation of firewood, I had 18-21 year-old Estonian girls working with me. They were imprisoned because of an Estonian SS that gave them up to their German command for that they worked as nurses and were already Komsomol members with the arrival of Red Army to Estonia. In their prison, there were no more than 200 people. All of them wore grey striped prison gowns. Like us, they had wooden stocks on their legs. They were brought to work accompanied by Estonian escort. When I asked them: "Are you imprisoned?" They answered: "We aren't the ones imprisoned, it is them, the Estonian SS, who gave us up. They will serve our and their terms of imprisonment. The prison does not frighten us, but these SS members are already afraid. When the Red Army comes, they will not get away from us." One of the girls who was engaged in the sorting of maps, on my request, gave me a map of the Revel–Narva Region. All of them waited for the arrival of the Red Army and said that nobody else can free them.

"Otherwise, - they spoke, - we shall never dump these stocks from our legs."

*Chief of Local Department of Political Administration of the Leningrad Front
Engineer Lieutenant Colonel PODKAIER*

State Archives of the Russian Federation. Fund 7021. List 97. File 882. Pages 33-40. Original. Typescript.

DOCUMENT 41

Extract from Report 94 of the Leningrad Front “On atrocities of German and Estonian Hitlerites against Soviet POWs and Civilians in Estonia”

September, 1944

1. The Germans' outrages against Soviet POWs and Soviet activists

Prisoner of war, soldier of the staff boundary company of the 300th special task division MANDRE evidenced:

“I heard from workers that there are many political prisoners in the Pärnu prison. In 1941, the Germans shot many Soviet activists in the Reiski forest near Pärnu. In Pärnu there are 2 camps for Soviet POWs. In one of them about 800, in the other about 300 POWs are contained. The POWs mostly work on road constructions, sawmills, and also at a factory that produces fuel for gas motors. In autumn 1943, Germans shot many POWs that were accused in connection with partisans.”

Many young people who organized a punitive battalion in 1941 were killed in an industrial suburb of Pärnu - Sindi. The organizer of gangster attacks on Soviet activists in 1941 was a certain MAUR Johannes, subsequently chief of the Parnu "Omakaitse" organization. In another industrial region of Pärnumaa - Kilingi-Järve – organizer of gangsters was Major PILLELEHT, present commander of the 6th Estonian Frontier Regiment (from evidence of a POW corporal NOOL M.G., battalion storekeeper of the 6th Regiment of the 200th Division).

POW corporal LIPU H.I. of the 4th battery of the 20th Estonian SS division who earlier served in the Red Army and was taken prisoner by the Germans in 1941 in combat near Porhov, spent 4 months in camps of Germany in Schtablan and Hammerstein. *LIPU testified:*

“There were about 2, 000 Estonians in these camps. They were kept without shelter. The food was exclusively bad. The Germans beat the prisoners for the slightest fault and even without any fault”.

By evidence of POW POOL G.G., in winter 1944, 3 Soviet Estonian parachuters - ARTULA, KULLER and SCHMIDT, landed in the area of Sindi. ARTULA was arrested, together with his parents. KULLER wasn't caught. Germans arrested 2 families for concealing SCHMIDT: LASI and RYAZA. The Germans received help from local bosses of the “Omakaitse” NUTT, ELMAR and KONDZE Paul.

The Germans also ruthlessly punished family of POW LINDEN. Mother of the POW was sentenced to 3 years, his sister to one year, and his neighbor PRUUL to 8 years of imprisonment for concealing a Soviet POW. By evidence of the same POW,

the Germans shot Secretary of the Uyezd Committee of the Estonian CP [Communist Party] of the Saaremaa Uyezd (Ezel) MUY and are still hunting for Soviet activists RIIS and GEMBERG.

Leningrad Front 2777

Is correct: NAZAROV

State Archives of the Russian Federation. Fund 7021. List 97. File 882. Pages 31, 32.
Certified copy. Typescript.

DOCUMENT 42

Statement of Hugo Tamm to the Special State Commission on the Investigation of Atrocities of German Nazi Aggressors in the Estonian SSR on mass executions of Soviet prisoners of war in the Kiviõli area

Not earlier than September 1944

Citizen TAMM Hugo, born in 1928 in Kastra-Võnnu in Tartumaa Uyezd, lives in the Võru Uyezd, of the Era Volost, in the Salam Village.

At present, I live 200-300 meters away from a slag mountain of Kiviõli. The back side of this mountain served as a place where massacres of POWs and their burial took place. I personally did not see the executions as it was not allowed to look at. In my opinion, the number of shot people in this camp is approximately 150. There was a total of three camps in Kiviõli, of which one was especially for Jews. Prisoners were buried in a large ditch where they were placed in three or four rows. In the similar way 70-80 people are buried in a new cemetery. The killed prisoners' bodies were carried on wheelbarrows, they were covered with blankets; they didn't have any clothes on, only underwear. This was told by relatives of people who were shot and whose corpses were exhumed. Two prisoners were shot last summer in this camp, one of them because he hit a security guard, the other I do not know for what. Half of prisoners of the camp were brought to look at this execution. Nearly 5, 000 prisoners were contained in this camp. Part of the tombs of political prisoners are already covered by the slag mountain, there is this one tomb left with 3-4 people buried in it. As I heard from stories of inhabitants, the main executioner was LUMISTE who lived in the Varinurme settlement.

State Archives of the Russian Federation. Fund 7021. List 97. File 4. Pages 1.
Original. Manuscript.

DOCUMENT 43

Transcript of interrogation of witness Gildegarda Koze about reprisals of Nazi accomplices in Kiviõli in 1941

October 7, 1944

I, officer of the Criminal Investigation Department of Virumaa PURK Theodore interrogated as a witness KOZE Gildegarda Janovna, B 1909 in Erra, of the Virumaa Uyezd, testified the following:

My husband, Johannes Voldemarovich KOZE, worked in the Kiviõli slate development for 3 and 7 years – as a controller since 1930 till 1941. My husband was a member of the C.P.S.U.(B.) since 1941, during the Soviet times he was managing the Kiviõli cooperative society.

On August 13, 1941, at 2 o'clock, the "Omakaitse" members arrested my husband. During the arrest I was not at home, the neighbors told me that along with him, SAAREPAA and IKVI were arrested. One night, my husband was kept in a cellar of a Kiviõli school. For two days, he was contained in a cellar of a station. I saw my husband on August 14, 1941, at 11 a.m., at school, just when he was taken from an interrogation into the cellar. I was allowed to be there but only if I would keep silent, I wasn't even allowed to say "hi". I saw my husband in a heavy mood, and it seemed to me that he was even abnormal. I stood close to him, but he did not see me, he just looked at his feet.

On August 15, 1941, I spoke to my husband at 16 o'clock in a corridor of the cellar at the presence of security guards. I asked him when he would come back home, and he answered that he probably wouldn't come home. Whether the fascist murderers beat my husband, I don't know.

My husband was shot on August 16, 1941, at 6 a.m., ½ kilometers away from the Kiviõli station behind a pumping station. On October 9, 1941, I exhumed my husband from a pit and buried him on the Luganuse cemetery. I know that LUMITSE was chief of "Omakaitse" and the organizer of executions in Kiviõli, he is the one guilty in the execution of my husband. Another one is PACKS Michel, a fascist policeman who did not allow me to talk to my husband and treated me very roughly. I know that METSER participated in executions, he lives in the Uemijtsa Village, and NINNE from the Varinure Village, approximately 20 years old. Whether they participated in the murder of my husband, I don't know.

PACKS Michel told me that my husband was guilty and therefore he had been shot. He also added that Director of the Kiviõli Vihtmaa School also helped people to get to Rakvere, and from there to the Soviet Union.

On August 16, I told a former comrade of my husband LUICK who worked in the “Omakaitse” staff that my husband was innocent. LUICK yelled at me saying that I would be imprisoned like my husband. I did not know that my husband was already shot. In half an hour, I found out that my husband was shot, from LUMITSE. I asked who shot him. LUMITSE answered that he does not know.

There is nothing more I can explain.

(Signed - KOZE)

*Interrogation was conducted by the Officer of the Criminal Investigation Department of
Virumaa PURCK*

State Archives of the Russian Federation. Fund 7021. List 97. File 4. Pages 11a.
Certified copy. Typescript.

DOCUMENT 44

Act of investigation of atrocities of fascist aggressors and their accomplices in Tartumaa Uyezd

January 25, 1945

We, the undersigned members of the Committee for Investigation of Atrocities of German Invaders and Their Accomplices in the Tartumaa Uyezd of the ESSR - M. LAOSSON, A. MJAE, A. JACOBSON. LUKK, MIZIN, - created the present Protocol.

Since the first days of the German occupation of the Tartumaa Uyezd, the Germans started mass arrests and executions. In the vicinity of the city of Elva, in the so-called Ili forest, on November 4, 1944, a mass grave was found from which 18 shot people were exhumed. During postmortems, relatives identified 15 of the bodies. The bodies had their feet and arms tied with a wire. They were randomly thrown into the tomb.

Concerning the arrested persons in the Niu Volost, it is established based on available documents that they were shot on order of the German security police. It appears from civil registrations.

It is necessary to note that executions also proceeded during 1942-1944. For example, KAASIKSOO Charles Petrovich arrested in the Otepja City in 1941, was executed in Tallinn on April 24, 1944. Women were also executed. For example, on July 16, 1943 JACOBSON Adele Michailovna from the Saadjärve Volost was shot by the German soldiers.

It is also established that the Germans arrested even high school students, for example, student HIETAM Arnold from the Kijdjärve Volost was arrested.

Special cruelty was shown by the Germans in punishments of peaceful population in Mustvee and Kallaste – according to the available data, 826 people were shot in the Tartumaa Uyezd.

German command and heads of political police are considered guilty of the foregoing atrocities, in particular:

1. Uyezd Commissioner Kurt MENEN;
2. Tartumaa Uyezd SS Military Commandant GOZEBRUH;
3. Chief of Staff of the Military Commandant of the Tartumaa Uyezd and Chief of Police Oberlieutenant SCHEIHENBAUER;
4. Chief of SS Special Police SCHOFELD;

5. Assistant Chief of Special Police FHARENBERGER;
6. Chief of Estonian Political Police Roland LEPPICK;
7. Assistant Chief of Special Department KYUNNAPU;
8. Chief of Office of Political Police KLAOS.

