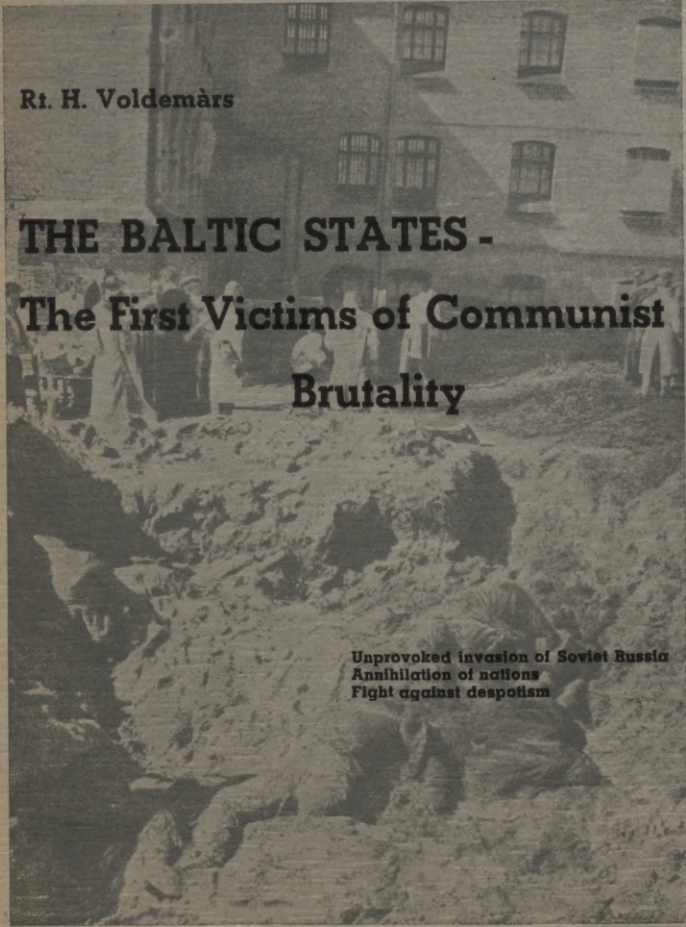


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Rt. H. Voldemàrs



**THE BALTIC STATES -  
The First Victims of Communist  
Brutality**

Unprovoked invasion of Soviet Russia  
Annihilation of nations  
Fight against despotism

„MAZAIS LATVIS“  
VALKĀ

53

B, yw

Cordial thanks to all co-workers for the supply, filing, and compilation, especially to the gentlemen Rt. Umberts, Km. V., Cl., J., B. A., who have been working self-denyingly for making these lines explain the real circumstances even to those who have not been informed so far.

**Rt. V.**

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11480

SIRAKUZU UN APKARTNES

LATVIESU BIEDRIBA

Rt. H. Voldemars

*Euska Beka*

yw  
9

# THE BALTIC STATES - The First Victims of Communist Brutality.

All the facts stated in this pamphlet are absolutely true and can be proved by documents.

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# Latvia

Latvia is the greatest of the three Baltic countries. In 1939, its population numbered 2,001,900, 75,5 per cent of whom were Latvians, 10,6 per cent Russians, 4,8 per cent Jews, and 3,2 per cent Germans. According to their religion 56,5 per cent of them were Protestants, 24,5 per cent Roman Catholics, and 9,0 per cent Orthodox. The Latvians speak their own language, which is a branch of the Baltic group of the Indo-European family of languages. It is closely related to the Lithuanian language.

The people of Latvia are hard-working and democratic. Having inhabited their country for centuries, the Latvians always struggled hard to maintain their independence, constantly threatened by either Germany or Russia, the two mighty neighbours ever bent on expansion and conquest. Latvia was often utterly devastated by wars, and its population suffered from incessant strife and invasions. Despite of the policy of assimilation pursued by both the Germans and the Russians, the Latvians managed to survive as a well-defined national entity.

Latvia became an independent state after World War I, supported effectively by the United States, Great Britain, and France. Through twenty-two years of political independence the Latvian people sufficiently proved their ability to exist as a free nation. Relations with the Soviet Union were regulated by several treaties, by which the Soviet government solemnly promised to respect the integrity and independence of Latvia.

But in 1939, the Soviet Union, with the knowledge and co-operation of Hitler's Germany, established Military Stations in Latvia as well as in the two other Baltic States. During the negotiations in the Kremlin with the Latvian Foreign Minister, on October 2, 1939, Stalin declared that „with regard to the Baltic States our views do not differ from those of Germany“, and „as far as Germany is concerned we could occupy you“. This threat of Stalin was actually realized on June 16, 1940. While the Western democracies were undergoing one of the severest crises in their history, Soviet troops swarmed into all three Baltic States.

The Soviet occupation of Latvia was denounced by both the United States and Great Britain. For the Latvian people the occupation meant the beginning of ruthless oppression and suffering. The Soviet pattern of mass deportations was thoroughly applied to Latvia and at least 34250 Latvians were immediately seized and deported into the interior of the Soviet Union. The NKVD files, left behind during the Soviet retreat in June, 1941, disclosed that the Soviet government intended to deport about 800.000 Latvians, in the first line all members of political parties, all judges,

police and army officers; members of religious societies and clergymen; manufacturers, merchants, landowners, and prosperous peasants.

Banks, factories, buildings, and real estate were „nationalized” i. e. confiscated by the ruling Communist minority, always supported by the Soviet armies. Currencies were devaluated, and all types of values (bank deposits, machinery, raw materials, food stuffs, etc.) were expropriated and taken to the Soviet Union. A „National Assembly”, elected by a group of terroristic Communists, hurriedly proclaimed a Sovietized Latvia to be a member of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

This ruthless Sovietization was supervised by Andrey Vishinsky, later Deputy Foreign Minister of the Soviet Union and Soviet delegate to the UN. General Assembly.

Under such circumstances over 14,000 Latvians sought a haven in Germany as political refugees.

The second act of the Latvian tragedy opened with the outbreak of the German-Soviet war in June 22, 1941. From that date until 1945, the Nazis pursued a policy of racial annihilation of Latvians and their Baltic brothers, the Lithuanians and Estonians. The official German policy toward Latvia was outlined in a book, „Small and Great Nations” by Friedrich Lange (Zentralverlag der NSDAP, Berlin, 1943). On page 89, he wrote:

“... The small Baltic border states of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia feel safe clinging to England's skirts and think they are strong enough to provoke, more or less, the German Government. In all the three countries, but most cruelly and insolently in Latvia, the German language, local as well as German Reich art, and possibilities of existence for Germans were suppressed...”

This passage typifies the German attitude toward the Baltic States. Latvian economy was driven to complete ruin by constant requisitions of the Germans. In 1943 and 1944 the Nazis, under penalty of court martial, forcibly drafted Latvians into their armies, to a total of about 100,000. A similar number were deported to work as slave laborers in Germany. Subsequently a resistance movement sprang up. Many of its participants died in German concentration camps, especially in the Stutthof camp near Danzig.

In 1944, when German resistance on the Eastern Front was breaking down and Soviet troops were approaching the Latvian border, the Nazis issued „evacuation orders”. The people were forced to flee with the German troops. In Riga as well as in other Latvian cities, people ignoring these orders were seized in the streets and in their homes by special Gestapo units, and then brought to the evacuation centers.

Other people, in deathly fear of the Russians, fled westward of their own accord to find refuge under the protection of the Western democracies; part of Latvian youth were mobilized by the Nazis. These people did

not voluntarily serve the Nazis. They either were compelled to fight within the German ranks, or in their own „Latvian Legion”, to which they were forcibly mobilized by the desparate German High Command, only for the fight against Communists, not against the Western democracies.

Thus upon the collapse of Germany there were over 150.000 Latvians in Germany and Austria. This part of the nation met the Western Allies and became the inmates of DP camps, where they are still languishing. Several thousands of them escaped to Denmark and Sweden. Among them are scientists, educational and cultural workers, lawyers, doctors, teachers, clerks, office workers, industrial workers, farmers, contractors, and students.

The rest of the people are “enjoying” the repetition of 1940/41 years' happenings.

Every day there are trains rolling with deported persons to all parts of Russia. The deported are replaced by Soviet citizens, who are even given surnames of the deported Latvian persons.

Nodody in the world seems to be willing to hear their desparate cry for help.



— In spite of the grand words of the Atlantic Charter one nation after another have been suppressed by force, and the principles expressed in the Charter were insolently ignored. Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania have been long since annexed by the Russian empire, being bound to experience all the atrocities of mass slave camps and liquidation of „bourgeoisie“. —

Rt. Hon. Harold Macmillan M. P.

In the „Sunday Chronicle“.

These statements made by a member of the British Parliament are by no means mere phrases. Every single citizen of the Baltic States is able to produce any amount of evidence to prove the truth of them. And even when, due to the cowardness and blindness of the world, the annihilation of our people would be totally accomplished, and no Latvian, Lithuanian, and Estonian be left alive in their countries, and the world at last would comprehend that it is not sufficient to preach humanity only, but that it must also be fought for, even then the surviving members of these nations will never be silent, but will draw the world's attention to these facts again and again.

To serve the above purpose this material here, giving account of the Communists crimes, has been compiled.

Some of the reporters or members of their families not yet being in safety from most certain, bloody consequences of their honest and frank statements, their names had to be omitted in this treatise.

But nevertheless the truth of these most incriminating facts can be certified by every Bait.

In the spring 1948.

Author.

активисты в этот рабочий вечер: стрелки  
провожают по-прежнему старую службу о  
что скоро придет в Ригу и наши и люди  
русские.

КАРНОМ ПОСЛАНИЕМ ПО БЕЗОПАСНОСТИ ЛОСИ  
КАРНОМ ПОСЛАНИЕМ ПО БЕЗОПАСНОСТИ

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*Визы  
Социалистическая  
расширения  
была создана  
26/VI-412*

*„Considering  
the social  
danger they  
represent all  
must be shot”*

This is the sentence which the Commissary of  
Interior Safety of Soviet Latvia, Shustin, had  
written on the list of arrested Latvian citizens  
with red ink.

(See page 21)

Beginning these accusations I give the ensuing statistics. Figures  
often give a clearer account of the true facts than mere words can do.  
The charts were made up according to official material found in Soviet  
archives that were left behind, 1941, but still 30 000 Latvians more are  
missing. Thus about sixty-four thousand Latvians perished in the course  
of only one year under the red government in Latvia, which makes 3.2 per  
cent of the total number of Latvians.

80 LOSS SUFFERED BY THE LATVIAN PEOPLE DURING THE COMMUNIST GOVERNMENT IN 1940/41  
BY TRADES AND PROFESSIONS

	DEPORTED (on Jan. 13/14 1941)			IMPRISONED (already been impr.)			MISSING (after June 15, 1941)			KILLED			TOTAL		
	male	female	alto- gether	male	female	alto- gether	male	female	alto- gether	male	female	alto- gether	male	female	alto- gether
	<b>agriculture:</b>	2324	1514	3838	748	25	766	466	89	551	212	14	226	3741	1640
farmers	2188	1474	3662	626	22	648	170	41	211	192	13	205	3176	1550	4726
agriculturalists	26	1	27	10	—	10	7	—	7	7	—	7	50	1	51
others	110	39	149	107	1	108	285	48	333	13	14	14	515	89	604
<b>industry, handicraft:</b>	848	189	1037	860	47	907	2372	417	2789	137	9	146	4217	662	4879
contractors	160	36	196	72	1	73	73	10	83	3	—	3	308	47	355
engineers	61	—	61	20	—	20	11	—	11	3	—	3	95	—	95
labourers	627	153	780	768	46	814	2288	407	2695	131	9	140	3814	615	4429
<b>trade:</b>	378	171	549	161	16	177	136	63	199	15	1	16	690	251	941
owners of enterprises	204	67	271	82	6	88	18	3	21	4	—	4	308	76	384
others	174	104	278	79	10	89	118	60	178	11	1	12	382	175	557
<b>traffic, transport:</b>	215	12	227	279	2	281	2323	62	2375	57	2	59	2874	68	2942
sailors	20	—	20	30	—	30	522	8	530	17	—	17	588	8	597
railroaders, railwaymen	144	6	150	164	—	164	613	28	641	20	2	22	941	36	977
drivers	11	—	11	30	—	30	1087	—	1087	18	—	18	1146	—	1146
others	40	6	46	56	2	58	101	16	117	2	—	2	198	22	222
<b>safety service:</b>	982	—	982	682	—	682	3340	—	3340	190	—	190	5194	—	5194
police men	353	—	353	258	—	258	36	—	36	45	—	45	692	—	692
officers, army	538	—	538	248	—	248	249	—	249	49	—	49	1084	—	1084
soldiers, instructors	91	—	91	176	—	176	3055	—	3055	96	—	96	3418	—	3418
<b>government, municipal private offices:</b>	985	326	1311	574	25	599	438	131	369	74	3	77	2071	485	2556

civil servants	511	139	650	344	15	359	241	72	313	39	1	40	1135	227	1362
judges	46	—	46	11	—	11	5	—	5	1	—	1	63	—	63
municipal empl.	375	139	514	182	9	191	166	50	218	34	1	35	759	199	958
employees	53	48	101	37	1	38	24	9	33	—	1	1	114	59	173
<b>free professions, edu- cation, art- teachers</b>	287	215	502	116	11	127	68	39	107	29	2	31	500	267	767
clergymen	154	196	350	50	11	61	38	27	65	12	2	14	254	236	490
lawyers	23	—	23	5	—	5	4	—	4	9	—	9	41	—	41
others (journalists etc.)	54	2	56	9	—	9	—	—	—	1	—	1	64	2	66
hygiene:	56	17	73	52	—	52	26	12	38	7	—	7	141	29	170
doctors, dentists, veterinary surgeons	107	88	195	40	11	51	48	54	102	12	1	13	207	154	361
midwives	44	26	70	17	1	18	6	1	7	8	—	8	75	28	103
pharmacists	—	8	8	—	6	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	14	14
others	28	16	44	8	—	8	2	4	6	—	—	—	38	20	58
<b>others employed</b>	35	38	73	15	4	19	40	49	89	4	1	5	94	92	186
<b>unemployed:</b>	78	53	131	81	7	88	150	67	217	8	3	11	317	130	447
houseowners	1929	3510	5439	382	62	444	711	669	1380	47	10	57	3069	4251	7320
pensioners	73	39	112	13	2	15	1	2	3	3	—	3	90	43	133
students	58	26	84	22	1	23	4	5	3	—	2	2	84	34	118
pupils	92	33	125	133	7	140	56	13	69	20	—	20	301	53	354
minors	1055	922	1977	214	10	224	596	300	896	23	2	25	1888	1234	3122
housewives	651	537	1187	—	—	—	54	51	105	1	3	4	706	591	1297
<b>unknown occupation</b>	—	1953	1953	—	42	42	—	298	298	—	3	3	—	2296	2296
	303	179	482	1779	140	1919	448	532	84	465	64	529	2995	467	3462
	8436	6257	14693	5697	344	6041	10496	1665	12161	1246	109	1355	25875	8375	34250

**CALCULATED PER CENT THAT WOULD NUMBER  
TO 1,637,706 OF USA. INHABITANTS.**

i. e. as many people as there are living in the second largest town of Germany Hamburg, 1/4 of the population of Paris or one half of the population of Chicago.



Such was the beginning — Latvian frontierguard station at Malenki,  
district of Augšpils, burnt down.

# Soviet Invasion and Occupation

## Murder of Frontier Guards

The Bolshevik onslaught in the night of June 14th, 1940, was the beginning of the history of the Latvian people's most atrocious sufferings. In that night the Latvian frontierguard station at Malenki, District of Augšpils, was burnt down. Only the corpses of two frontier guardsmen and that of a woman were found in the morning; furthermore a woman and a 14 years old boy who had been seriously wounded. Forty-three persons, frontier guardsmen and other local inhabitants who had tried to extinguish the fire at the guard station, had been hunted by the Bolsheviks, who drove them across the frontier to Soviet Russia.

The Latvian Telegraph Agency issued the following information (according to document): „LTA. Riga, June 15th. At daybreak of Saturday morning our frontier guard station at Malenki (area of Abrene, near the Latvian and Soviet-Russian frontier) was found burnt down. On the spot were found two frontier guards' and one woman's corpses and also a seriously wounded woman. Eleven frontier guardsmen and several people living in the neighbourhood were missing. A special investigation commission under the command of Frontier Brigade Commander General Bolsteins went to the place of incident to clear up the fatal case". At the same time when this happened the Bolshevik Press propagated:

„The Soviet Union has carried on, and is going to carry on, a pro-Latvian policy favorable and tending to the highest degree . . ." Such bestiality and cynicism is one seeming beyond comprehension.

## Soviet Ultimatum

To top that hypocrisy the Soviet Government sent a note to the Latvian Government accusing Latvia of having established and expanded a military pact, thus threatening Soviet Russia (1). In that note they further claimed the establishment of a pro-Soviet Government and the admission of Soviet armed forces into Latvian territory. This note had the following wording (according to document):

Lta. Moscow, June 17th. Tass published the following official note concerning the relations between Soviet Russia and Latvia, and Soviet Russia and Estonia: On June 16th the chairman of the Council of People's Commissars in Soviet Russia, Molotow, handed over to the Latvian Ambassador, Kociņš, the following note for the Latvian Government: „According to proofs available to Soviet Government and based on a con-

ference recently held at Moscow between the Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars, Molotov, and the President of the Lithuanian Republic, Merkis, the Soviet Government considers as established that the Latvian Government has not annulled the military pact with Estonia, which had been contracted before the mutual assistance treaty and was directed against Soviet Russia, but on the contrary has extended it by admitting Lithuania to this pact and even trying to include Finland too. Before the mutual assistance treaty between Soviet Russia and Latvia, contracted in 1939, the Soviet Government had been able to tolerate the existence of such a military pact in spite of its being in substantial contradiction to the already existing non-aggression pact between Soviet Russia and Latvia. But after the mutual assistance treaty between Soviet Russia and Latvia, the Soviet Government considers the existence of a military pact between Latvia, Estonia, and Lithuania not only as not permissible, but even as endangering the security of Soviet Russia's frontiers.

The Soviet Government had supposed that after the conclusion of the mutual assistance pact between Soviet Russia and Latvia the latter would quit the military pact of the Baltic States, thus enacting the liquidation of that pact. Instead of that, Latvia together with other Baltic States started to strengthen and to expand the military pact, which became evident by two secret conferences of the Baltic States which were held in December 1939 and in March 1945 with the explicit aim to improve and extend the military pacts with Estonia and Lithuania and to fasten the relations between the General Staffs of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, which all was kept secret from Russia. Besides that, a special military periodical for the Baltic Allies, the „Baltic Review“, was established in February 1940, which was issued at Tallin in the English, French, and German languages, and many other similar incidents. All these facts clearly prove that the Latvian-Soviet mutual assistance pact, which forbids both partners to make any agreements to or to participate in coalitions against the other contracting partner, has been roughly violated by the Latvian Government (P. 4 of the agreement). This violation of the mutual treaty of assistance by the Latvian Government occurred at a time when Soviet Russia was exercising and confirming a most favourable and definite pro-Latvian policy, thereby fulfilling exactly all requirements of the Soviet-Latvian Treaty of mutual assistance. Soviet Russian Government is no longer willing to endure such an unbearable situation and therefore considers the following stipulations as absolutely inevitable and urgent:

1. To form in Latvia such a Government which would be able and ready to carry out honestly the Soviet-Latvian Pact of Assistance.
2. To secure without any delay the free invasion of Soviet Army Units into Latvian territory, so that these may be posted at the most important centers of Latvia, strong enough to secure the realisation of the Soviet-Latvian mutual assistance pact and to prevent eventual provocations against the Soviet garrisons in Latvia.

The Soviet Government considers the fulfilment of this claim an elementary condition without which it would not be possible to secure the honest and loyal accomplishment of the Soviet-Latvian mutual pact of assistance". — The actual truth of these statements is proved by the commentary of the Latvian Telegraph Agency (according to documents):

Lithuania has not joined the Latvian-Estonian Military Agreement. The official report of the Soviet Agency TASS concerning the liquidation of the Soviet-Lithuanian conflict states among other things that Lithuania joined the Latvian-Estonian Military Agreement, thus making the Baltic Alliance a Military Treaty between these countries. The Latvian Telegraph Agency had been authorized to assure that this information is not correct because Lithuania had not joined the Latvian-Estonian Military Agreement of September 1st 1923 and that there does not exist any other Military Agreement between the three Baltic States.

### Backgrounds of the Ultimatum

Above this, the question arises: how could the military agreement between Latvia and Estonia, made only for the sake of self-defence in case any other country would attack them — and which had been existing for 16 years already — so suddenly become so dangerous for the Soviets?

Only because the Soviets erroneously assumed that Lithuania had also become a partner to this treaty?

Does this Soviet action not interfere with the interior affairs of other countries and is it not an aggression in itself, or could anybody really suppose that the small Baltic States might be able to imperil Soviet Russia? In the report there was further stated "... at the time when Soviet Russia is carrying on a most favourable and definite pro-Latvian policy". How was this pro-Latvian policy actually in line with that already mentioned incident at the frontier, when the frontier guard station was burnt down and the frontier guards and inhabitants either killed or deported? And further more: how could this pro-Latvian policy match the agreement between Soviet Russia and Germany on the annexation of Latvia by Soviet Russia, which was signed by Ribbentrop and Molotov on September 23rd 1939 („Stars and Stripes": Nürnberg Trials of March 29th 1946) This proves that the fate of Latvia had already been decided upon more than half a year before the above mentioned note was delivered to the Latvian Government.

### How the Threats Were Carried Out

Nothing that Latvian official authorities did, could alter the course of events in the least. Moscow did what they had decided to do, and they had indeed decided to do very much.

Early on June 17th, 1940, Latvia was overpowered by the Red Army. An underground movement was intentionally established which was exhibited

to feign the impression of a „suppressed nation” just rising to welcome their long expected friends. Hooligans, ex-criminals, and vagabonds were permanently attacking the Latvian Police, who had to maintain the order in the streets which were crowded with Soviet troops. The Red Army that had come to „secure the realisation of the Soviet-Latvian mutual pact of assistance” obviously took the side of the mob. By doing so, the Soviet Power showed to whom it was going to give „mutual assistance”. To whomsoever — certainly not to the Latvian Nation. Latvian policemen, soldiers of the Latvian army, were assaulted all over the country. Latvian authorities, unconscious of Bolshevistic routine and convinced that offenders were to be punished, acted according to the existing regulations, but they soon understood that they had been deceived. The Soviet Legation publicly approved of all the illegal acts that had been performed, and they actually met with the consent of certain circles of Riga. Then a new Government was established willing to act on Moscow's orders. The chief organizer of Moscow's program, vice chairman of the Soviet People's Commissars' Council, Vishinski, friendly welcomed the demonstrating mob, telling them he was fully convinced that in times to come Soviet Russian and Latvian banners would wave together. Times to come indeed soon revealed how cunningly their true aims and intentions had been concealed by those people.