Members of Commission:

MJAE

LUKK

MIZIN

JACOBSON

State Archives of the Russian Federation. Fund 7021. List 97. File 23. Page 3.

Original. Typescript.

DOCUMENT 45

Act on atrocities and mass executions in Tartu concentration camp and in and around the anti-tank ditch in Tartu vicinity

Not earlier than October 1944

Created in the Tartu Executive Committee of the City Soviet of People's Deputies, Commission for Investigation of Atrocities and Massacres Committed by the Fascist Aggressors and Their Collaborators - traitors of the nation - in the Tartu City concentration camp and in an anti-tank ditch near Tartu, dug out in 1941 for defense purposes – composed of:

Chairman of the Committee: Secretary of the Tartumaa Uyezd Committee of ECP(B) Comrade Max LAOSSON,

Deputy Chairman of the Committee: Deputy Chairman of the Tartu Executive Committee of the City Soviet of People's Deputies Comrade Vladimir GAILIT,

Members of the Committee: Public Prosecutor of the Tartumaa Uyezd and the Tartu City, 1st class attorney August JACOBSON,

Chief of Tartu Department of State Security Major MIZIN,

Doctor of the Tartu Polyclinic MURASHIN,

Artist Johan PYUTSEPP,

Pastor of the Tartu Paulu Parish Harri HAAMER,

Employee of the Forwarding Department of the Tartu Communication Office Evald RAID,

investigated atrocities and mass executions committed by the Germans and their collaborators in the Tartu City and vicinities and, by interrogation of witnesses and forensic medical and crime scene examinations, established the following circumstances:

With the advent of the German invaders to our country, as early as in July 1941, in a suburb of Tartu, on a so-called Exhibition Area, fascists and their collaborators arranged a concentration camp where thousands of Soviet people were concentrated in the summer and in autumn of 1941. The number constantly increased until spring 1944. The fascists behaved violently with the confined Soviet patriots: they were beaten, tortured using different methods. The tortures caused physical injuries and were the reason of high death rate and, in lighter cases, the loss of health for the rest of life. Prisoners were forced to perform heavy physical labor without sufficient dining. They worked up to 18 hours a day. Medical assistance was absolutely absent. A German doctor employed in the camp responded with an

haughty smile to all complaints of health, and prisoners died without any medical assistance. According to statements of witnesses, tortures, beating and executions were everyday practices in the concentration camp. They were a special pleasure to the Commandant of the camp, and to his assistants and supervisors. Special cruelty at tortures of arrested persons was shown by the German Commandant of the camp, Obersergeant Major nicknamed Fritz (the last name has not been established) and his employee Robert TASKA which did not miss an opportunity to send the arrested persons to tortures. A special shed was built for beating, where prisoners were beaten with thoroughly boiled birches, with a ramrod, shovels, or anything at hand. A victim was beaten bloody and then thrown into a special closet on a cold stone floor. If the beaten prisoner was in condition to walk, he was sent to work. A special treat to command was to make prisoners stand up and lie down until they got breathless and fell, then they were beaten unconscious. Punches in the face and knocked-out teeth were direct consequences of a slightest expression of protest or an unpleasant word addressed to a supervisor. A prisoner was executed on the spot for leaving the limits of the camp.

All of the prisoners were treated with equal cruelty, regardless of sex, age and educational level. Professors of the Tartu State University, teachers, writers, and artists suffered in the camp from the inhuman treatment. They were forced to carry out the heaviest physical labor; they were kept in a punishment cell on a cold stone floor where they lost their health forever. Yet many were victims of the Germans' bloodthirstiness and were meanly executed. Victims of German execution were professors RUUBEL, SILBERSCHTEIN, KLIMAN and other people of the Soviet spirit and science.

In the camp, there were only 4 barracks in which only a small part of prisoners was placed; most of them were held without shelter, even at night. One barrack was appointed for those sentenced to execution and carried the name of a mortal cell. Prisoners sentenced to execution laid there half-naked on a cold stone floor, as their clothes were almost always plundered and divided by the fascist management, and expected the next round of the death machine. There were no investigations as such. A prisoner was once led to interrogation into a station of SD police aided by the so-called collaborators of the political police, from whom the following have been identified: "Court Investigator" and Chief of the Special Department Captain LEPPICK, swindler KYUNAPPU, KLAOS, and some others whose last names have not been established. The named "investigators" worked under the control of the Germans and carried out investigation on order of the Chief of German SD police Colonel SCNEIHENBAUER. During the interrogation, victims were usually charged with communistic activity or sympathy to the Soviet regime. During investigations, no transcript was written, witnesses were not interrogated, and an investigator released them with a tender smile, declaring that interrogated finished and they would soon be released. In reality, however, most of the prisoners were sent directly to the death chamber and from there to the next execution.

II. Mass executions and their fulfillment

Mass executions of prisoners began almost simultaneously with the onset of the camp activity. As a place of execution, an anti-tank ditch was selected which was dug out in 1941 during defensive works near the Riga highway, 6 km away from Tartu. Prisoners sentenced to execution were taken to the place on buses by groups of about 30-40 at a time. A car was driving in front of the bus in which the executioners were located, a team of 30-40 led by a German officer. By statements of witnesses, it was established that people were taken to executions daily - up to 7 times a day. Arrested Soviet people were brought to the place mostly half-naked, which was revealed by exhumations of corpses from the anti-tank ditch. After the arrival to the place, prisoners had their hands tied up behind their backs. Besides, they were all also connected by a rope and put on the knees on the edge of the ditch. Then an officer read them out a verdict of the military court, which actually never existed. The verdict was always the same: "For the villainies established by the military court, the court has sentenced you to death." Then the short order "Fire" followed, and the prisoners were shot in the nape. By the circumstances established by exhumation, it can be determined that as the arrested persons were tied to each other, some of them were buried alive, as sometimes no bullet wounds were found on the corpses.

It has been established from witnesses' evidence that only in 1941, the Germans executed over 7, 000-8, 000 people. As the executions, especially in the beginning, were carried out at night, and proceeded until February, 1942, and considering the length of the anti-tank ditch where the prisoners were buried in several layers, it can be estimated that nearly 12, 000 people were executed in the anti-tank ditch in Tartu. Later, the executions were carried out near the city's Jewish cemetery, which was also established by the investigation.

In winter, when the ground froze, corpses of the shot prisoners were left unburied until the next spring. Victims of the executioners were not only men and women – old people and even small children weren't spared as well. The exhumation and witnesses' testimonies determined an awful execution of children. The testimonies show that in winter 1941-1942, children were taken to execution by two vehicles – in the first one, children of 6-12 years old and infants in the second one. A witness saw how children were carried on hands to the edge of the ditch and executed there. Witness FRIDLAND saw an extremely inhuman instance when a ferocious executioner held a child's leg, his head downwards, and the other executioner, standing beside, shot the child into the head. As the executions of children were carried out in winter, the spring high water carried away their bodies to highway and field drains, where they were later taken from and buried, sometimes by local residents.

III. The Germans' fear of responsibility and their attempts to hide traces of their atrocities

Apprehending responsibility for the mass executions, the Nazis tried to hide traces of the atrocities. Therefore, in November, 1943, concealment of traces of the

atrocities was started in Tartu. For this purpose, every citizen living near the anti-tank ditch was driven out of their residence, and a special German team was brought about, together with 75-80 prisoners from Czechoslovakia and Poland, which were generally Jewish. They began exhuming and burning bodies of the victims. The corpses were put on balefires, poured with gasoline or kerosene and lit. These balefires were burning since December, 1943 to April, 1944. Laborers were the mentioned prisoners whom the Germans treated extremely severely. They worked to the point of exhaustion, tied to each other and suffering from frost and insufficient nutrition. If a prisoner was ill or exhausted, he was shot on the spot. So, a fact was established that a German from the sentry team shot 3 prisoners on the spot because they were ill and could not work.

The exhumation and burning were carried out publicly in the beginning, but approaching the highway, the Germans, aiming to hide their activities, blocked the ditch with a high fence. During the process of work, the fence was extended further. So the process of burning the corpses continued for 4-5 months, [when] the corpses were exhumed and burned along the 800-meter stretch of the ditch. Besides, they exhumed and burned corpses from a cemetery near the Rjapinskaya road.

After the work was finished, the remaining 22 prisoners were executed in the most severe way by the sentry team as witnesses of the villainy. After these people were finished with their terrible work, they were taken to a country bath which was near the anti-tank ditch. Windows and doors of this bath were wired. In the morning, the bath that was poured with gasoline or kerosene was lit. All of the 22 prisoners were burned in it.

The Germans' attempts to hide the traces of the atrocities committed by them were not successful. Investigation, including forensic medical examination, exhumation of bodies from the main ditch, and finds in this ditch, established that the burning of corpses was performed along the whole stretch of the ditch. This is proved by ashes and by the circumstance that the ground near the ditch was smoldered. 127 bodies were found along the 65 meters of a smaller ditch parallel to the main one. Exhumation and medical examination of the corpses determined the monstrous way of their execution. Corpses were tied by a thick rope, their hands fastened by a cord behind their back. As no bullet wounds were found on several bodies, it is possible to conclude that some were pulled into the ditch together with the dead and buried alive. Also, 30 bodies were exhumed from a field ditch that is 14.5 meters long. The corpses were buried there in two layers, and as this was where the first executions were carried out, the Germans took away most of the corpses to the main ditch where they were burnt. Later, apparently due to the lack of time or ignorant work of the team, part of the corpses in the field ditch were not exhumed and burnt. On the Jewish cemetery near the Rjapinskaya road, a common grave was found. 4 bodies were exhumed from it. Most of those buried here, however, were burnt by the Germans, which is also proved by ashes and smoldered ground. It is possible to assume by the dimensions of the common grave that no less than 50 people were buried in it.

During the examination of the area under the bath, it was established that people in the bath were in fact burnt. Even though the Germans tried to take away skeletons of the burnt prisoners, parts of human skeletons were still found in the bath in great quantities. Forensic examination confirmed that the massacre by burning people locked in the bath was committed, as it had been stated by witnesses on interrogations.

Based on all mentioned, the guilt of an unprecedented wild massacre of Estonian people has been established. The Nazi occupants' wanton license above the Soviet citizens, confined in concentration camps, is established, owing to what thousands of people who passed through the hell organized by the German fascists and their collaborators died or forever lost their health.