On June 21st, Latvian workers and employers were forced to attend mass-meetings to celebrate their future murderers. Convicts were released from jail to take part in these meetings and more and more it became evident from what sort of stuff the pillars of the Soviet Power were made. All the anti-state elements, who had gone to Sweden, returned. The ex-fighters of the Spanish Civil War, volunteers of the Red Front, were welcomed by the Soviet officials. All people interested in the annihilation of the Latvian people, in the devastation of the country and in the destroying of all values crowded around the intruders. At the same time soldiers of the Red Army were arranging performances in city parks and squares to show their „culture”, thus distracting people's attention from the path of destruction along which the Latvian Nation was forced to go. Everything was arranged according to a most cunning scheme.

### The Aim-Annihilation

When all forces were concentrated, the destruction of the existing social utilities, of order and values began. The Latvian Army was bolshevized by introducing political leaders, so called „politruks”. People without any military and even any elementary education, but with criminal traits, were promptly made captains and colonels of the Latvian Army. The Bolshevik „politruks” gave them a bit of their knowledge, the first basic formula of which was the doctrine that the army was not allowed to be unpolitical. All that destructive work was accomplished with feverish haste, because the purpose was to make all those regulations to which no sane human being could ever agree,

seem in accordance with the people's will. At the parliamentary elections of July 15 th and 16th, the nation was forced to vote for one list only. People who could not present their voting marks in their pass-ports were considered to be traitors. All kinds of agitation posters in Russian and indeed the whole electing system clearly showed how obstinate, persistent and steadfast the Bolshevistic instructions were. By official statistics it was proved that in spite of the compulsory character of the election a considerable part of the voters had abstained from voting. Therefore the Soviets simply improved fortune by rounding up the numbers of voters to nearly one hundred percent.

### Annexation

The deputies thus elected compulsorily made further steps towards the proclamation of Soviet Latvia, delivering their home country to an atrocious fate, when they decided to apply for admission to the U. S. S. R.

According to the constitution of the Latvian Republic any decision providing a change of constitution is only legal when approved by general people's plebiscits. Evidently the occupation forces would not dare carry out that provision, but rather operate on another line. The „Premier-minister“ Prof. Kirchenstein was entrusted with the task to ask Moscow's favor when accepting this decision. The goal was reached at last. Everything that could hamper Bolshevistic intentions in future had been pushed aside.

It was no secret that the result of Prof. Kirchenstein's pilgrimage to Moscow was nothing but the last act of the smartly produced drama, which was supposed to prove to the whole world that the Latvian Nation itself „ardently desired to be united with the U. S. S. R.“ The request of the democrats — to unite Latvia with the U. S. S. R. — was made known to Moscow on the very day of Prof. Kirchenstein's arrival. But certainly Moscow had already known before what was required and what had to be done.

The following lines published in „Isvestija“ of August 5th read like an irony:

„Yesterday the Supreme Council of the U. S. S. R. unanimously passed the resolution to grant the request of Latvian Parliament to admit Latvia to the Union of the S. S. R. Long live the uniform Soviet Republic of Latvia in the brotherhood of the U. S. S. R.“

Forced to demonstrate their „thankful feelings“ in public, the Latvian Nation strolled gloomily along the streets. From this moment they had lost their free will, their fate had entirely been surrendered to Moscow's arbitrariness. Sincerely devoted to their home country, the Latvian Nation only saw one way on which it would be able to move along: to stick together more tightly than ever and to face their gloomy destiny with silent, but proud attitude.

## Heads of the New Authorities

The new power being established, it was only necessary to establish an organisation of submissive guards and supporters. A police service institution „P. D.“ had already begun to work. With few exceptions it was joined by criminal elements: thieves, burglars, crooks, and it was this institution from which the People's Police was formed later on, so that the organization and management of the newly established Board of Public Safety was exclusively carried out by criminals. The newly established People's Police started its work, but not to fight criminals; this word had indeed lost its original meaning, since criminals had been entrusted with the management of the safety authorities. Not even able to read or write satisfactorily they controlled the identification cards in the streets, always on the look-out for new enemies to the State, and indeed every person wearing decent clothes and looking like a well-educated citizen, was regarded as such. The workers were armed and a worker's guard was established which was even joined by women who had to become good shooters. In order to avert suspicion and to secure their personal safety, many worker's who had nothing in common with the Bolsheviks, joined the guards to save their own lives. To excuse the establishment of such an armed organization, the Bolsheviks made up a terrible story about saboteurs. The guards had to watch the factories to protect them from this imaginary ghost.

## False Promises, Revenge

“There will be no revenge! The right of persons and property will be respected!” These few words give the best account of the terrible shamelessness of Bolshevistic cynicism. In reality the occupation had scarcely begun when there also began the endless series of arrests and deportations. All criminals, crooks, spies, and traitors were released from jail, and Latvian patriots had to take their place.

Latvian safety policemen were arrested for having done their duty, having kept order in the streets where an infuriated mob was creating chaos. Other Latvians were arrested because of their having been soldiers, frontier guards or members of the home guard, or because they had held some kind of office as civil servants, and finally people were just arrested only because they frankly and fearlessly declared that they belonged to the Latvian Nation.

Dissatisfaction and anxiety among the people increased. They began to understand that they were facing an unknown future, full of mysterious dangers. „**There will be no revenge**“, the intruders promised again and again, but only to lull the growing feeling of distrust and hatred which spread all over the country. „**There will be no revenge**“; of course they did not mean what they said, and very soon they did not even try to conceal their real intentions any more. They soon spoke of the „anni-

hilation of "undesirable elements", and shortly afterwards it became evident that the whole Latvian Nation seemed to consist of such "undesirable elements".

**There will be no revenge!** These words have indeed proved to be the meanest lie the Bolshevistic propaganda has ever proclaimed, and when, after a year had elapsed, the graves were opened, truth was established, and it was more terrible than anybody ever might have imagined.

### Preparations for the Annihilation of the Farmers

„The farmers' cattle and inventory will not be touched!“, was another slogan offered to the nation, but already nobody would believe any such promises. And the farmers soon understood how well-founded their scepticism was.

Landless people were given 10 hectares of land which had been taken from the former land-owners. Commissars came to the country and seized cattle and inventory from the resident farmers for the new ones, so that the former were necessarily doomed to failure. After 10400 farms had been robbed in such a way, the final result was the establishment of collective farms.

### Deformation of Spirit

And so, on the lines of the cunning scheme that had been worked out in Moscow, the poison of Bolshevism was recklessly and aimfully infiltrated into the body of the humiliated people, thus more and more endangering the Nation's most essential sources of the life and the spirit of her strength.

By means of a fulminating agitation the people's mind was crushed by loud manifestations and glaring posters as well as by publications in the newspapers. Bolshevistic lies were continuously infiltrated into the schools and the university, subjugating the whole younger generation to the destructive power of those ideologies. New professorships for Marxism and Leninism — so far not known in the world — were established, whereas the theological and philosophical faculties were closed, their staff dismissed and arrested and finally replaced by new men identified only by diplomas of the institute of the „Red Professors.“ This institute is preparing a special staff for Bolshevistic propaganda, and its members are qualified by their records of Communistic activity and their time spent in jails, and it was these men who were appointed leaders and educators of the Latvian youth. In the factories the Stachanov System was introduced, that artificially created impulse to increase the output and incite new technical inventions. Production competitions between enterprises and factories were started, one of the worst exploitation methods ever conceived, which forced the men very often to work twice as much as the eight hours work-day, officially introduced by the Bolsheviks. So-called pushing-on groups were also organized to be sure to squeeze out all working power possibly available.

## Destruction of Economic Basis

While thus spoiling the Nation's mental and physical strength, the Bolshevistic authorities began at the same time to weaken her economic and material sources. All saving deposits were blocked, houses, factories, „and other private enterprises were socialized, and all that pretending to fight for a better future, to struggle for the cause of Marx — Engels — Lenin — Stalin“, „to establish proletarian dictatorship, the paradise on earth“ . . ., slogans which were only meant to varnish the dreadful misery and utter general destitution which was brought about by the Bolsheviks, who made life seem hell.

## Reelections

Then the 12th of January 1941 drew near, the day on which the Latvian Nation had again to act against their will — the election day for the Supreme Council of the U. S. S. R. Above the agitation methods and propaganda tricks already in vogue, the Bolsheviks produced a new one now, the so-called „propaganda at home“. Their agents visited flats and apartment houses, convoking all inhabitants and explaining to them the significance of the elections. The same was done in factories and all working places. Often only women and children attended. This time the elections, one of the meanest tricks to distort the people's free will and their true opinion, had been prepared most minutely: everybody had to check the registers to make sure that his name was on the voters' list, so that it was absolutely impossible to stay away. Persons not having the election mark in their passport were regarded as saboteurs.

On January 8th 1941 „CINA“ published the following phrase:

„He who wants Latvia to have a merry and happy life, joy of work, personal and family security, and the whole nation's prosperity, will vote for the Bolsheviks party, for the Communist block“. But of course there were no other candidates except the Communists, and therefore the result of the election was clear.

## Revelations

A few months afterwards the hypocritical feature was definitely unmasked and the mean, cynical, and bloodthirsty face of Bolshevism appeared. It was indeed no longer necessary to conceal the true face of brutal despotism, the Nation was disarmed, demoralised and in an utterly destitute condition. Now the preparations for the thorough annihilation of the Latvian Nation could be made. The Nation's will was forced: the workmen pleaded „death“ for their fellow-countrymen, former police officers who had provided for order in the streets. It was always the same acting whether the workmen declared „their will“ to join the socialistic competition or whether they agreed upon doing their work

under „push-on“ methods or whether they „unanimously“ decided to claim the highest punishment for the „bloody dogs“ — there always appeared upon the scene one of the party officials with a resolution written in advance, which he read aloud to the workmen assembled at the meeting and finally only just put the incidental question: „Is anybody voting against it?“ The men who knew many of their friends to have been arrested on some trifling suspicions, remained silent and that stood for: „Carried unanimously“. It is a most atrocious thing to murder, but it is still more atrocious to make people murder their own countrymen, and that is what the Bolshevists did. Their sadism and their diabolic methods of distorting and falsifying the nation's will reached such an utmost degree of meanness that it should never be forgiven and never forgotten by any power in all the world.

### War Preparations

The Latvian Nation subjugated by Bolshevism had also to fulfil her „proud duty towards her greater home country, i. e. the U. S. S. R.“ Latvian young men had to join the Red Army. The enlisting offices were decorated with the hypocritical poster: „We love peace, but we also wish to give the war propagandists the proper answer“. And at the same time Bolshevist agents were explaining the Latvian young people how dangerous it is for the U. S. S. R. to be surrounded by capitalistic nations. Apparently just as dangerous as the Baltic States had been before. At any rate it was no theory that the U. S. S. R. was preparing war whilst speaking of peace, and the Baltic Nations were a good position for attacking Germany.