The main responsibility for the wild mass executions, tortures and unprecedented wildness and terror lies on the government of the fascist Germany and representatives of its government in Estonia led by General, Commissioner LITZAMANN and traitor of the nation Hjalmar MJAEL, but also, in particular, on the following persons:

1. Tartu regional commissioner Kurt MENEN;
2. Tartu military commandant, SS-Colonel HAZEBRUH;
3. Chief of staff of Tartu, military commandant and chief of police, Lieutenant Colonel SCHEIHENBAUER;
4. Chief of the special police SS-Führer SEEAELDT;
5. Assistant chief of the special police FAHRENBERGER;
6. Commandant of camp, senior Sergeant-Major Fritz and his collaborators;
7. Chief of the political police Roland LEPPICK;
8. Assistant chief of the special department KYUNNAPUU;
9. Clerk KLAOS;
10. Assistant camp commandant R. TASKA.

About 100-150 other Germans from the sentry team of the camp, the political police, members of the SD police, and members of the so-called organization "Omakaitse" ("Self-Defense"), whose last names have been so far only partly determined by the investigation, participated in the executions and tortures.

Chairman of Commission LAOSSON

Secretary of the Tartu Committee of the ECP(B)

Deputy Chairman of the Committee GAJLIT

Deputy Chairman of the Executive Committee of the City Soviet of People's Deputies

Members of the Committee

JAKOBSON

Public Prosecutor of the Tartumaa Uyezd and the Tartu City, 1st class lawyer

MIZIN

Chief of the Tartu Department of State Security, Major

MURASHIN

Doctor of the Tartu Polyclinic

PYUTSEP ARTIST HAAMER

Pastor of Tartu Paulski parish

RAID

Employee of a forwarding department of the Tartu Communication Office

State Archives of the Russian Federation. Fund 7021. List 97. File 23. Pages 4-15.
Original. Manuscript.

DOCUMENT 46

Testimony of Senior Lecturer of Tartu State University of the Estonian SSR Valmar Adams on actions of fascist aggressors in summer and autumn of 1941 in the Tartu City

Not earlier than October 1944

On the outskirts of Tartu (33 Nyutse Street) there is a so-called Exhibition Ground where fascist aggressors in July, 1941 suited an improvised concentration camp through which thousands of Soviet patriots passed in the summer and autumn of 1941. Prisoners were located in four pavilions 60x20 meters in size, and Russian male population from the suburb areas was for several weeks held outside on an area between the pavilions fenced by barbed wire.

People from these pavilions, especially those from the "death chamber," were brought to execution every night, preliminary tied together and plundered up to underwear. No legal proceedings were employed; the rude and eternally drunk henchmen of Germans from the so-called "Self-Defense" ["Omakaitse"] shot prisoners at will. I published the details in the "Uus Postimees" newspaper's issue 11 of October 3, 1944, in the article "The Garden of tortures. Personal memoirs from the times of German occupation."

Of my cellmates the following were shot in July and August 1941:

Professors of the State University P. RUBEL (agriculturist) and Leopold ZILBERSHCTEIN (a genius philologist sent to Estonia by president of Czechoslovakia BENESH to acquaint Estonia with the Czechoslovak culture), member of the Tartu Uyezd Executive Committee GIRSH, sons of school adviser LANG, school worker Edward PYUTSENN, director of toy factory MIYSSAAR, tens of my students from the Tartu State University, hundreds of unknown workers, peasants and Soviet employees. Dr. Arthur KLIMAN [professor] was also shot at that time, the prorector of the State University, one of the best experts on the administrative law in Europe. I stayed in the chamber of death down to the liquidation of this temporary concentration camp. Then I was transferred to a "labor" camp in the so-called Hupertjanov barracks.

The concentration camp on the Exhibition Ground was organized by the local White Guards almost before the Germans came, as the German armies approached. It was first under the jurisdiction of the military-occupational authorities (the field commandant Colonel GOZERBUH, chief of staff Lieutenant Colonel TEIHENBAUER), subsequently it passed to the authority of the SD police (SS-Führer ZEFELD and his assistant FARENBERGER) with the help of the Estonian political police. The commandant of camps was Ober-Sergeant-Major of the field gendarmerie, known in the camp under the name FRIZ, who named himself "The

Father of Jews” and devoted special attention to mockeries of Jewish prisoners. Impostor judges who gathered on the Exhibition Ground and "inspectors" from the rascals White Guards were badly informed on my [...] activities in the Soviet public life, as on interrogations they accused me mainly of my relations with Jews and asked foolish questions about the tasks allegedly received by me from the world Jewry, and not concerning my activity as a member of the editorial board of the “The Tartu Communist” newspaper and my public lectures. (This poor awareness, possibly, has helped me to survive.) The difficulties of the camp routine were alleviated only by the outstanding disorder that reigned in the concentration camp and by the boyish petty tyranny of the triumphant anti-Soviet gang. For example, sometimes I was driven in a column of women and teenagers along the streets of my native city to forced hard labor on clearing the apartment of a rich merchant [JA]NES and its preparation for the field commandant. However, I had more serious tests to pass: as I was forced to sleep without a blanket on the stone floor of the pavilion, I contracted a sharp inflammation of the middle ear, which resulted – with the absence of medical assistance – in my becoming absolutely deaf in my left ear.

It is impossible to list in a brief account all aggression of the fascists against the Estonian culture. However, the “cleansing” of personal libraries was especially hurting for the subjected to repression Soviet scientists. In August 1941, in Tartu, a special confidential commission, or a team for withdrawal of Bolshevik literature from libraries of Soviet scientists, was formed. As it was established later, this "campaign" was carried out by youth on instruction of the SD and under direction of persons whose names are known, if needed. I heard that this team crushed libraries of professors KLIMAN, KRUIZ, KOORT, KADARI and writers JACOBSON and JURNA. My library was “cleansed” not only of all Marxist books, but also all of books printed in Russian after 1917. The visit of the fascist bandit “librarians” deprived a historian of the Russian literature of the most valuable collection of Russian authors, which I was collecting for an almost quarter century, among them editions of V. MAJAKOVSKI and I. ERENBURG, which I specially collected.

Thus, fascists have simultaneously taken away my freedom, posts, hearing and have appreciably disarmed me ideologically and scientifically.

Master Valmar Teodorovich ADAMS
Senior Lecturer of the Faculty of Literary Criticism,
Tartu State University, ESSR;
Member of the Union of Estonian Writers since 1926;
Former Secretary of the Board of the Estonian
PEN-Club

State Archives of the Russian Federation. Fund 7021. List 97. File 23. Pages. 450-456.
Manuscript. Original.

DOCUMENT 47

Testimony of Juhan Lang, victim of the Nazi occupation of the Estonian SSR

October 7, 1944

To the Public Prosecutor of the Tartumaa Uyezd

At your request, I inform to you hereby of some data on the destiny of my family during the occupational period.

On July 14, 1941, at about 11 o'clock in the morning, German soldiers rushed into my house (5 Tammepuistes), declaring that they were fired at from this house, and dragged my family (wife Anita and sons Vjajno and Rhine) and me to a nearby sports building. Comrades MJAAL and NIMMIK, which were in our house, were taken with us under guard. From the sports house we (men) were led to the field commandant and my wife to the house of Gestapo on the Peplerskaja Street, whence she was released this very day in the evening.

In the field commandant's office, the assistant field commandant interrogated us and decided to release us. For this purpose, he wrote a corresponding paper in German and sent us under an escort to the staff of "Self-Defense" ["Omakaitse"], ostensibly for the purpose of registration and delivery of the note issued by him. On our way back to the field commandant's office, we were seen by student KLAOS (son of lawyer KLAOS) who wore the uniform of "Self-Defense," he stopped us and said: "Is Vjanu Lang really still free and walks the streets?" He, KLAOS, came with us to the field commandant's office where the document that was prepared for our release was abolished, and we were led to the Exhibition Ground, to the pavilion of public health, where we were arrested. My arrest in the pavilion of the Exhibition Ground lasted until July 30. Then I was led to a cellar of Gestapo and the next day I was released. I was not given any exact information on the destiny of my sons. I was only told that they were sent somewhere for work, etc. After long toils, chief of the SD ZIFELDT informed me as late as in October that my elder son Vjajno had already been shot on July 30, that is, on the same day when I was taken away from the Exhibition Ground, and the younger one (Rhine) was shot on the next day, i.e. on July 31. The elder son was at that time Assistant of Professor KLIMAN at the Tartu University, and the younger son (member of the Komsomol) just graduated from high school and worked on transport [...].

As for an interrogation, it was summoned for it once, and that was about two weeks after the arrest. The same way it was done to my sons. We were accused of shooting Germans, organizing a secret radio station, a signal system, communistic

propaganda, and so on. We were interrogated by a certain VICKS. He acted especially humiliating at the interrogation of my son Vjajno. He asked: "Why did you stay here? It would have been better if you had left. Say what you want - we will not believe you anyway," and so on.

The main figure managing the so-called special branch was a certain Roland LEPICK, the above-mentioned commandant KLAOS, and clerk KYUNNAPU that was earlier known as a distributor of pornographic literature. He visited the camp very often. He usually answered the questions addressed to him: "I am a small person. I know nothing. When Public Prosecutor PAAL comes, he will tell you everything." But no one ever saw the public prosecutor. There was also student KORNEL in the camp. I do not know what his functions were.

From other known figures of the "Self-Defense," rector KANT and professor Dr MADISON visited the camp.

The most disgusting fellow in the camp was manager LEPICK. Sadistic bloodthirstiness mixed in him with some kind of sentimentalism. KYUNNAPU was also disgusting.

During the occupation period, I expressed my will to come back to my former place as assistant at the Institute of Physics of the Tartu University. I was refused. They also didn't give me an opportunity to work as a teacher of Physics, Mathematics, and Cosmography in schools of Tartu. They also wanted to exclude me from the collective of authors of textbooks for initial and high school. Owing to the interference of the publishing house and to technical circumstances (my books were actually in use at all schools), it was not possible for them to do so. Therefore, during the occupational time I had to live without a place and to work as an author at my house improving textbooks that I wrote. In summer, I worked for my brother on a farm. I used my free time to improve my professional skills.

(Juhan LANG)

Assistant at Physical Institute of the Tartu State University

State Archives of the Russian Federation.
Fund 7021. List 97. File 23. Pages 461, 461 overleaf, 462, 462 overleaf.