### Propaganda, Posters, and Marches

The Bolshevists displayed all their cunning art of propaganda by arranging endless manifestations, new slogans on posters in order to conceal the deep enmity and hatred that was smouldering underground throughout the whole nation, and also in order to dissuade public attention from their own mean and shameless regulations. The celebration of the 1st of May was the climax, but it slowly became evident that the people were tired of the continuous compulsory participation in endless marches and demonstrations. On all such occasions the streets used to be gorgeously decorated. For election campaigns all communication means, vehicles a. s. o., were mobilized, decorated with posters, slogans, and giant pictures, and were driven along the streets by special groups of skilled propagandists inviting the people to vote, although it was quite impossible for anybody to abstain from voting. Bolshevistic agitators as well as their spies were to be found in every group of the people even at the most remote place. Besides the general mass meetings, smaller ones were arranged periodically in every single factory or business where Bolshevists agitated for the just

cause of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin." At the same time while, listening to all these bombastic phrases the Latvian workers were forced one by one to sign the contract of socialistic competition for increasing production. Only the quantity was essential, not the quality, and graphs and plans simply ordered a certain output. The prescribed norm had to be fulfilled, though the products, due to their bad quality, were hardly of any use.

### People's Resistance

The Latvian people tried to stick together, feeling that no help could come but from the strict unity of the nation, and indeed they found many ways to express their dissatisfaction, e. g. by crossing out the voting papers or by applying glosses to them, as was stated in the report of the Election Committees on January 12th, 1941. The Latvian spirit of self-preservation had not yet been broken, but it had to be broken, and so the N. K. V. D. was set to work again with increased efficiency, and mass-arrests and deportations were the natural consequences.

### A Ghastly Night

In the night of June 14th 1941 the scales at last fell from the eyes of all those who up to then had refused to see the truth in its whole, atrocious extent. During that night the Soviets mercilessly arrested men, women, and children throughout all Latvia, drove them to the railway stations, locked them up in cattle-waggon with small iron-barred windows, and deported them to Russia. In this single night only, 14693 Latvians were thus abducted. Documents left behind by the Bolsheviks revealed the respective data. Only very few people who had been warned just in the nick of time managed to get away by continuously changing their abode. If the Tcheka intended to arrest anybody, the accusations were simply invented. The appropriate informations were freely produced by numberless Tcheka spies.

### Public Murder

After the outbreak of the war between Germany and Soviet-Russia the Bolshevik terror reached a last climax and finally ended in an excess of bloody murder.

There was no secret about that any more.

The Latvian soldiers had to face a most dreadful fate, for as they were considered politically unreliable they were simply shot down when their unit was forced to retreat.

The mentality of the Bolshevik murderers was characterized by the sentence which the commissary for interior safety, Shustin, had written on the list of arrested citizens with red ink: „**Considering the social danger, they all must be shot**”, (according to a discovered document),

By this death sentence 78 human beings who had been arrested for „counter-revolutionary activity“ lost their lives. The reasoning for the execution of these death sentences on Latvians charged with counter-revolutionary activity was as follows: „Was caught singing Latvian folks songs“, „Ancestors were bourgeois“, „Has exploited the work of others“, „Was caught hiding himself in the forest“, „Was caught hiding himself at a cemetery during an air-raid alarm“, „Was a member of a students' association“, „Was a member of the home-guard“, „Was a police officer“, „Was distinguished with the Lāčplēsis medal“, „Fought in the Latvian army against Bolshevism“, „Has anti-Bolshevistic convictions“, „Has ignored soldiers of the Red Army“, „Has insulted the Communist party“ a. s. o.

At the beginning of the war the most vile blood-hounds amongst the dictators had to leave the country. Not being able to carry out their intentions to the full extent, that is to say, to wipe out the whole Latvian Nation and feeling their dictatorship's end nearing fast, the Bolsheviks simply slaughtered all their victims who were not able to flee, with brutal bestiality. The victims murdered in jails were found lying one upon another in hideous piles. Many persons who had been missed by their relatives were discovered amongst the victims unable to tell their story. But their blood was speaking, and it was telling more than words could ever have expressed.

When the Bolsheviks had been driven away after the first occupation period, a great number of mass-graves were found and opened. All of the victims had been robbed, and many had obviously been tortured in most bestial ways. Nearly all of them had their hands chained together on their back. Again and again new such graves were discovered. Many graves were found in the environs of Riga each of them containing from 10 to 30 corpses, but new graves were also discovered at Bikernieki and Dreilini. How many graves, however, may still be hidden in the Latvian earth.

### Prices and Working Methods of Checka

Mr. N. N., who had the opportunity of experiencing the routine activities and cruelties of the „Checka“ in 1941, gives most terrifying evidence. His depositions run literally as follows: „After the Communists had been driven away from Riga, I had the chance to look behind the secrets of the rooms which the Checka had equipped for the special purpose to impose the most dreadful tortures on the people who had fallen into their hands. The things I discovered at that place made my flesh creep. At the first glance I clearly understood that the Bolsheviks had committed the most atrocious crimes in Latvia, which actually only could be matched by those they had already committed in their own country. The shooting ground was full of empty cartridges and the ceiling as well as the walls of the place were full of bullet holes and blood-stains, thus giving a mute but grim account of the most horrible crimes the Communists had committed in Latvia due to their deceitful conception of the ideas of liberty, brotherhood, and equity.

Next door to the shooting ground was the special room in which the victims used to be tortured. Amongst others there were quite a lot of glass basins, shaped like boxes, and bloodstained electric machines of some special construction. In the heating room in the basement there were still huge heaps of ashes, remainders of compromising documents the Bolsheviks had burnt.

The long corridors of the Checka-building led into a real labyrinth of rooms for torturing purposes, and with every further step towards these sinister experiences new and even more ghastly circumstances were disclosed which gave evidence of the most severe accusation against the vampirelike spectre of Communism. The bloodstained walls with the innumerable bullet holes on the corridors and in the hundreds of rooms of the Checka building with their bloodstained palliasses, all this made a most atrocious and dreadful impression.

In the office of the Checka functionaries there were numberless bottles left, and all signs intimated the fact these Checkists had celebrated incredible orgies at their hideous bloody feasts.

In the backyard of the Checka building there were great piles of papers which turned out to be quite interesting documents, mostly petitions, which prisoners or their relatives had addressed to Shustin and which the latter had marked with his laconic and cynic decisions. Between all those documents badges of 4 H Club members, of Latvian soldiers and students, empty boxes of decorations and silver wares, were to be found, items stolen from Latvian patriots, and above this heaps of bloodstained men's and women's underwears . . .

After having been busy collecting proofs in that backyard of the Checka building for several days, I found at the bottom of a garbage pile a bloody piece of canvas which had been used to cover corpses when they were brought away in truck loads to places unknown hitherto.

The ghastly impressions I had to experience when following up the bloody traces of Checkists, f. i. at the main Checka centre near Balezers in the garden of Jacobson's villa, in the back yard of the Riga central prison, and in the forest of the Dreilini shooting ground, will haunt my dreams for lifetime.

In consequence of that I never feel astonished when people who had been lucky enough to escape from the deadly grip of the Checka, relate of events that seem entirely incredible and unimaginable to a sound mind. Many people who are unable to grasp such things are sure to shake their heads doubtfully, thinking: that must be impossible. Maybe I would think just the same if I had not seen with my own eyes those hundreds of murdered victims and innumerable established facts giving clear evidence of a special slaughter-house and other most incredible things and events.

On the ground of all that experience of mine I believe in the truth of the depositions made by people who somehow managed to get out of Checka prisons. The statements f. i. which were made by the chairman of the Latvian University's students' Council, who had been kept in close confinement together with three corpses of murdered Latvians for 24 hours and

had been beaten by two Checkists throughout this time until he fainted at last. And then there were the statements of the communication inspector XY according to which he had been beaten on his head with a board full of projecting nail-tips until he became unconscious, and also the depositions of colonel XY who deposed that several Jewish Checkists had torn off the fingernails from both his hands. . . .

I had indeed the chance to convince myself of the plain truth of these statements, and the marks of this disgusting cruelty can be seen still on the victim. A Catholic priest who had been spied out by an unknown Checkist while performing the ceremony of the confession was also tortured in a most brutal way and was humiliated by the Checka in such a manner that ethical reasons stop me from relating it."

### **Recruiting of Checka-Men, Collecting of Reports, Special Allowances for Agents**

Very important information was obtained from Checkists, whereby the fact was revealed that the NKVD usually hire carefully screened young fellows and prepare them for torturing methods in a most cunning manner. The training of these people begins with the torturing of birds and animals, and in the end graduates of these training courses prove to be the most crafty experts for the interrogation of prisoners of all kinds . . . .

According to reliable statements the NKVD have been looking upon the whole Latvian nation with suspicion and deep distrust, and in Riga there was one Checka-agent of Jewish, Russian or other nationality for every ten Latvian nationals. But besides the Checka the Communist party has been busy gathering informations, too. Not only party members but also expectant members and employees of certain enterprises as well as the Communistic youth and other followers and collaborators of the Communists had to report periodically about the political attitude of their fellow-workers and their employers. In the country these reports were made by the executive committee in which there always was at least one representer of the Checka. The news gathered by the Communist party and its affiliated organizations has always been forwarded correspondingly to the Checka.

Immense card registers at the Riga Main Checka Center resulted from this zealous activity, and every most detailed information about all suspicious citizens could be acquired there, but most particularly about the intellectual classes of the Latvian people and those who sympathized with them. To accomplish the task of acquiring and registering informations on antisovietic, contrarevolutionary, and undesirable elements to such an extent that the Moscow Center might be satisfied, the Checka not only paid very high salaries, but also let the money and the valuables that were robbed from the bourgeois be distributed amongst their agents, and on revolutionary holidays the Checka employees were even awarded allowances sometimes manifold exceeding their monthly income.

The engagement of personnel and their salary had to be kept a secret so that even the officials' wives were not allowed to know about their husbands' monthly pay. Offences against service regulations were threatened with death penalties, and people were systematically reminded of this again and again in Stalin's circular letters. Every thing happening outside had to be scrutinized with utmost precision, but nobody has been ever allowed to consider things going on in the Checka itself. According to the Checka regulations it was admitted that employees could make mistakes by giving false informations about anybody, but it was expressly designated as the worst crime to feel any pity whatever with a so-called enemy of the working class.

So the simple conclusion always has been **better to kill hundreds of innocent people than to spare the life of one who seems guilty from the Soviet point of view.** This situation is the secret reason of all the Checka's bloody terror. There are numberless proofs that give an undoubtful evidence of the truth of these facts. The cynical decisions of the Soviet courts are usually written on slips of paper which finally were found in the pockets of the killed Latvian victims. The number of the discovered corpses and of the bloodstained copies of Shustin's tribunal- and court-decisions give us a clear idea of the „high standard“ of social life achieved on the ground of Stalin's constitution.



Only just compiling the most essential proofs would be enough to fill the most voluminous works, but that has indeed not been my aim because I had to conform to the space available in this edition.

## Second Soviet Occupation

The red army made its appearance, but it was not what one had expected; that was not a motorized modern army, they came along all roads, scattered in wide lines, dirty, badly dressed, tired, and only very few motor vehicles could be seen; this army, however, had discipline and treated the inhabitants decently. At least this was so at the frontier area of Latgale. At first there were no encroachments and no arrests with the only exception of farmers who were accused of having treated Russian P. o. W. workers badly. Of course nobody made sure whether these charges were based on true facts or not. In all such cases the farms were looted and their owners shot down. After a week's time or so the red government was established in Latvia and together with the government the N K V D and the N K G B turned up too. The former has become the general police, whereas the latter has developed into the actual terror organisation, which manages all the spying, arresting, screening, and similar activities. The police soon began recruiting inhabitants for the so-called annihilating battalions. They were joined by elements of inferior moral only who had been attracted by cigarettes and the chances for an easy living. The N K G B, assisted by armv units, now started on their so-called „clean-ups“. To begin with they arrested all officials of local administrations, police officers, home guardsmen and others. Committees were established whose sole aim was to find out atrocities for which the Germans could be blamed. Graves were only very seldom exhumed, and when this was done, the dug-out corpses were simply thrown back into the graves again. The government proclaimed religious liberty, and so church services could be attended by everybody who wished to do so, and nobody was persecuted for that, at least not during the first year of the occupation (until the surrender of Germany), but all this changed afterwards.

### Mobilization

In August already mobilization was ordered in Latgale, and some weeks later in the district of Ilukste too. All men born between 1895 and 1924 were called in for military service.

Examinations of health were carried through by women physicians, and that in a most superficial manner. Everybody who was not terribly ill or invalid was found fit for military service. Men who were not very seriously ill were enlisted for transporting units. Clergymen were not drafted, and they were even allowed to name an assistant for their

church service needs (i. e. an organist), and then the latter was not called in either. — Naturally this mobilisation aroused much excitement, part of the men fled into the forests and joined guerilla units there, and others tried to get a job with public enterprises for the repair of high roads and bridges, a. s. o., as workmen engaged in such sort of business were not called in either.

The men who had been called in for military service were just dressed in uniforms, got a few weeks' training, and were then sent to the front into the area of Saldus, where fierce battles were raging, so that the new soldiers suffered numerous casualties. In such cases their relatives at home were only briefly notified that they had been buried at a certain place. Only very few men were left in the country after this mobilisation.

Two periods must be clearly distinguished during this second red occupation of our country: the first lasting only until the German surrender and the second beginning after that event. The first period was comparatively easy. Germany still continuing fighting, the front service required men, so that the government had to try to get on good terms with the population. The seat of government was first at Ludza, then it was moved to Daugavpils, and at last to Riga. One of the first regulations issued by Soviet Government was the renewal of the land reform, only with the difference that now the new farms comprehended an area of 37 acres in size. The land was apportioned in a very primitive manner, the new farmers were simply shown the borders of their farming areas, and that settled the matter. There were only few applicants for farming land, and in many cases confiscated areas had to be returned to the former owners for cultivation. But as there were neither farmhands nor seed-corn and inventory to be had, two thirds of the land remained uncultivated. After the capitulation of Germany all authorities and factories were closed for two days, mass-meetings and ceremonies were arranged on a large scale, and then began the second period.

### „Screening“ of People

The area of Kurzeme was separated from Latvia to give the Russians the opportunity to get hold of scattered soldiers and all the other suspicious persons who were hiding in forests. As these remote areas are practically inaccessible because of their wild and marshy structure, the Russians simply set them on fire, so that vast sections of forest, i. e. those along the Ventspils — Kuldīga road and also those in Zlīekas and Ugale were entirely burnt down. Kurzeme was flooded by burglars and red army hordes who robbed even the last values that the farmers had managed to save up to that time. Watches, radio-sets, and bicycles were taken away without much ado, and later on the Russian Commissary even gave official order that all radio-sets had to be surrendered to the authorities. When afterwards the use of radio-sets was permitted again, there were actually none left any more.

At the same time the country was „combed“ by N K V D units with bloodhounds. The NKVD arrested all men between 16 and 60 years of age, and drove them on foot into the screening camps, which were sometimes some dozens of miles away. Such camps were established in a great hurry, and generally they merely consisted of a plot of land fenced in with barbed wire without any buildings or tents, and they were guarded by N K V D units. About 14 000 victims were detained at Kuldiga camp, 20 000 at Ventspils camp, and even 25 000 at Liepaja camp, and soon the cold, the moistness, and the lack of the most elementary sanitary care effected epidemics. Many people committed suicide in their utmost despair, and others lost control of their mental powers and became insane. The NKVD had spies in every single section of these camps. The interrogations they made in such screening camps lasted terribly long. The screening process was only hurried up in case of serious epidemics. Usually only about 40 per cent of the arrested persons were released, all the other ones, mostly homeguardsmen, policemen, civil servants, and well-to-do people were deported to Russia for „Soviet labour“. The soldiers of the Latvian Legion or those who had been called in compulsorily were all either abducted to concentration camps or „liquidated“, i. e. murdered on the spot. The crossings of the rivers Venta and Abava are one great mass-grave full of slaughtered Latvians. An unknown number of Latvians were also shot down at Padure near Kuldiga in August 1945, but these screening operations reached their climax already at the end of May. People who were detained in these screening camps and who were lucky enough to evade deportation to Siberia were now surrendered to the People's Court, and they were generally accused of treason and usually sentenced to penalties of hard labour, ranging in time from 8 to 25 years. There was no possibility of defence in such so-called trials, and appeals were not permitted. But as a matter of fact only very few death sentences were passed. Evidently the Soviets were rather short of labour and therefore had to spare human lives.

After the capitulation the Russians organized mine sweeping groups with Latvian young men. Training was rather summary, but to improve efficiency competition methods were introduced as were in vogue in Russia. Death of many hundreds of young men was the inevitable result.

### Establishment of Administration

The screening and mine-sweeping operations having been accomplished, the civil government was established in Kurzeme too, and that with the essential support of the N K V D. Executive Committees were established in all towns, villages, and other local communities, and in most of them the chairmen were Russians or at least Latvian Communists who had returned from Russia.

Politically reliable Latvians, ranging in age between 18 and 30 years, were admitted to police service, but as it soon became evident

that it would be impossible to get the required number of policemen, many foresters with their staffs were forced to collaborate with the police, and at some places they even administered police functions all by themselves. And so despite of all „screenings“ there still remained some patriots even amongst the newly appointed policemen, who often managed to warn presumable arrestants and to save them from a terrible fate.

### Terror and Deportation

Even the strongest men broke down under the dreadful strain of these arrests. On the countryside these arrests were carried out by the police, but in the towns the N K G B took over that job. Generally there were no mass-deportations on the country-side; only single persons were arrested and abducted, and their friends and relations sometimes even got informations about their fate by letters they had written, which had been found alongside the railroads and in which the poor victims gave notice of their deportation to Siberia or to other places in Inner-Russia. The number of such persons who thus disappeared „silently“, is now estimated at several ten thousands. Numberless people were deported without being able to give any news whatever, and if anybody started to make enquiries for lost people they always got the laconic answer: „We do not know“. People who insisted in getting some more detailed information were simply arrested in their turn, thus sharing the fate of those they had wished to help.

These procedures were also managed in another way: people were summoned to the police office, from whence they actually never returned, and finally people simply disappeared without leaving any trace at all. Moderately estimated about half of the male population of Latvia survived these atrocious procedures of the invaders.

All the arrested people were mostly at first put into the Riga jails, and in most cases their way ended in one of the camps for hard labour in Russia. Of course there were a few single cases in which such displaced persons came back home again, but usually they returned only as entire invalids. The torturing methods were said to be just the same as they had been in 1940 and 1941, again people of all spheres of social standing were arrested, and the jails were particularly crowded with farmers who had been accused of being „landlords“ (kulaks). Other people were charged for having collaborated with the Germans, for bad treatment of Russian prisoners of war, and other offences of similar sort, sometimes it even sufficed to utter the single word „Fashist“, to doom a person to a dreadful fate. People who filed an application for public relief were threatened with 10 years of hard labour. The spying systems were minutely organized on a nation-wide scale, but nevertheless the number of sworn-in-communists is far less nowadays than it had been during the first occupation. The masses looked scornfully at the dwindling rest of their personal freedom, and felt thoroughly disappointed and annoyed when they considered all the special privileges

of party members, who got special and better rations and all they needed in special stores, special restaurants, better apartments, and other conveniences.

It has become known that even in the smallest community deportation lists are being kept in readiness, and that the local executive committees are being held entirely at the disposal of the NKVD and NKGB to carry out their orders whenever they choose to strike, but hitherto certain deliberations must have postponed these operations. A most critical time was the night of March 4th, 1946. All motor vehicles of larger cities were confiscated for the purpose of new mass arrests and deportations, which were said to begin at Liepaja, Ventspils, and Kuldiga at 3 o'clock in the night, but somehow the order was cancelled two hours before the supposed time of action. Now it becomes known that mass — deportations were executed again in April 1947.

In July 1945 every district was ordered to send 50 to 100 young men to Riga. When they arrived at Riga they were forced to go to Russia. None of them was ever heard of since then.

### Country Life

Fear is the medium whereby the strangers rule this country that we still love above all on earth. The noise of a motor car approaching a house at night! The chill of horror! As people keep disappearing by night, nobody knows when his turn will come. Our terrorized citizens have become taciturn and morose. Everybody distrusts everybody. In this formerly happy city of Riga you never see a merry face in the streets.

Here are the Soviet prison terms at present in force in our occupied fatherland, as gathered from actual Soviet sentences: 15 years for suspicion of having helped Latvians to escape abroad, 5 years for attempt to steal 10 pounds of copper wire from a ship, 3 years for attempt to steal 6 pounds of sugar, 2 years for sweeping together 5 pounds of salt spread on the floor of an empty freight car. All sentences are hard labor. **And all sentences above 1 year mean deportation to slave labor camps in the Soviet Union.** You already know what happens to political prisoners. They get 25 years of hard labor and are never heard of anymore.

If only the civilized world could hear but for a moment those lamentations, those prayers we hear here, and behold that boundless misery which we see here every day! But we are forced to keep quiet. If anyone ventures to cry out but a word of pain or dissatisfaction, he will disappear into the cellars of the Russian Gestapo. After inhuman tortures there, having confessed to all the crimes incriminated to him, he will begin his way of Golgotha perhaps to one of the Arctic slave labor camps.

The Soviet Labor Camps to which our countrymen are shipped can now be found all over the Soviet Union. In earlier reports we have given you the details about conditions in Novaya Zemlja and in Vorkuta, two Soviet Prison territories which today must hold close to one million prisoners. Recent deportations have been directed to Kazakhstan, the salt

mines at Lake Balkhash and, above all, to the Kurile Islands, where the Soviets are building military installations for the day when they may have to fight the United States. Most of the prison transports to the Kurile Islands seem now to go via Komsomolsk, and not via Vladivostok, for reasons known to the MGB or the Soviet Ministry of National Security, which has now taken over the transportation and supervision of all prisoners from the MVD (Soviet Home Office).

As the land-reform of 1940 had been ordered anew, nobody was allowed to cultivate more than 75 acres, and even this right entirely depended upon political trustworthiness. But on account of the terrible shortage of farm labour even collaborators with Germans, former policemen, and other minor officials were given 20 acres of land for cultivation after all. Only saboteurs or farmers who made a clear breast of their true patriotic feelings had to leave their farms, and they were allowed to take with them not even the slightest trifle of their property.

Nowadays the farmers' life in Latvia merely consists in hopelessness, illegality, hard, strenuous labour, and the permanent fear of losing either their property or their lives. In every community all decisions were taken by the „Partorgs“, an authority that was in charge of the control of schools, churches, taxes, &c. The administration of local communities was done by executive committees, and besides these there were the rural councils existing in a still greater number. The executive committee was supposed to be „elected“, and such elections were carried out in the following manner: A high party official appeared at the meeting simply advising people present that a number of persons whose names he read aloud from a list, had been proposed for the executive committee. As there was no objection, which indeed nobody could have dared to make, the election was said to have taken place with all votes unanimously in favour of the persons who had been proposed. The chairmen of the executive committees are usually strangers, mostly nationals of foreign republics, but even the other members of the committee are mostly people unknown to the voters.