DOCUMENT 48

List of persons shot by fascist criminals in Pärnumaa Uyezd of the ESSR

Not earlier than 1944

Last name, name, patronymic	# of act	Year of birth	Killed on	Killed by
TUUL Oswald Johanovich	3		7/21/41	SD
KISKE Johan Hendrickovich	4		7/11/41	SD
SUTT Martin Martinovich	5	10/29/1903	06/17/42	SD
ERMAA Salmo	7		1941	Political Police [PP]
SAAR Leopold Antonovich	8		12/4/41	PP
LELLE Majde	8		12/4/41	PP
POLU Edward	9		7/8/41	German soldier
SOONTACK Juri	10		8/14/41	PP
PUMBU Oscar Janovich	11		8/17/41	PP
RESSAR Johan Antonovich	12		8/21/41	PP
MERE Valdemar Gustavovich	15		9/12/41	PP
LAAS Dimitriy Michaelovich	18	9/29/1901	9/21/41	SS
LERG Michael Evaldovich	19		8/10/41	PP
VILMANN Johannes Annevich	20		8/9/41	German soldier
KIRS	22		9/22/44	SS
RISTIKIVI Johan Johan.	23		8/18/41	Omakaitse
GRUNBERS Johan Jurjevich	26		8/17/41	PP
MARISF Laba	27		1941	PP
PILENISH Johannes Georgievich	28		2/6/41	Omakaitse
PILENISH Kristian Georgievich	29		1942	German
VIIILIN August Antonovich	32	12/17/1908	1/18/42	Omakaitse
PJARMANN Alexey Jakovich	33		Aug.1941	German soldier
MASSO Josep Jacovich	34		8/12/41	PP
MARDICK Zynaida	36	1914	8/25/41	PP
SAMSONOV Alexey Danilovich	37	1905	8/1/41	PP
LUUR Artem Antonovich	38	1905	8/1/41	German on court decision

Last name, name, patronymic	# of the act	Year of birth	Killed on	Killed by
SIIVESTI Anton Antonovich	40		8/17/41	Omakaitse
ERNITS Vera Andreevna	41		1943	PP, Omakaitse
MARTINSON Martin Mar.	47	5/21/1902	8/6/44	
PULCK Jacob Jakovl.	50	1912	4/17/41	German soldier
MERILA Libya Carlovna	51	1920	1944	PP
POOMA Mlita Mih.	52		1941	PP
RESUSICK JAN	53	1915	1941	Omakaitse
RESDICK Erens	54		1941	Omakaitse
WHIST Elza Mihael.	62	1907	9/19/1941	SS
KALTOV Isaak Leopold.	66	1905	1941	PP
KRABUSLE David Vif.	67	1908	1941	PP
HAITOVA Fried	68		1941	PP
HAITOVA Nilla	69		1941	PP
HAITOV Abram Isaakovich	70	1896	1941	PP
MAITOV Jette Leopoldovich	73	1909	1941	PP
VESSET Boris Elis.	74		1941	PP
PARZ Gunnar Petrovich	75	1929	09/19/41	SS
HAITOV Leopold Isaakovich	76		1941	PP
HAITOV Moses Isaakovich	77		1941	PP
Vesset Max Elis.	78	1918	1941	PP
HAITOV Ester Abramovich	79	1927	1941	PP
HAITOV Palo Abramovich	80	1936	1941	PP
ROHTLA Hendrick Adovich	64		1944	German soldier
OLDERMANN Alex. Mer.	48			Omakaitse
TAMMELA Jonenski	1		1941	Omakaitse
HERNITS Ajre	39		1941	Omakaitse
VIIRA August Johim.	108	6/7/1909	1942	Omakaitse
SAALISTE Johan	109	1913		PP
OSTAVI Friz Yanovich	110	1899	9/22/44	SS
SIIM Rudolf Kristan.	112	2/21/1925	10/10/42	German soldier
LAUS Dimitriy	114		1941	PP
PRIIDICK Andres Lizavich	115		8/9/41	Omakaitse
KARUMAS Jan Lenavich	115		8/9/41	Omakaitse
KJAAR Voldemar	116		8/41	German soldier
JANIMARI Rihard Yanovich	117	1922	8/30/41	PP

Last name, name, patronymic	# of the act	Year of birth	Killed on	Killed by
MELLIKOV Modis Modis.	119		8/28/41	Omakaitse
TOMINGAS Johan Mih.	120		8/15/41	PP
LYMPS Johanness Mih.	121		8/30/41	SD
VELMANN Lena Vilun.	122	1893		PP
MEYMRE Arnold Jurevich	123		1941	Omakaitse
MEYMRE Linda Jurevna	123		1941	Omakaitse
POOLACK Arnold Anatolievich	124	1909	9/13/1941	PP
HAITOV Solomon Leopoldovich	81		1941	PP
PAZPIJANDI	82		1941	German soldier
PINSON Edward Janovich	83		7/20/41	Omakaitse
ROOIMERE Tamara	34	1919	7/15.41	PP
ERKMAN	85	1864	7/25.41	PP
SILDMAN	86		7/25.41	PP
KOITMA	87		7/25.41	PP
ITTER	88		7/17.41	PP
RULL Voldemar	89		10/13.41	PP
HIRFELD	90		10/13.41	PP
ADU Dimara	93		7/17.41	PP
KURMA Zynaida	94		8/03.41	Omakaitse
LEPP Silme	95	1918	8/03.41	Omakaitse
DITME Juli	96		7/3.41	Omakaitse
KIWI Voldemar	97		7/25.41	Omakaitse
REBECKA Pavlovsk Abrams	98	1901	1941	Omakaitse
VESSET Ceige Iuuder.	99		1941	Omakaitse
PRUUL Peter Jurevich	100	1808	9/4/1941	Omakaitse
VAIKLA Herminda Liz.	107	1910	1941	Omakaitse
KENING Jan Janovich	129	1908	1942	PP
TEINBURG Michael Janovich	130	1890	9/21/1944	SS
ARUJAGI Haldar Karlov.	132			SS

State Archives of the Russian Federation. Fund 7021. List 97. File 21. Page. 7a.
Original. Typescript.

DOCUMENT 49

Excerpt from Report on Results of Investigatory Action of the NKGB of the ESSR for the Period September 25-October 31, 1944

November 2, 1944 Tallinn

NKGB ESSR has arrested a marked Estonian outlawed anti-Soviet figure – LAAMAN P.J., born in 1893, Estonian, former captain of the imperial and Estonian armies, a supervising participant of the military-fascist organization “Kaitseliit” and chairman of the Uyezd department of the fascist organization “Vabs,” was arrested twice under president PJATSE for preparation of an armed revolt. In 1935, was sentenced to 20 years of hard labor. Released from prison in 1938 on general amnesty and was later engaged in trading and commercial activities.

With the establishment of the Soviet regime in Estonia, LAAMAN, afraid of arrest, went on the run and hid in the forest. In March 1941, he had fraudulently received an exit permit for his family and himself to Germany and with the beginning of the Soviet-German war, voluntarily entered the German Army. After a short term of retraining in a camp in Frankfurt (Oder), he received the rank of a Captain. In the specified camp, the police battalion “Ostland” was formed from Estonians, with LAAMAN’s participation. Later, it was engaged in revealing and executing Soviet partisans and patriots, burning villages in Ukraine and shooting their inhabitants.

In March 1942, LAAMAN was directed at the disposal of the chief of German Security Police and Estonian SD. Under the disposal of the latter he supervised work at the department of propagation of “the Estonian Self-Management” which conducted counterespionage work.

Then LAAMAN was transferred to the post of the officer for special assignments on affairs of the Estonian Legion and, having contacted with a known Estonian anti-Soviet figure admiral PITKA, started active work on recruiting Estonians in the German Army. In order to assist Germans in the war against the USSR, PITKA and LAAMAN, having received the preliminary sanction from the German command to form the “PITKA’s Shock Unit,” made propaganda trips across Estonia to recruit people who were hiding from German mobilization for the service in the shock unit. Before the retreat of German armies, PITKA and LAAMAN received Hitler’s personal order to embark on a steamship and evacuate to Germany. PITKA evaded this order and headed to his unit, which subsequently participated in a skirmish with one of the Red Army units. LAAMAN did not have the time to evacuate and went on the run.

The investigation proceeds. Measures have been taken to locate PITKA in the territory of the Estonian SSR.

NKGB of the Estonian SSR arrested a group of volunteers from the police battalion "Ostland" formed by the Germans, composed of:

KIMBERG F.J., B 1913, native of Petersburg, Estonian, member of the fascist organization "Vabs" since 1933, during the moment of arrest - without any certain occupation.

TOFER P.R., B 1911, native of Petersburg, son of a large dealer, Estonian, until March 1941, was engaged in private trade in Tallinn, in March 1941, repatriated to Germany, Obersturmführer of the German Army, at the time of arrest worked on a soap factory.

TOFER E.R, B 1922, Estonian, son of a jewelry dealer, until March 1941, was engaged in private trade. In 1941, repatriated to Germany, at the time of arrest worked as an adjuster of telephone systems.

By evidence of arrested persons, it is established that, being hostilely set up against the Soviet authority, in March 1941, they were sanctioned to repatriate to Germany under false documents and in July 1941, voluntarily entered the "Ostland" police battalion formed by the Germans in Frankfurt (Oder). In October 1941, a battalion consisting of more than 500 persons was directed to Ukraine and operated in the Lvov, Kiev, Zhitomir and Chernigov areas, carrying out punitive action.

In November, 1942, the "Ostland" battalion with three German police battalions and an artillery regiment under command of general HALTERMAN participated in an operation against partisans in the Orucha area where they burned more than 50 villages, shot over 1, 500 residents of the burnt villages, and abducted the rest to Germany. The property of the population was plundered.

In one of these villages, on order of General HALTERMAN, 40 local residents were burned alive in a shed because local partisans killed an SS Lieutenant TIRNA.

In another village where a German Wachmister was killed, a ten-year-old girl and a baby were shot in a log hut.

In February, 1943, the punitive group came back to Kiev with the stolen property and was transferred in March to Poland where it merged with the Estonian SS legion and participated in fights against the Red Army in the Nevel area, and then in the Narva area.

*Commissioner of State Security
of the Estonian SSR*

The central archive of FSB of the Russian Federation.
Fund 100. List 11. File 4. Pages. 91-93. Original. Typescript.