The farmers were very badly off, indeed; for every hundredweight of delivered rye they were paid Rbl. 1.50 to Rbl. 2.—, but on the market these same products were sold at Rbl. 200 to 300. People who did not duly pay their taxes were threatened with arrest and confiscation of their property, and indeed this was done in numerous cases.

Taxes had been on a very high level throughout the first occupation period already, but now this burden had become much more oppressive because it also entailed the farmers' duty to deliver food for the red army as a humble sign of thanks for the „liberation“.

Soviet farm policy in Latvia is running true to the wellknown Soviet pattern of exploitation of the farm population. The robber barons in Moscow ordered our Latvian soil „nationalized“ — and redistributed into so-called „farms“ of 25 acres, maximum. How can individual farming

take place under such circumstances? Of course, the old farmers were allowed to retain as much as 75 acres; yet these "large landowners" (as the Soviets call them) are unable to recover for the following reasons: First, the Soviets make far greater demands upon them. Secondly, since all youths are to be shipped to the industries, there is not sufficient manpower available in the farm communities. In some cases there is little or no seed for sowing. Yet, the State does not permit land to remain idle. And, above all, Soviet grain taxes are paid not on land under cultivation, but according to the area of arable soil.

**Sovietization of land by taxation:** Once our farmers were free. Under the invaders from Moscow they are now miserable serfs. They are forced to pay the State grain taxes, extra grain taxes, milk taxes, meat taxes, and wool taxes. The Soviet Secret Police has a special division keeping a strict check on these confiscatory taxes. And the fear of Siberia leads to the result that all grain on the farms is turned over to the State collectors. The farmers starve until next spring, when the same evil round begins again. The obvious aim is to break the spirit of the farmers.

Then, in the winter, the rural population is paying the so-called "Social Labor tithes", which is but another name for slave labor in the woods, cutting and hauling timber, and again for export to 'the insatiable Soviet Union.

Let us not fool ourselves, within the next few years our Latvian homeland will be nothing but Moscow-controlled "collectivized farms". Thousands of Latvians have already been deported to distant Soviet regions for failing to meet these inhuman and outright impossible State demands.

### Town Life

The situation the workers in the cities had to face was much worse than that. The monthly wages of an unqualified workman amounted to about Rbl. 300, whereas a skilled worker was paid 400 to 500.— Rbls a month. The salary of a foreman was about 600 Rbls. Artists, however, had no reason to complain at all, because they were receiving a monthly pay ranging from 2500 to 3000 Rbls. The Soviet System needs artists of all kinds to make up for the lack of daily bread, by producing most ample performances.

How highly the police authorities were estimated by the Soviets, is revealed by the fact that the Latvian N K G B minister was getting a monthly pay of 8000 Rbls., whereas the heads of his departments netted 4000 to 5000 Rbls. a month. N K G B typists got a monthly salary of 1500 Rbls. and they were leading a rather easy life, too. Judges were not ranging as high as the police officials, inquisitors for instance received a monthly pay of 2500 Rbls.

Town people were classified in five different groups which entailed different ranges of food supply. The lowest group comprised all people

who were useless from the Soviets' point of view, i. e. old aged persons, disabled persons who were no more fit for work, and children. They only got 300 grs. (10<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> ozs.) of bread daily and 400 grs. (14 ozs.) of sugar and fat products in a period of four weeks. Workmen got a daily supply of 4—500 grs. (14—19 ozs.) of bread as well as 28 ozs. of sugar and just as much of fat, — 11 g (2 lbs. 3<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> ozs.) of meat and 1 ltr (2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>10</sub> pints) of brandy for the whole period. The highest groups A and B included the staff of the N K G B, managers of enterprises, famous artists, and useful scientists. Their rations for the concerning periods were daily 600 grs. of bread (21 ozs.) and monthly 6 kgs. (13 lbs 3<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> ozs.) of sugar, 2 kgs (4 lbs. 7<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> ozs.) of candy, 6 kgs. (13 lbs. 3<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> ozs.) of fat, 14 kgs. (30 lbs. 10 ozs.) of meat, 10 kgs (21 lbs. 14 ozs.) of fish, 10 kgs (21 lbs. 14<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> ozs.) of vegetables, and 5 lts. (10<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> pints) of brandy. The total amount of products delivered to these groups of people was not large, because there were only 2000 such persons at Riga.

Our Latvian industry, of which we were so justly proud in happier days, is now coupled to the Moscow 5-Year-Plan. Great energy is applied, but the production figures are not impressive. Soviet industrial planning strikes our Latvian experts as both wasteful and exceedingly poorly organized. And since the planned quotas are not met, there is an incredible amount of bribery and of fake production reports.

No private initiative is found anymore in the cities. Only Communist co-operatives, including productive artels (for artisans) and industrial State combines. On the "q. i". skilled workers accept work in their spare time from fellow Latvians. However, the Soviet system has a fearful ability to break down a skilled working man's self respect and self reliance. So, as life is growing more difficult and as liberation is slow in coming, people become demoralized. Above all, why should we exert ourselves, when we know that 85 percent of our national industrial output goes to the hated Soviets?

Considering that all Russians coming to Latvia looked upon that country as the very land „where milk and honey is flowing” and also considering the fact that Latvia at that time was already robbed and poor, one can easily imagine how living conditions must have been in Russia. Throughout the whole country thousands of Russian tramps and starving people crowded in, most of them old aged persons and children. They all went about in the country begging for bread and potatoes. But even many discharged Russian soldiers who were supposed to return to their „paradise”, decided to stay in Latvia rather than to do as they were ordered, and they applied themselves to looting and similar gangster jobs.

### Speculations, Housing Problem

Although it is difficult for us to get accustomed to it, we can learn a great deal from the Soviet invaders, seeing how cleverly they operate with other people's property. As in the case of Imperial Russia,

even Soviet Russia is a classical land of bribery, corrupt officialdom, and embezzlement.

We of the Latvian Underground are watching how dissatisfaction is now immeasurably greater even among the Soviet citizens than it used to be before the war — none of the promises they were given during the war have since materialized. Many Soviet citizens among the simple people believe that a war may bring a change of regime and a turn for the better. I am not so sure about that, as I will explain later on.

Then there was the black market which met with official approval just as it did in Russia. In 1946 the prices on the Riga Black Market were as follows; sugar, butter, bacon, were marketed at about the same price of Rbls. 200 per kg., meat at 100 to 200 Rbls, and potatoes at 10 Rbls. per kg. There was a great demand for boots, and they cost 800 Rbls. a pair, whereas suits of clothes were offered for sale at prices ranging from 4000 to 6000 Rbls.

Housing matters were even more complicated, and the prevailing regulations only allowed a person to have 97 sq. ft. of room with additional 43 sq. ft. for each member of his family. Higher employees, bearing special responsibility, famous artists, physicians, invalids of the red army, and other privileged persons were allowed to have an additional space of 150 to 200 sq. ft. In consequence of so many Russians coming into the country there was a terrible housing shortage. Fuel of all kinds was also running short.

### Churches and Schools

As far as church activities are concerned there had been some changes in Russia in previous years, but they had not affected the Latvian Protestant Church.

The churches had to face many difficulties, because their real estate and all their houses and inventory were confiscated and their activity was hampered by economic encroachments. The parishes were forced to pay rent for their own churches monthly Rbl. 1.50 for every 10 sq. feet of space, and they were no more acknowledged as a corporation. For electricity they had to pay higher tariffs than the movie theatres. In consequence of those persecutions more and more churches had to be closed. Schools were treated just the same as during the first occupation period, only that now there were very few teachers left. Many of them had managed to escape, and others were not allowed to work. People who had not even graduated were now found lecturing at universities and colleges.

Only very few of the persons who had been deported in 1940, came back home to Latvia, as a matter of fact only such persons who had submitted themselves to Communism and had become active members of the propaganda service. A few letters reached Latvia from other deported persons, mostly from women or children, who appealed to relatives or friends for money and clothing. As for the 500 Latvian officers who had been deported from Litene in 1941, nobody ever heard of them again.

## Desorganization of Administration

In the course of time the Russian administration grew more and more chaotic, one authority was usually unaware of what the other one had ordered, and officials kept sending people about from one office to another, and nobody seemed able to give any correct information. The well-beloved red tape seemed to have developed into a red sponge under the influence of the red tyranny. But finally the passive resistance of the Latvian people against the occupation power became more and more self-confident and unanimous, because even the workmen no longer believed in any Soviet promises. The people only just did what they were forced to do, but by no means anything more.

## The Report of a Fugitive

The iron curtain has shut off the Baltic States in a particularly tight way. It is practically impossible to get out of there, but nevertheless there are people who manage to do so in spite of all the immense difficulties.

They report:

On February 22, 1948, Sovietskaya Latvia, the mouthpiece of the occupying Soviet invaders, editorialized that, "there is no better fortified rear in the world than the Soviet rear, there is no wiser policy than the Soviet policy." Now, living in that rear and being an unwilling victim of that policy, I will try to send this new report through to you. I trust that this letter will arrive. If it does, you will know that our communication lines are still open. Be very careful about the wording of any messages which you send in return. We who are underground in this Soviet hell would rather be without any message from you on the outside than to have the MVD break up our communication lines. **Life hangs on that.**

Since February 1 of this year all letters going abroad must be delivered for mailing at the Repatriation Department, 36/40 Blaumanis Street, Riga. That new Soviet censorship move will pull down the Iron Curtain on all Latvian letters, except those that find their way out illegally. Well, we will manage.

The following is the narrative of one of such audacious and lucky people:

„I am a young man and that may account for my taking the daring risk to find a way through the iron curtain". He then describes the devastations caused in Riga by war events and slowly and reluctantly begins to report upon the activities of the Soviet occupants and the atrocious sufferings which the enslaved Baltic People have to endure, and finally continues his narrative as follows:

„Every war seems to develop its own and characteristically dreadful methods, and indeed this last war has been no exception in this respect

and it seems to have been the Latvian Nation's destiny to drain the cup of bitterness to the dregs.

One of these said methods was called filtration or screening, and I guess the district of Kurzeme had to suffer most from that. In the districts of Kurzeme and Latgale the Russians ordered mobilization immediately after they had occupied the country, which in my opinion has saved all the men who were called in for military service, from the most terrible NKVD screening committee. Even the most bloody battle may not demand such a dreadful toll of lives as the daily routine of this authority.

Nobody is able to give exact figures, but it has been estimated that the first screening effected the deportation of at least three or four times as many people as during the whole first year of Communist government, i. e. 150—200 000 persons only from the district of Kurzeme. Just to prove the fact that these figures are by no means exaggerated I am going to state the following facts which I know from my own experience.

After the capitulation in midsummer 1945 one of the screenings at Liepaja alone resulted in 70 freightcars crowded with arrested persons, two cars thereof being filled with arrested women only. Another severe screening had also taken place at the small town of Sloka. Here quite a lot of NKVD authorities had settled already during the war, waiting for their chance, and they had actually managed to send half the population of the place to the Far East, and that just as a pastime as it seemed. The scare news of these poor victims that seeped through later on, generally originated from Siberia.