DOCUMENT 50

Report of Head of “SMERSH” Counterespionage Department of the Leningrad Front on the Estonian fascist organization “Omakaitse”

October 5, 1944

To Chief of Central Administrative Board of “SMERSH” Counterespionage Department NKO USSR - Commissioner of State Security of 2nd rank

ABAKUMOV

Operations group of the “SMERSH” counterespionage department of the Leningrad Front and “SMERSH” departments of the 8th and 2nd Shock Armies (the latter has left to another front in the beginning of October) have worked in the territory of the Estonian SSR from September 13-15 of this year.

To prevent possible stirring up of an armed nature of the organization “Omakaitse” during the period we have searched and detained mostly the supervising and command staff of this organization.

As of October 25 of this year, the following were detained:

Commanders of platoons – 11;

Commanders of companies- 17;

Commanders of battalions – 4;

Chiefs of Uyezds groups, departments and services – 2.

Based on evidence of these cases, including official documents seized from the opponent, it is established that “Omakaitse” was an armed pro-fascist nationalist organization of centralized formation, created to provide for the creation of an "independent" Estonian state under the protectorate of fascist Germany in every possible way.

The basis for creation of “Omakaitse” were remnants of nationalist organizations of the bourgeois Estonia, which were dismissed in 1940 and went underground during the establishment of the Soviet regime in Estonia. The administrative board of the organization consisted mainly of the most reactionary officers of the Estonian bourgeois army, most of whom belonged to the nationalist organization “Kaitseliit,” and also from the persons who served in the Red Army but by virtue of their anti-Soviet views came over to the side of the opponent by participating in operations of the 8th Estonian shooting corps.

The revival of the organization “Omakaitse” started in July 1941, with the supervising center in Tartu.

During the retreat of the Red Army units from Estonia, the most hostile to the Soviet regime part of the Estonian male population went on the run, on the one hand - for rendering direct armed support to the approaching German armies, and on the other – to avoid draft to the Red Army. Later, bandit groups were formed from these people, which got the name “The Forest Brothers” which, as it is seen from statement of head of the Estonian "self-management" MJAE, were subsequently organized into “Omakaitse” detachments.

By their organized armed struggle against the Red Army, and especially during the intense period of 1941, “Omakaitse” have deserved full credit from their German patrons - leaders of the occupied Estonia - and were their main armed support during all the time.

“...Those who could give their lives to the struggle for liberation of their people and their native land, tried to hide in forests and bogs...

So a movement arose which today is called “The Forest Brothers.”

...Our “Forest Brothers” had a task: to operate alone, in small groups, without any assistance, completely understanding the conditions, to assist German armies when the front comes closer, to inform them of the military data about the enemy, to save property from destruction and people from murder which will be undertaken by the enemy.

... If we today shall ponder over what was happening, than “The Forest Brothers” were simultaneously the basis and a hastily created organization at the inception of “Omakaitse””.

From MJAE’s speech of July 26, 1942 in Kohila, on the day of the first anniversary of the organization “Omakaitse,” published in a newspaper of July 28, 1942

The practical activities of “The Forest Brothers” included carrying out fights with destructive battalions and small divisions of the Red Army; bandit attacks on separate military men of the Red Army; capture of motor vehicles, arms, ammunition; arrests and executions of Communists and Soviet activists.

Based on the investigation materials, it is established that during the retreat of the Red Army units from Estonia in 1941, “The Forest Brothers” in some Uyezds organized action against divisions of the Red Army and before the arrival of German armies controlled whole settlements, carrying out punishments of Communists and Soviet activists.

The former pastor of the Pärnu Uyezd arrested by us, subsequently commander of an "Omakaitse" battalion EKBAUM Juhan Villemovich, B 1912, native of the Viljandi Uyezd, higher education - a Tartu university graduate, evidenced the following about activities of "The Forest Brothers" on interrogation of October 22 of this year:

"In June, 1941, in the beginning of the war of the Soviet Union with the fascist Germany, I, as well as many other people hostile to the Soviet Union who lived in Estonia, began to hope for victory of the fascist Germany, which we expected to use for establishing old bourgeois order in Estonia by rendering assistance, even an armed one, to German authorities and overthrowing the Soviet authority.

During evacuation of the population from the Pärnu Uyezd, many, including me, did not wish to be evacuated to the rear of the Soviet Union and, intending to use the right moment to overthrow the Soviet local authorities, hid with weapons in the forest.

... Mass evacuation of the population from the Killingi-Nõmme City and from volosts nearby was planned for July 3, 1941. By this time, many of "The Forest Brothers" started to leave the woods and make arrests of local Soviet leaders and activists.

I personally decided that the right moment came to organize mutiny and overthrow the Soviet authority. To do this, I, taking a car from the Killingi-Nõmme factory, went to the Taali Volost where, as I heard, authority had already been seized by "The Forest Brothers."

As I arrived at the Executive Committee of the Taali Volost, I met heads of the "Metsa-Venad" - VIRKUS, KARBUS and RATSEP to whom I ordered to pass the authority to the former foreman of the volost, to hang out the old flags that had been used at the Estonian bourgeois republic, thus declaring that the old bourgeois authority is established in the volost...

Besides, I gave the order to arrest Communists, representatives of the Soviet authority and Soviet activists."

By evidence of the accused EKBAUM J.V., former owner of a factory, subsequently commander of "Omakaitse" JUGASAAR Herman Villemovich, B 1905, native of the Pärnu Uyezd, of the Sarde Volost, finished a grammar school, took active part in the organization of counter-revolutionary insurrection in a number of volosts of the Pärnu Uyezd in 1941 and in punishments of the Soviet people.

By the accepted measures of search, JUGASAAR H.V. was detained and arrested. On interrogations, JUGASAAR evidenced that he, being in criminal connection with pastor EKBAUM J.V., was the organizer of the counter-revolutionary insurrection in a number of volosts of the Pärnu Uyezd.

The group that he raised from up to 100 people from the "Metsa-Venad" arrested and shot on his instruction 50 Communists and other Soviet activists in the Tihumetsa and Taali Volosts.

Besides, the group participated in fights against the destructive battalion of the Red Army.

Measures of search are taken concerning other active participants of the counter-revolutionary insurrection.

Also, a typical example of irreconcilable animosity of the organization “Omakaitse” to the Soviet regime is evidence of an “Omakaitse” member detained by us who was member of Estonian parliament and subsequently deputy of the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR - UUSTALU Jury Mihkelevich, B 1889, native of the Kause Village, of the Massu Volost of the Läänemaa, who testified the following on interrogation.

“... The tasks that members of the “Omakaitse” faced were well known to me, and I have therefore entered it quite deliberately...”

... I never considered myself a Deputy of the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR. I was thinking about it for a long time and was even going to write an application to the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR requesting to exempt me from the work of the deputy and to exclude me from the lists...”

(Detailed special report attached separately.)

From separate issues of the “Postimees” available to us and the “Revolt in Tartu” article published therein by Captain of the Estonian bourgeois army TOLPAK, subsequently chief of the “Omakaitse” Uyezd group, it is clear that a similar fact of armed action also took place in Tartu. From TOLPAK’s articles, one can see a rather characteristic fact that even before the beginning of the Great Patriotic War, an underground conspiratorial armed organization already existed in Tartu, and was preparing an armed act against the young Soviet authority in Estonia.

(Information on TOLPAK’s article “Revolt in Tartu” is a separate appendix.)

After Estonia was occupied by German armies, the organization “Omakaitse” was used basically as an armed force for protecting the rear of the German army, carrying out punitive dispatches against Soviet partisans; capturing Soviet scouts, Red army soldiers that tried to escape encirclement and POWs that ran away from camps; guarding concentration camps and prisons; and patrolling cities, villages, and communications facilities.

The “Omakaitse” activity during the period of the German occupation of Estonia presents a picture of methodical and ruthless destruction of the Soviet-party active, partisans and Soviet parachuters-scouts, unrestrained violence against and abuse of the above stated persons, which created heavy conditions for underground antifascist activity and partisan movement in Estonia.

The arrested former head of “Omakaitse” of the Kalliste City, later commander of a company - Lieutenant of the German Army TJATTE Rihard Gustavovich, B 1920, Estonian, during occupation of Estonia by the Germans

actively fought against the Soviet party active, Soviet parachuters and persons who sympathized to the Soviet authority.

In the end of July 1941, TJATTE with a group of seven people from the “Omakaitse” detained chairman of the Kalliste City Council FEKLISTOV Markel on whom they inflicted reprisals. After beating FEKLISTOV, they tore his nose with iron hooks and shot his shoulder. On the second day, he was buried, still alive.

Besides, he beat the peaceful city residents, people sympathizing the Soviet authority, arrested and sent them to a concentration camp. In the winter of 1943, he detained during a search three Soviet parachuters and shot them on the spot.

It is determined by witnesses' testimonies that in 1941, there was a counterrevolutionary gangster group in the Tartumaa Uyezd consisting of 17 “Omakaitse” members headed by policeman MICKSON.

MICKSON's group committed atrocities and punishments of the Soviet activists. This group shot up to 35 Communists and representatives of the Soviet authority, for example: Chairman of the Volost Executive Committee SIRGE Edward, his wife SIRGE Elvina, Vice President of the Volost Executive Committee LAAN Axel, Communist Party Secretary of the Volost RJATSEP Oswald, manager MAJSTE Charles, representative of the procurement committee TOTE, etc. (Special report is presented to you at #323534 of October 4, 1944.)

Arrested Senior Lieutenant MURRE Arnold, B 1915, native of Kehla Village, Harjumaa Uyezd, in 1941, was member of the “Omakaitse” group headed by Captain TOLPAK, participated in fights against the Red Army. Later, until 1943, was commander of a company of a punitive group that operated in the area Narva - Kingisepp - Veimarn.

MURRE with his company arrested more than a hundred partisans, most of them were shot.

Arrested head of the rural organization “Omakaitse” - TINNISTE Ejno Avgustovich, B 1909, resident of the Kjukita Village, of the Tartu Uyezd, in the autumn of 1941 with an “Omakaitse” group shot citizen KULAKOV Nikolay and his two sons who served in the Red Army.

Then he shot seven other people from the Soviet activists. TINNISTE personally shot a Captain of the Red Army detained in the forest, organized raids on partisans, burned down constructions of Communists, appropriating their property.

Arrested member of the “Omakaitse” PJARTELTEGA Martin Antonovich, B 1911, native of the Roja Village, Tartumaa Uyezd, Karbe Volost. Was lately serving in the German Army. On interrogation testified that in October 1941, together with other members of “Omakaitse,” he arrested 8 Communists - residents of villages Kineta and Raimi, whom they later shot on the Chudskoe Lake.

Members of “Omakaitse” on the Sääremaa Island (Ezel) continued excesses and abuse of the Soviet people until recently.

Despite the arrival of the Red Army units to Estonia and its liberation of invaders, members of “Omakaitse” continue to store weapons, ammunition, and explosives - in various quantities.

The arrested commander of an “Omakaitse” company LIND Jak Karlovich, B 1902, since 1941 to the arrival of Red Army units to Estonia, was member of the organization “Omakaitse,” actively struggled against Soviet scouts, Soviet and Communist Party activists.

At LINDA’s arrest, two 50 mm mortars with 100 shells to it, 2 rifles, 3 spare barrels to a heavy machine gun and up to 1, 000 rifle cartridges were arrested.

Department of “SMERSH” of the 8th Army arrested commander of an “Omakaitse” branch - MIKK Elmap Reingoldovich who testified that in 1941, he participated in a fight in Killingi-Nõmme against the Soviet destructive battalion and committed atrocities against Soviet activists in Taali.

At the search of MIKKA’s house, 2 rifles, a PPS submachine gun, an automatic pistol and 5 kg Tonite were arrested.

Arrested commander of an “Omakaitse” platoon KIMASCK R.E. had a rifle, manual grenades and cartridges during his arrest. On interrogations, he attested that before the retreat of the German armies from Estonia, Lieutenant RAJGL, commander of the company, gave [his personnel] instruction to keep weapons in case of revolt in the rear of the Soviet armies.

We have established that until this day, the supervising and command structure of the organization “Omakaitse,” ordinary members of punitive expeditions and others still continue to hide in various places: on farms far from cities, in sheds, large forests, etc. Some of them try to get legalized under fraudulent documents, under fictitious last names, to get into cities to work in Soviet establishments and enterprises, part of them aspires to get in the Red Army.

The above-stated and particular facts of murder of Red Army military men and action of small bandit groups in the areas of large forests that continue until today, give sufficient grounds to conclude that a significant part of the “Omakaitse” organization members went underground with the arrival of Soviet armies to Estonia, with the direct task from the management to carry out rebellious-terrorist and diversionary activity in the rear of the Red Army.

The “Omakaitse” organization was used by the Germans as a base for recruitment for espionage and diversionary activities in the rear of the Soviet Army.

Entire groups for training at espionage and diversionary schools of the opponent comprised “Omakaitse” members:

“Omakaitse” platoon commander arrested by us, subsequently head of group at the espionage-diversionary school in the Ulbrok region – ROOTS, evidenced on interrogation of October 17 of this year that he, on orders of the German intelligence and assisted by commander of the Estonian frontier regiment VASKA, selected 39

men for the “Abver-Command” #204, mainly from members of “Omakaitse” whom he dispatched to a diversionary school in the Ulbrok region.

After end of studies at the diversionary school, ROOTS’s group prepared for a landing operation in the rear of the Soviet armies with a diversionary task.

The “SMERSH” department of the 13th Air Army detained and arrested the German scout-saboteur KOLK Lembit Oswaldovich who, being an “Omakaitse” member, was enlisted in the espionage-diversionary school in the Ulbrok region.

After completing training at the diversionary school, KOLK with 4 other “Omakaitse” agents was delivered from the Riga aerodrome to the Soviet rear for performing acts of sabotage and gathering espionage data.

When KOLK was arrested, the following items were seized: an explosive, mines, various "surprise devices," and manual grenades.

KOLK and the arrested persons attested that up to 30 other people, most of them “Omakaitse” members, were preparing for espionage and diversionary activity in the rear of the Red Army.

It has been determined in the case that the central supervising body of the organization “Omakaitse” was the General Staff in Tallinn, at 1 Pagarn Street. In the beginning, the latter was subordinated to the directorate of internal affairs, and subsequently to the German command.

The chief of the “Omakaitse” Uyezd group, directly subordinated to the General Staff, was in charge of 4-9 battalions of the company structure (3-4 companies in each battalion), 100 people in each company.

Most of the battalion soldiers lived domiciliary. Some of the battalions – in cities, some of the companies - in barracks in the countryside.

The structure of Uyezd staffs was similar to that of the General Staff. Both had various departments: operative, administrative, economic, and services: communications, engineering, and chemical.

The arrested former chief of the administrative department of the Tallinn “Omakaitse” KOMMUSAAR Otto Janovich testified that management of the General Staff was carried out by director - Lieutenant Colonel REJSAAR, a former officer of the bourgeois Estonian army.

During the period before the arrival of the Red Army, director of the “Omakaitse” General staff was Colonel SINKA, B 1897, native of the Kaisma Volost, Pärnumaa Uyezd. In 1916, SINKA finished the Gatchina School of Ensigns and in 1929 - the Finnish Military Academy. In the Estonian bourgeois army, he was chief of the espionage branch of the Joint Staff.

Deputy Director of the General Staff Lieutenant Colonel GUTMAN was also a former officer of the Estonian army.

The task of the operation department of the General Staff headed by captain SAIDRA was developing plans and managing combat training.

The administrative department (chief of the department was Lieutenant Colonel KALBERG Teodor) managed staff accounting, reception and dismissal of organization's new members.

The economic department (chief of the department was Lieutenant Colonel HIJNO Paul) prosecuted matters of organization's maintenance, in particular, concerning conditions of divisions in barracks, their dining, regimentals, and other kinds of allowances.

Evidence of chief of the engineering service of the "Omakaitse" Uyezd Staff arrested by us in Rakvere - MAJDRE Heino Danilovich, B 1914, native of Tartu, supports the presence of a counterespionage service in the organization "Omakaitse."

On this issue MAJDRE evidenced:

"The operational section of the staff consisted of two parts headed by assistants of chiefs of operational department and counterespionage service.

In the organization "Omakaitse" of the Rakvere City, assistant chief of the operational section for counterespionage was Lieutenant LINDJARV Harald...

LINDJARV was formally subordinated to the command of the "Omakaitse" Uyezd organization, but actually submitted to the "Abver" espionage body in Tallinn.

LINDJARV had his agency both among the members of the organization "Omakaitse" and the population and acted through commanders of battalions and companies who were residents.

Through his agency LINDJARV revealed anti-fascist persons, locations of partisans, Soviet paratroopers, scouts, and gave instructions on organization of encirclements. LINDJARV personally interrogated detained persons and then submitted them to German espionage and counterespionage bodies...

Besides "Abvera," LINDJARV also had connections with the GFP in Rakvere, with the department of "safety divisions" in Tartu and with the espionage body "Frontaufklärungstruppe," deployed in the Kadila Village of the Rakvere Volost."

MAJDRE's evidence about the presence of a counterespionage service in "Omakaitse" is supported by evidence of an arrested agent of counterespionage - commander of an "Omakaitse" platoon EUN Otto Alredovich.

Admission in the "Omakaitse" organization was first carried out on exclusively voluntary grounds during the first period, later switching to the draft civilians.

Everyone entering the "Omakaitse" organization filled out a questionnaire sent to the administrative department of the staff. Concerning the enlisted personnel, the final decision on admission was taken by the chief of group, concerning officers – by the director of the General Staff.

Every accepted member of the organization wrote an obligation of fidelity to the organization.

Supplies of the "Omakaitse" organization with weapons were maintained by the German military command.

Besides the general mobilization to the German Army in Estonia since July 1944, part of staff of the "Omakaitse" organization was drafted and used in fights against the Red Army.

Because of the deterioration of the German Army's military situation on the Soviet-German front and the forced retreat of German armies in the Baltic region, desertion of Estonians from the German Army steeply increased. Besides, many people evaded mobilization, hiding in the woods.

To boost the fight against desertion and evading the German draft, to complement the use of "Omakaitse" in this area, the German command created the so-called "hunting teams" from Estonian youth most hostile to the Soviet regime, and from some "Omakaitse" members.

On the tasks and purposes of "the hunting teams," arrested former commander of an "Omakaitse" battalion EKBAUM Juhan Villemovich evidenced on interrogation of 13.10.44:

"..." The hunting teams" performed encirclements and caught Soviet activists, parachuters, partisans, deserters from the German Army and then passed them on to the German commandant's office to which "the hunting teams" directly submitted to."

The "hunting teams" were, as a rule, supervised by an "Omakaitse" member from the administrative board.

All persons who were accused of desertion and evasion from the draft to the German army were subjected to the Special court martial created on order of the head of the Estonian "self-management" MJAE of October 27, 1943.

From testimonies of arrested "Omakaitse" members, materials and official documents seized from the opponent, a lot of the "Omakaitse" administrative board members were revealed; concerning them measures of search were taken.

We continue the search and detainment of mainly the supervising and command staff of the "Omakaitse" organization.

We also inform the bodies of the People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs and the NKGB of these and other persons revealed by the investigation and based on other materials.

Since 1941, the "Omakaitse" organization has demonstrated outright and exclusive animosity to the Soviet regime.

The presence of many still-hiding activists of this organization in Estonia, which has temporarily stopped organized activity only because the situation adversely changed, however, not giving it up entirely and hoping to resume it as soon

as the chance arises, is undoubtedly a real force for armed attacks against the Red Army and the Soviet authority.

Based on the stated, I believe it necessary for bodies of the NKGB and People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs to eliminate the organization "Omakaitse" by arresting its active part and its administrative exile from the Estonian SSR.

*Head of "SMERSH" Counterespionage Department of the Leningrad Front – General-Lieutenant
/BISTROV/*

The Central Archive of FSB of Russia. Fund 100. List 11. File 4. Pages 75-90.
Original. Typescript.

DOCUMENT 51

Report on Results of Investigatory Actions of NKGB ESSR for the Period September 25-October 31, 1944

Bodies of NKGB ESSR have revealed and are eliminating the military-fascist organization "Omakaitse" ("Self-Defense") that existed at the German occupation.

Documentary materials and evidence of arrested persons show that, from the beginning of the Soviet-German war, the majority of the anti-Soviet element in Estonia, mainly former members of the fascist and military-fascist organizations ("Kaiseliit", "Vabs", "Isamaaliit"), formed armed gangs called "The Forest Brothers," attacking small Red Army units and terrorizing local Soviet and Communist Party actives. Gangs of "The Forest Brothers" that were in immediate proximity to the front performed acts of sabotage: undermined bridges, cut off communication lines, and gathered prospect data for the Germans. These gangs were headed by reactionary officers of the former Estonian army - Colonel MAJDE, Colonel KERN, Lieutenant Colonel TILGRE and Major LILELEHT (he has not been located).