What is such a filtration — screening actually looking like? Immediately after the arrival of Russian Military Forces NKVD screening committees set out on their work everywhere. In some places these committees held office at Police Stations, but in the district of Kurzeme, where the entire male population had been transferred to concentration camps, the committees executed their work in the camps. At any rate every citizen without exception had to appear before such committees and to report on himself, which statements were recorded in an ingenious card registry. In these interrogations special attention was paid to the person's activities during the first period of Soviet occupation and during the German one. In case the interrogated person seemed irreproachable from the Communistic point of view, his documents were stamped accordingly. If anybody, however, seemed suspicious for some reason or other, the series of mental and physical tortures began with a terrible logical consequence. There are no proofs available, but circumstances seem to reveal the fact that there must have been a certain percentage of each community who were designed eligible for deportation as a matter of course, and that there always must have been a plan fixed in advance which controlled the whole work of the committees. The stamps issued by these screening committees on such occasions became the most important bases for future life; — without such a stamp one could neither

get registered nor get a job or even ration cards. At first it seemed as if people who had got the screening stamp in their documents, were thereby given a certain guaranty, but as a matter of fact even such hopes soon proved to be nothing but mere illusions. Members of the Communist party got passports valid for 5 years. Old aged people were granted such for 1 year, but all the other persons got identification cards valid only for a period of 3—6 months. As the information services in question were working most energetically, nobody could ever be sure whether or not the regular prolongation of this identity card might perhaps be transformed into a rather long journey to Siberia.

When listening to an artist or a scientist speaking on the Riga broadcasting system in favour of the Communist regime you may be sure that he is either a scoundrel or a man desperately afraid of his eventual fate. There were only very few Latvians who could be classified amongst these groups, because as a matter of fact the general opinion concerning this question was wellnigh unanimous throughout our entire native country, and strictly Latvian to an admirable extent. In my opinion the Latvians still living in our country can be classified into these groups: The older generation has become deeply pessimistic on the whole, but nevertheless they willingly listen to circulating rumours concerning the imminent arrival of foreign navies, and they still keep up hope within the limits of possibility. On the other hand the youth have been keeping their heads up in unswerving confidence throughout all the time. This is mainly proved by the fact that the recruiting of Communistic youth is being met with a spirit of such hostile resistance that the party-leaders feel thoroughly desperate when considering this problem. The third category is that of the children, and here the Soviets are manoeuvring in quite a different way. The recruiting of pioneers amongst the elementary school pupils is getting on successfully, and there are many parents who actually never dare talk about topical matters when their children are about the house, because it is the pioneer's duty to report every enemy of the Soviets even if they are their own parents.

Immediately after the Russian occupation all people had to surrender their radio sets. Whereas the small sets were returned some time afterwards the large ones were retained for good. The objective was clear, the people were not to be given the chance to hear broadcastings from abroad, which by the way was strictly prohibited.

The most widely circulated official news-paper „Cina“ is full of propaganda written in such an unfamiliar and instigating style that people only buy this gazette to make up with the prevailing paper shortage, which indeed is most embarrassing. In order to give the Latvians at least a bit of true news, information pamphlets are often spread by unknown persons. There is even a secretly duplicated Latvian news-paper, „Mazais Latvīš“, which claims to be issued in periodical editions of a thousand copies each under the control of the Latvian People's Party. I had the opportunity to see the Nos. 2 and 3 of that paper. The second number was

devoted to the annual commemoration day of independent Latvia — November 18th —, and was full of most interesting details concerning our struggles for liberty, finally emphasizing the comment that this desperate and stubborn fight had not yet come to an end. No 3 of the news-paper, which was issued in December, unmasked the election committee in which the returns had already been fixed beforehand. The editor also came to the conclusion that any sort of resistance against the election would only cause new victims without changing the official returns in the least, and so the population was warned to abstain from any open violence. Each of these papers bore the summons requesting every reader to drop the paper into another Latvian's post box after having read it himself.

The streets of Riga are not anything like what they used to be. Militia, men and women, are to be seen everywhere, and Russian bands are playing in the parks. Homeless youngsters from Russia are roving around cadging and stealing whatever they can get. Nearly in every third house there is a tavern, and they are called „Americancas” because of their being arranged according to American pattern.

The way of the Russian Army could be traced by the desperate laments of robbed people, heaps of sunflowers and empty American tins. When the war was over all motorized arms of Russian origin disappeared. At a parade which was held on the Triumphal Square not only all the tanks were American-made, but even the men of these units were clad in uniforms made of American cloth.

There are only very few Latvians to be seen in the streets of Riga at day-time, but in the evening, soon after leaving off work, one does not hear any Latvian sound in the streets at all. The reason for this is only, because the Latvians do not like to run the risk of being robbed. There are many kinds of robbery, as a matter of fact every discharged Soviet soldier is on the lookout for a civilian suit of clothes in the streets during the darkness. But even appartments and flats must beware of being looted, and that is the reason why all people are securing their doors with many locks and latches, and they will not open them to anybody save they hear distinctly the well-known voice of a friend outside. When they notice that somebody is trying to force the door open, which indeed happens very often, people generally try to defend themselves by cursing and swearing like a trooper at the top of their voice. People who are able to do that in Russian mostly succeed in stopping short the would-be burglars' efforts, because those magic words have proved to be of more help in such cases than any intimate contact with the militia could ever provide.

In the general way of speaking the NKVD took over all Baltic „living stock” immediately after the second occupation in 1944, and ever since then they are minutely classifying and controlling all inhabitants of the countries. Simply everybody must be prepared to face another screening at any time, and this time that procedure might just as well result in being

arrested, convicted, deported to forced labor camps, or even being shot to death. To be sure there are courts in action, too, but only very seldom people succeed in getting any information about the decisions, although many thousands are made every month. Prisons, jails, and cellars are again full of martyrs, but there are only very few of them who ever manage to get out again. As a matter of fact as far as I am concerned I only know of the popular singer Brechmane-Stengel, who actually had this chance and that only because Kirchenstein (head of the satellite government) took charge himself of her special case. When she appeared on the opera stage again for the first time after her release, she was overwhelmed with hearty ovations by the audience. To stop this the opera director had to forbid her to take any notice of da-capos.

The population is controlled in a much more cunning manner than in 1940. In this most powerful and ingenious controlling apparatus not only the militia are working, but even the house-keepers and many Russians living in the flats of deported Latvians contribute to the efficiency of that intelligence service. Part of this controlling work is done without any secrecy, but the informations are finally completed by mysterious and unknown agents. On account of certain sources which had been available to me I dare say the organization of those secret agents is immense. I do not know the principles according to which these spies are recruited, but I know that very often all sorts of people are summoned to the NKVD authorities, where they are addressed in the following way: „As you know, your past has got some dark spots, but now the time has come for you to make up for that. You are requested to surrender us some informations on such and such persons“. Naturally there are always people who willingly comply; but there are others, too, who feel reluctant in denoting fellow countrymen and try to get away with all sorts of excuses and subterfuges. That, however, is an entirely hopeless struggle. The agents of the NKVD wait patiently for the poor victim to change his mind, but as soon as they understand that there is no information to be had, the righteous person who refused to play the traitor's part is finally doomed to a dreadful fate. From this point of view I consider all correspondence with our people at home as dangerous. Merely the fact of receiving letters from abroad is a crime in the eyes of the NKVD, at any rate it provides sufficient reason for them to summon the addressee to their office to make him report on other persons. Repatriated people indeed have to face the same odds. Of course not all people in Russia have been shot down or are being detained in prison, and neither is it quite impossible to live there, but the question how much everybody has to pay for his right to live, is rather disgusting.

People are allowed to use trains to travel for quite short distances only. If they want to go to any further places they need a special certificate (not for leave, but for the journey) which must be issued by the management of their working place. Needless to say, such travelling permits are most difficult to be had.

Besides the shops in which rationed food is sold there are also special governmental stores, i. i. the former army's P. X. shops. When a tin of canned fish is supposed to cost Rbls. 7.— according to the official price regulations, then it is sure to cost Rbls. 95.— in the governmental store. You will find the same proportion of prices in the case of all sorts of other goods, too, and that is the reason why these governmental stores are justly called state shops for speculation. Speculation and black-marketeering are flourishing everywhere, and the Soviet soldiers are indeed a great help to this. It is quite easy to stand at the side of the highway and to lift the hand when a motor car of the red army chances to pass by. Although it is strictly forbidden to give any civilians a ride, all enlisted men are eager to get a good tip, not only driving you anywhere you like at the rate of 1 Rbl. a kilometer, but even warning you of NKVD posts they know of.

I also know of an interesting story concerning the perversity of life within the sphere of cultured art, but I suppose I better leave that out!

### Forced Marriage

When a fugitive from Latvia was asked whether or not the regulation which forced Latvian wives whose husbands were abroad to marry immigrated Mongolians or other Soviet Russian subjects, had already been effective at the time when he left the country, he answered in the negative, but he nevertheless admitted that a strong tendency for settling this question had already existed, so that he did not doubt that in the meanwhile such requests will have found official foundation, and may God help any woman who dare offend such a law:

In how far these immoral activities are already carried out may be seen from an article published in "Newsletter" on June 25, 1948.

Divorces are obligatory in case one of the marriage partners lives abroad. The MVD (equal to the former NKVD) forces the wife to correspond with her husband and if he refuses to return, the marriage automatically divorced. The divorced wife is given notice that she has to contract a new marriage.

A so-called "Executive Committee" chooses the new husband who may be a Mongolian, and he is ordered to marry the divorced wife. In case she refuses to do so, she is threatened that she will be deported or that her children will be taken away from her.

This procedure proves to be successful, in particular when little children remained with the desparate mother.

As a result of these brutal methods lots of suicides are being committed, However the thus "divorced" wives are mostly joining the partisans in the woods.

## Resistance Movement and Partisan Fights

... . They are fighting to wake up the world conscience, specially of U. N., which they request to stop the annihilation of people that is going on in their country. Sooner or later the world will have to acknowledge their fight and to render them the deserved help". (The New York Times).

In spite of all persecutions, deportations, and executions, the Estonians, Latvians, and Lithuanians never resigned their most ardent desire to regain their national and political freedom and to re-establish the independence of their countries. A most common feeling of solidarity and unity of interests grew up within the three Baltic States, destiny thus welding these nations into one. A new underground movement, comprising some 30 000 men, sprang into existence. Patriots hiding in forests and swamps continuously attacked red army units at night. This Latvian underground movement is strongly supported by numerous people from all spheres of social standing at Riga and in many other towns.

These well disciplined guerilla units were joined by former Latvian soldiers and other people who had lost all other chances of life, and thus the whole movement developed into a powerful organization, thriving best within the following four main guerilla centres:

- a) In the forests of Šķaune and Asune District of Ludza
- b) In the forests of the Daugavpils
- c) In the forests of Madona und Lubana
- d) In the forest of Dundaga and Ventspils.