Since the first days of occupation by German armies of the Estonian SSR, a military-fascist organization which accepted the name "Omakaitse" ("Self-Defense") generated from these gangs.

First isolated, these organizations were incorporated in September 1941 in a centralized organization headed by the general staff, on a special order of German General RAITA fon FRENZ, and then German General, Commissioner in Estonia LITZMAN.

In the beginning, chief of the "Omakaitse" General Staff was Lieutenant Colonel REJSAAR, then Colonel SINKA who at the same time was chief of the Estonian police and assistant director of internal affairs of Estonia for "Omakaitse" affairs (ran with Germans). Uyezd "Omakaitse" organizations were subordinated to the General Staff and headed by special chiefs who were also assistant prefects of the uyezd police for "Omakaitse." The uyezd organizations, in turn, were subdivided into battalions, companies, and platoons whose number was determined depending on the territorial size of an uyezd.

First, all the police and civil authority in Estonia occupied by the Germans was carried out by the "Omakaitse" organizations who directed all activities of revealing, arresting and punishing Soviet patriots and other persons who had received some land during the Soviet regime.

Subsequently, the activity of "Omakaitse" was extended to the protection of important military objects, regular encirclements of Soviet paratroopers, partisans,

Red Army personnel and officers, and catches of hiding Soviet and Communist Party activists.

In their activities, members of “Omakaitse” displayed exclusive cruelty towards arrested persons; some of the latter were shot on the spot.

According to provisional data, bodies of the NKGB ESSR arrested a total of over 150 persons, mainly the command staff of “Omakaitse.”

From the closed case on “Omakaitse” members, the following deserve attention:

The NKGB department of the Läänemaa Uyezd arrested a group of 10 “Omakaitse” activists, including:

VIIPSI F.H., B 1918, Estonian, son of an officer who left for Germany in 1941, before occupation and at the time of arrest - accountant at a motor depot, served in “Omakaitse” during the German occupation.

MJAEUMBAED V.V., B 1915, Estonian, before occupation and at the time of arrest - bookkeeper of a power station, served in “Omakaitse” during the occupation.

GRISHIN E.P., B 1918, Estonian, before occupation, served in the Red Army, surrendered to the Germans, served in “Omakaitse” during the occupation. Before the arrest, worked as a repairman in a communications office.

SIERT K.I., B 1901, Estonian, before occupation, during occupation and at the time of arrest worked as a carpenter.

KIUTS A.J, B 1918, Estonian, before occupation and at the time of arrest worked as a switchman at the Haapsalu railway station.

It is established that the specified persons voluntarily entered the “Omakaitse” and took regular part in round-ups of Soviet patriots and in executions of the Soviet people.

According to testimonies of the arrested KIUTS, SIERT, VIIPSI, MJAEUMBAED and GRISHIN, they participated in mass executions of persons suspected by the German authorities of being members of the Communist Party. They shot a total of over 100 people.

Arrested MJAEUMBAED evidenced:

“In the beginning of October 1941, I together with VIIPSI, SIERT and others carried 15 prisoners to execution in enclosed motor vehicles. While the first party was being shot, the second was brought, also consisting of 15 people.

Similar testimonies were given by the other detainees. The investigation proceeds.

The Järvamaa Uyezd NKGB department arrested a group of 5 activists of the organization “Omakaitse,” including:

LINK F.J., B 1924, Estonian, worked as head of a fire-fighting crew in Paide before the occupation, served in the German Army under the Germans, at the time of arrest - without a certain employment.

KAPARIN R.J., B 1902, Estonian, worked as a land surveyor before the occupation, served in a police battalion under the Germans, at the time of arrest - without any certain employment.

HIRVE J.A., B 1892, Estonian, before occupation, during the occupation, and at the time of arrest worked in agriculture.

JÄRVE A.G., B 1909, Estonian, before occupation, during the occupation, and at the time of arrest worked on his farm.

It is established that these prisoners voluntarily entered the military-fascist organization "Omakaitse" and actively participated in detention and execution of the Soviet people since the Järvamaa Uyezd was occupied.

Prisoner LINK, according to his testimonies, repeatedly participated in executions of Soviet activists, and in September 1941, together with three other "Omakaitse" members, shot 16 people.

Prisoner KAPARIN participated in execution of 4 Red Army men.

Prisoner HIRVE testified that he shot 3 persons.

Prisoner JÄRVE also participated in execution of partisans and Red Army POWs, abused prisoners and shot them "at an attempt of flight."

The investigation proceeds.

The Viljandimaa Uyezd NKGB department has arrested 17 active "Omakaitse" members, including:

RITSON A.H., B 1902 p., Estonian, from peasants-kulaks, permanently worked on a farm.

ROOSI G.I., B 1902, Estonian, before occupation, during the occupation and at the time of arrest worked as a forester.

ANIMJAGI, B 1894, Estonian, before occupation and at the time of arrest, worked on his farm, during the occupation – as a volost foreman and commander of an "Omakaitse" group. Was rewarded with a Germans cross of the second degree.

POORCK O.A., B 1902, Estonian, before the occupation, worked on his farm, under the Germans served in the German Army, at the time of arrest was on the run.

ELTERMAN O.O., B 1898, before the occupation, worked in agriculture, during the occupation, served in "Omakaitse," at the time of arrest - without any certain employment.

It is established that the specified persons from the very beginning of occupation of the Viljandimaa Uyezd, took active part in formation of "Omakaitse"

groups, catching and murdering Soviet people, for which some of them were rewarded with German military awards.

ELTERMAN testified that, while being a member of “Omakaitse,” he guarded a camp where Red Army POWs were contained. He also personally shot 2 Red Army men, for they got onto a tree to get some apples. Another time, ELTERMAN killed a Red Army man who had been already wounded by another sentry, with a stone. For treacherous work ELTERMAN received monetary compensation of 150 DM.

RITSON testified that he was member of “Omakaitse” from the beginning of the German occupation of the Viljandimaa territory until the day of its liberation by the Red Army and all this time actively participated in round-ups of partisans and Soviet parachuters. In September 1944, during one of the round-ups, RITSON burned a shed in which there were Soviet partisans, opening gunfire on the shed. All of the partisans inside the shed were burnt alive.

ANIMJAGI in the first days of the German occupation generated on orders of German political police an “Omakaitse” group comprising 180 people, which was headed by him. For the active help to the Germans in catching Soviet partisans and patriots he was rewarded with a second degree cross.

Prisoner ROOSI was commander of the “Omakaitse” department and participated in executions of Soviet citizens. In March 1944, he detained and shot a Red Army man who ran from a German camp. Before, he during a round-up personally killed two partisans; three were taken in captivity.

The investigation proceeds.

The Harjumaa Uyezd NKGB department arrested a group of 9 “Omakaitse” activists, including:

KILU E.J., B 1911, Estonian, before occupation and at the time of arrest worked on his farm, under the Germans served in “Omakaitse” as commander of a platoon.

JÄRVE H.M., B 1914, Estonian, before occupation, during it, and at the time of arrest, worked on his farm.

KALJUVEE I.J., B 1909, Estonian, before occupation worked in agriculture, during occupation served in “Omakaitse”, during the moment of arrest - a Red Army man of Estonian national corps.

The investigation established that all of the arrested persons on the present case actively participated in capturing and executing Soviet people.

Prisoner JÄRVE from the beginning of the German occupation voluntarily entered “Omakaitse” and, being commander of a branch, guarded railway bridges and confined Soviet citizens. JÄRVE regularly escorted POWs and political prisoners to the place of execution, took part in their execution and buried their corpses.

KILU was member of the military-fascist organization “Kaiseliit” in the past, voluntarily joined “Omakaitse” as commander of a platoon and personally supervised round-ups of Soviet POWs, partisans, and parachuters. KILU personally killed three parachuters and detained two Red Army men.

KALJUVEE voluntarily joined “Omakaitse” and as he showed zeal, he was directed to a special German school of “hunting teams” which was preparing the staff for organizing search and captures of Soviet patriots. Under direction of KALJUVEE and with his personal participation, 20 Soviet partisans were detained, some of whom were shot on the spot.

The investigation proceeds.

NKGB ESSR arrested 38 “Omakaitse” activists, including:

LIBELE A.A., B 1915, Estonian, before the German occupation and at the time of arrest, worked as an electrical engineer, under the Germans, served in “Omakaitse.”

KARLOVICH M.A., B 1878, Russian, emigrant, before the occupation and at the time of arrest had no certain employment.

TJAHNAS E.I., B 1903, Estonian, before the occupation and at the time of arrest, worked on his farm, during the occupation, served in “Omakaitse”.

HIESTE I.G., B 1914, Estonian, before the occupation and at the time of arrest – a telephone switchboard operator, under the Germans – chief of a restaurant security.

LJALJAJANE J.P., B 1900, Estonian, before the occupation and at the time of arrest, was engaged in agriculture, under the Germans, served as assistant commander of a platoon in “Omakaitse.”

SAAR J.A., 1899, Estonian, before the occupation and at the time of arrest, worked on his farm, under the Germans, served in “Omakaitse.”

All of the arrested persons in the case were “Omakaitse” activists, part of them held command posts and supervised operations of search, detainment, and execution of the Soviet people.

Prisoner HIESTE, being commander of an “Omakaitse” platoon, took from the central prison to the place of execution and personally participated in execution of 250 Soviet citizens.

Prisoner LIBELE, in the past, was member of the military-fascist organization “Kaiseliit,” voluntarily joined “Omakaitse” and convoyed Russian POWs. In March 1944, personally shot some POWs.

Prisoner KARLOVICH, in 1941-1942, personally detained and submitted over 50 Soviet partisans to the Germans. Some of the former were shot. KARLOVICH received money and clothes as a reward for his treason from the Germans.

Prisoner TJAHNAS, being commander of an “Omakaitse” platoon, headed operations of catching the hiding Soviet people. In 1942, he personally shot a Red Army POW who was working as a slave on his farm.

Prisoner LJALJAJANE, being assistant commander of a platoon, together with the police and German soldiers participated in arrests of persons who evaded German mobilization. As the Red Army units approached the city of Haapsalu, LJALJAJANE tried to explode a bridge on highway Tallinn - Haapsalu, and to mobilize “Omakaitse” members for armed resistance to approaching Red Army units.

Prisoner SAAR voluntarily entered “Omakaitse,” was commander of a platoon and head of the organization's propaganda department, repeatedly made anti-Soviet speeches before the public the Paide Volost. SAAR supervised round-ups of the Soviet people. He killed three partisans and arrested two Estonians who didn't want to serve in the German Army. Simultaneously, SAAR was agent of the German directory of propaganda where he passed materials about political moods among the population.

The investigation proceeds.

The Virumaa Uyezd NKGB department arrested a group of 14 “Omakaitse” activists, including:

MIHAILOV M.V., B 1907, Russian, before the German occupation, was engaged in agriculture, during the occupation, served in “Omakaitse,” at the time of arrest was miner at a slate development in Kohtla-Järve.

AVASALU K.R., B 1909, Estonian, from peasants-kulaks, before the occupation and at the time of arrest, worked on a farm.

UUTAM K.A., B 1905, Estonian, from kulaks, before the occupation and at the time of arrest worked on his farm.

REINUMAA A.J., B 1913, Estonian, before the occupation and at the time of arrest, worked in a forestry as a chief of branch.

It is established that persons arrested in this case, including the listed above, were actively searching for and arresting Soviet people, severely abused prisoners and participated in executions of some of them.

Prisoner REINUMAA, former member of the fascist organization “Kaiseliit,” in August 1942, personally organized an “Omakaitse” group of 400 members, in which the German command appointed him a chief. REINUMAA regularly carried out round-ups and detentions of Soviet people whom he submitted to the Germans. He shot some of the arrested persons. For the active help to the Germans, REINUMAA was awarded with a cross.

Prisoners UUTAM and AVASALU, being commanders of platoons, regularly participated in arrests, beating, and executions of Communists and Red Army men detained by their platoons.

Prisoner MIHAILOV voluntarily entered “Omakaitse” and participated in an operation against a group of 20 Red Army men, killing 2 of them; 14 were taken prisoners.

Subsequently, MIHAILOV personally detained 7 POWs that ran from a camp. One of them was shot and others were submitted to the German authorities.

Working as a security guard in a POW camp, MIHAILOV betrayed to the Germans three Red Army men who had been preparing a flight; therefore, the POWs were arrested and shot.

The investigation proceeds.

National Commissioner of the State Security of the Estonian SSR

Central Archive of FSB of the Russian Federation.
Fund 100. List 11. File 4. Pages 94-102. Original. Typescript.

INTRODUCTION	3
DOCUMENT 1	6
<p>Transcript of interrogation of Juhanes-Oswald Rahumeel, member of Omakaitse who participated in extermination of Jews in Belarus and repression against civilian population and prisoners of war in Estonia</p>	
DOCUMENT 2	10
<p>Transcript of interrogation of Rudolf Mjæorga who participated in atrocities in Belarus as member of the 36th Estonian Police Battalion</p>	
DOCUMENT 3	12
<p>Transcript of interrogation of Everhard Michelson who participated in punitive actions of the 36-th Estonian Police Battalion in Belarus</p>	
DOCUMENT 4	16
<p>Transcript of interrogation of Alexander Kuuzika who participated in punitive operations of the 40th Estonian Police Battalion in Pskov, Leningrad, and Kalinin Regions and other regions of Russia</p>	
DOCUMENT 5	22
<p>Transcript of interrogation of a legionary of the 20th Estonian Waffen SS division Vjaino Vizu who participated in the war crimes of the fascist organization Omakaitse, of the 33rd and the 287th Police Battalions</p>	
DOCUMENT 6	28
<p>Report of survey of the Klooga concentration camp held by the Office of Public Prosecutor of the Estonian SSR</p>	
DOCUMENT 7	30
<p>Report on seizure of a card index in the office of the Klooga concentration camp containing statistical data about 2,330 prisoners</p>	
DOCUMENT 8	32
<p>Report about atrocities of Nazis and their Estonian accomplices against prisoners of the Klooga concentration camp</p>	
DOCUMENT 9	36
<p>Concluding remarks of Deputy Public Prosecutor of the Estonian SSR on materials of investigation of mass executions of prisoners and destruction of their bodies in Klooga concentration camp (Harjumaa Uyezd)</p>	

DOCUMENT 10	45
ranscript of interrogation of Estonian policeman August Sinapulu who participated in the guarding of Klooga concentration camp and abuse of prisoners	
DOCUMENT 11	49
Transcript of interrogation of witness Nejsaha Ruvanovich, prisoner of Klooga Concentration Camp	
DOCUMENT 12	51
Transcript of interrogation of Estonian policeman August SINIPALU who participated in abuse of prisoners at Klooga Concentration Camp	
DOCUMENT 13	54
Report of witness Liiza Berchin, prisoner at Klooga Concentration Camp	
DOCUMENT 14	58
Transcript of interrogation of witness Ljubov Shapiro (Klooga Concentration Camp)	
DOCUMENT 15	60
Transcript of interrogation of prisoner of Klooga Concentration Camp Mendel Balberinski	
DOCUMENT 16	64
Reference for the Case of Investigation of Atrocities Committed by the Nazi Germans in the Territory of the VIRUMAA Uyezd of the Estonian SSR	
DOCUMENT 17	68
List of German and Estonian military criminals in charge of punitive actions in the Virumaa Uyezd during the period of Nazi occupation	
DOCUMENT 18	70
Act on atrocities of Hitlerites and their accomplices in the Võrumaa Uyezd	
DOCUMENT 19	72
Reference of Military Office of Public Prosecutor on Facts of Atrocities of the Fascist Invaders and their Accomplices in the Estonian SSR	
DOCUMENT 20	75
Transcript of interrogation of Võru prison medical assistant Elmar Palm	

DOCUMENT 21	77
Transcript of interrogation of Charles Metz, supervisor of the Võru prison in 1927-1940 and 1941-1944	
DOCUMENT 22	80
Evidence of Vidrick PARGME, supervisor of the Võru prison	
DOCUMENT 23	83
Transcript of interrogation of witness Maria Pakkas on execution of Estonian political prisoners in the Klodi Village of the Rakvere Volost of the Virumaa Uyezd in October, 1941	
DOCUMENT 24	85
Transcript of interrogation of witness Charles Kittara on execution of Estonian political prisoners by fascist invaders in 1941 in the Klodi Village of the Rakvere Volost of the Virumaa Uyezd	
DOCUMENT 25	87
Act of the Committee for Investigation of Atrocities of Nazi Invaders and Their Accomplices in the Virumaa Uyezd	
DOCUMENT 26	89
Transcript of interrogation of witness Juhanes Kingo on executions of Soviet prisoners of war and civilians in the Kiviõli City of the Virumaa Uyezd during the period of Nazi occupation of the Estonian SSR	
DOCUMENT 27	90
Act on atrocities of fascist aggressors in the Kiviõli settlement, Virumaa Uyezd	
DOCUMENT 28	91
Transcript of interrogation of witness Lavrenteva B.N. on atrocities of Nazis and their accomplices in the Triangle concentration camp, Virumaa Uyezd	
DOCUMENT 29	93
Transcript of interrogation of Doctor Lavrova L.P. who examined convicts of the Tallinn Prison 1 after its liberation from fascist aggressors	
DOCUMENT 30	94
Transcript of interrogation of Red Army POW Nikulin N.S.	

DOCUMENT 31	97
Transcript of interrogation of witness Alexander Siberg about conditions in Prison 1 of the Tallinn City	
DOCUMENT 32	99
Transcript of interrogation of witness Alida Bernadt on executions by Germans and Omakaitse activists of peaceful citizens at the Metskalmitsu cemetery near Tallinn	
DOCUMENT 33	102
Concluding remarks of the Military Office of Public Prosecutor of the 77th division of air defense of the Leningrad front about the villainies of fascist invaders and their accomplices in the Tallinn forest cemetery	
DOCUMENT 34	106
Act on atrocities of fascist invaders in the Läänemaa Uyezd of the Estonian SSR	
DOCUMENT 35	108
List of shot political prisoners of Haapsalu prisons, according to reviewer of External department of Estonian Political Polic	
DOCUMENT 36	111
Extract from transcript of interrogation of supervisor of Haapsalu Prison Ferdinand Kuuzemets	
DOCUMENT 37	112
Extract from transcript of interrogation of supervisor of Haapsalu prison Juhannes Vajkjull	
DOCUMENT 38	113
Extract from transcript of interrogation of witness Juri Norkroos on executions of political prisoners at Haapsalu prison in 1941-1942	
DOCUMENT 39	115
Act of Committee for the Investigation of Atrocities of Nazi Invaders in the Viljandimaa Uyezd	
DOCUMENT 40	117
Report 91 of Leningrad Front “On Atrocities of German and Estonian Hitlerites against Soviet POWs and Civilians in Estonia”	

DOCUMENT 41	131
Extract from Report 94 of the Leningrad Front “On atrocities of German and Estonian Hitlerites against Soviet POWs and Civilians in Estonia”	
DOCUMENT 42	133
Statement of Hugo Tamm to the Special State Commission on the Investigation of Atrocities of German Nazi Aggressors in the Estonian SSR on mass executions of Soviet prisoners of war in the Kiviõli area	
DOCUMENT 43	134
Transcript of interrogation of witness Gildegarda Koze about reprisals of Nazi accomplices in Kiviõli in 1941	
DOCUMENT 44	136
Act of investigation of atrocities of fascist aggressors and their accomplices in Tartumaa Uyezd	
DOCUMENT 45	138
Act on atrocities and mass executions in Tartu concentration camp and in and around the anti-tank ditch in Tartu vicinity	
DOCUMENT 46	144
Testimony of Senior Lecturer of Tartu State University of the Estonian SSR Valmar Adams on actions of fascist aggressors in summer and autumn of 1941 in the Tartu City	
DOCUMENT 47	146
Testimony of Juhan Lang, victim of the Nazi occupation of the Estonian SSR	
DOCUMENT 48	148
List of persons shot by fascist criminals in Pärnumaa Uyezd of the ESSR	
DOCUMENT 49	151
Excerpt from Report on Results of Investigatory Action of the NKGB of the ESSR for the Period September 25-October 31, 1944	
DOCUMENT 50	153
Report of Head of “SMERSH” Counterespionage Department of the Leningrad Front on the Estonian fascist organization “Omakaitse”	
DOCUMENT 51	163
Report on Results of Investigatory Actions of NKGB ESSR for the Period September 25-October 31, 1944	