Most of the guerillas were concentrated in these four centres, but smaller units are to be found throughout Latvian territory wherever there are forests or swamp-areas. The forests are often combed, but the Russians always suffered great losses on such occasions. Sometimes there are even battles of quite a large style fought out between the partisans and the combing N K V D units. In one of these battles, which took place in March 1947, Capt. Jansons, Lt. Klavinš, Lt. Celinskis, 1st Lt. Znotans, and Lt. Cerinš were killed in action. These guerilla units are amply provided with food, arms, and ammunition, and they are indeed a serious handicap for Russian traffic, because they are continuously destroying, or damaging telephone lines, high ways, and bridges. In 1945 guerilla units even conquered the town of Ludza, and they held it for 8 hours, long enough to fill up their arms and ammunition stores. They also took possession of the Madona broadcasting system in a surprise raid and

operated the transmitter for two hours. In the forests one can often find posters in several languages running: „Don't disturb us and we will not disturb you" or „The forest for us, the road for you". Military actions against guerilla units were mostly carried out by N K V D units consisting of Asiatic troops only. The guerillas very often impose deliberate acts of vengeance or rather punishments, sentenced by a secret court of vengeance, or rather punishments sentenced by a secret court of justice, upon such occupation units the members of which had displayed a too brutal and bloody attitude against the Latvian people. Sometimes the guerillas even stop trains, search them, and fetch out some occupation officials who are wanted for murder on account of their tyrannic and bloodthirsty management. All this sort of activity makes the occupation authorities move more cautiously, and most of the officials feel reluctant at treating the population in a too severe manner for fear of having to render account of their atrocities in the hands of the revenging guerillas who always manage to kidnap their vile victims, even if the odds are a thousand to one.

### Methods of Partisan Fighting and Their International Cooperation

Authentic informations give account of the resistance movements in Lithuania, Latvia, White-Russia, Poland, and Ukraina, where partisan fights are continuously going on, and as a matter of fact detached units of partisans even made their appearance in Silesia. Consequently the Soviet Authorities have perpetually been deporting young men of conscription age to the Far East or to districts near the Arctic Ocean in order to prevent the partisans from getting continual reinforcements. The occupation forces of the Baltic Countries mostly consist of Siberians and Mongolians. The partisans are always operating in small units, and they are armed with weapons, and wear uniforms they took as booty from the Soviets, but the clothes are always distinctly marked with the national pre-war badges. Their Lithuanian partisans are even operating with motor-cycles, motorized field artillery, and small tanks, and their leader is a personage of well nigh legendary character from Kubart town, who is nicknamed „the green devil". Besides this armed resistance there is a strong underground movement which is chiefly based on the regular issue of about 20 illegal periodicals. Throughout last summer the partisans actually controlled seven districts and showed a brisk activity even in many areas of Poland and of East Prussia, thereby establishing close contact with the Polish resistance movement and as a matter of fact the raid on the frontier town of Cipliske was performed in intimate collaboration with the Poles.

To restrict the partisans' activities the Soviet Army was considerably reinforced, and special transports and bridges were strongly guarded. Even air force and motorized units were ordered to help the infantry tackle the task of securing communication lines, which indeed was a rather difficult one, considering those circumstances. The Soviet Forces, the

only task of which is to fight the partisans, are estimated to consist of seven regular divisions besides numerous M. V. D (NKVD) units totalling about 75 000 men of the so-called „people's militia" and special „liquidation" groups, whereas in Autumn 1947 f. i. 5 special air force units were stationed in Lithuania only for the said purpose. In January 1948 these troops were still reinforced by new infantry and other armed units, which were brought to Lithuania, Latvia, and Esthonia. At the small railroad junction of Mozeki for instance there was a garrison of 3000 M V D men with tanks and other motor vehicles; in spite of all these minute precautions, however, the H. Q.-buildings of the M V D at Sauli and Poneveza were blown up in the summer and in December 1947.

The partisans are fighting to the last man, to the last cartridge. When ammunition is running short and the odds of being taken prisoner have to be faced, they put a grenade, which everybody saves for this purpose, into their mouth and make it explode, thus defeating recognition, which indeed would cause fatal consequences to all their relatives. When the MVD manages to spot a partisan, all his relatives are arrested and must face the most atrocious torturing. But the partisans' secret service is also working with most cunning efficiency, and in most cases they manage to find out the eventual traitor. The corpses of partisans falling into the hands of Communists are usually exhibited in the market and all inhabitants have to pass by in single file. If the wife of the dead man or any of his dependants lose their nerves on that occasion and in a mood of utter despair let their behaviour reveal signs of recognition, thus admitting that the „gangster" is known to them, they very soon have to share his fate. One case, in which a young partisan took the risk of going home to see his relatives one night, may seem characteristic for the whole prevailing situation. Unfortunately the Russians had chosen that very same night for their periodical raids on this village, and the partisan was severely injured in an ensuing fight. As this had occurred near his father's house, the Soviets ordered his father, being the peasant next to the place, to bring the wounded to the district town on his cart. The young man died on the way, and the Russian guard ordered the corpse to be thrown into the nearest pond. When the father set out to obey by lifting up his son gently with his hands, the guard flogged him because of his having handled a fascist swine too carefully. He suffered both offence and pain silently, well knowing that any impulsive reaction on his side would mean imminent danger to the entire family. — And so the whole population of Lithuania and other countries are going on fighting desperately and with dogged resolution against the worst tyranny ever conceived by man.

In 1947 an Esthonian fisherboat managed to reach the coast of Sweden. The crew, who had escaped from Memel in a daring flight, reported that in Lithuania all the vast forest areas were crowded with partisans and that these forces were even more numerous there than in Esthonia and Latvia.

Many of the Latvian and Lithuanian combatants for freedom who had formed resistance groups in the Polish forests have now — together with their Polish comrades — joined the great Ukrainian resistance movement operations under the command of colonel Bender. Bender's men are comparatively well equipped because after the German capitulation they had captured a great deal of Schoerner's army outfit including tanks, artillery, gasoline, radio-sets, provisions and even airplanes. Bender's forces distributed this vast amount of war material amongst their partisan units throughout the Carpathian mountains, Slovakia, Poland and Ukraina. Particularly the latter enjoy very good leadership. And they have acquired great experience in partisan war-fare. They have



Fighter Movements in Latvian Forests

established very good contacts, which some day may turn out to be of great importance in world events. Colonel Bender's liaison officers deliver orders with greatest precision, and there is a permanent close collaboration between the various groups even including the partisan groups in Latvia and Esthonia.

At present the effective strength of Bender's units is estimated to amount to about 200,000 men, and they are willingly aided by the inhabitants

in every possible way. Their intelligence service and their discipline are of a very high standard. To fight the partisans the Russians recently even ordered the German divisions of General Paulus to the „infested“ areas. According to information from Swedish sources the strength of his army is 36 divisions with the Head-Quarters at Dimitrov near Moscow. The official commander is General von Paulus, but the actual leader is von Seydlitz, who joined the communist party in 1944. The majority of these divisions has been stationed in the Baltic countries and in the Minsk area. Together with the second Soviet Tank Division and the 172nd Soviet Infantry Division the above mentioned German army participated in the fights against Latvian and Lithuanian partisans in the districts of Kaunas, Suvalies, Grodno, and Minsk in fall 1947. Certain units of the Paulus army are even supporting Markos' forces, who have made invasions into Greek territory from their bases in Jugoslavia.

### War Preparations

In all the Baltic countries the Russians are nervously preparing for a probable war, and indeed people are praying to God that this may come, the sooner the better, and release them from terror and sufferings. On account of that general attitude the whole fishing fleet of the Baltic Sea was liquidated, and tens of thousands of Esthonian, Latvian, and Lithuanian fishermen were „voluntarily“ sent to the Ochtskaya Sea in the Far East under the official pretence that there were not enough fish left to make fishing lucrative in the Golf of Riga and off the Coast of Esthonia. Above this all the inhabitants of the coastal districts in an area of about four miles in with were evacuated by force, and Russians were settled there in their place, thus completing the number of those deported to the Baltic Countries by the Nazis from White Russia and the Leningrad District.

In a great many cases these immigrants are even given the surnames of the former inhabitants who had been abducted to remote places in the midst of Siberia.

Even shooting grounds for „V“ weapons were constructed from which practically any spot in Europe could be bombed with a great efficiency.

Soviet armed trawlers, speed-boats, and aircraft are stationed in Riga and at Bolderaja. Larger Soviet warships, under the command of Admiral Tributs, anchor at Paldiski. A great number of Soviet-Nazi submarines are at Liepaja, where Soviet torpedo boats also put in. Unconfirmed reports emphasize the fact that the most secret and important Soviet naval station in the Baltic is Baltiisk (formerly Pillau), 22 miles from Koenigsberg. The Soviet airforce stations in our country are at Riga-Pärdaugava (spilve) Rezekne, Krustpils, and Bolderaja.

The Soviet military transport system, at sea and on land, is of considerable quantity. Soviet troops are numerous, but their equipment is lacking in strength and in modernization. The tremendous war-booty, brought by the OVSG from Germany to the Soviet Union, via

Riga, was recklessly handled in transport. Much of it consisted of anti-aircraft guns.

Even at this late date, most Soviet military cars are still American made, Lend Lease shipments from World War II. Our Latvian intelligence reports cite facts to prove that the present Soviet military power is highly over-advertised and certainly overestimated.

### Deportations, Elections

Catholic priests and clergymen have also been persecuted. So the Safety Police are eagerly engaged in annihilating the local population, whose ancestors had already lived in that country for thousands of years ever since the time when they had settled there coming from the North East of Russia. Very often entire families and communities are exterminated in such a way. There is a great difference, however, between the Nazi and the Soviet methods in this respect. Whereas the first used to shoot down people who were undesirable from their point of view, the latter always torture their victims in a most atrocious manner before killing them. They put their victims alternately into boiling-hot and ice-cold water, pierce needles under their finger nails, tear the skin off their hands and faces, or roast them on a slow fire. Besides two or three thousand people have been deported on a monthly average, and they have to cover long distances walking by foot, and people from Inner Russia pour forth to take their places. So for instance only in the Wilna and Kauna area about ninety thousand Russians were settled within the course of a single year.

The most notorious resistance, however, was offered by the people on occasion of the last elections, and this process was most efficiently controlled by the underground movement, which had announced a general boycott of the elections, which was indeed strictly obeyed. While the population of the towns were forced to vote by armed agitators, the people in the country categorically refused to vote. During the last elections in Lithuania in January 1948, 180 000 agitators set themselves about working on the people, and they were guarded by police and army units. When on the very day of the elections the farmers showed themselves clearly disinclined to go to the ballot-boxes, special armed election committees, which in their turn were guarded by 10 to 15 soldiers, went from one house to another on their look-out for voters. When being questioned most of the farmers notified their tormentors that they were satisfied with the present Government and had no wish for changes, that they had never voted before, and that they did not want to do so now either. But there were some other people, too, who simply just refused to vote without giving any explanation whatever, thus boldly facing most dire punishment. At many places these commissions arrested women who had refused to vote, and ordered them to bare their knees and to kneel down in the snow, which at that time had a temperature of 25° below zero, where they had to stay until they gave in. On the whole the re-

ports of the resistance movement reveal the fact that actually only 5% of the rural population had voted.

Although the Balts generally use the ironical and bitter slogan that their government is in Moscow, their population somewhere in Siberia, and their Army in the Far East, their moral has not been broken hitherto. An information published by the underground movement reads like this:

Illegal radios are still in existence. We get Swedish, Finnish, and American stations in Germany. We also listen, as during the war, to BBC (London). The recent violence in the Soviet attacks on America remind us of the treachery of Hitler and Molotov. You recall how Mr. Molotov on October 31, 1939, protested to the Supreme Soviet: "We declare that the malevolent rumors concerning the Sovietization of the Baltic States serve solely the interests of our common enemies and of certain anti-Soviet provocateurs".

You must try .....

(Paragraph deleted for security reasons)

After the Reds took over Czechoslovakia, our resistance movement became more inspired than ever. We will hang on. And we hope to live the day when we can bring Andrei J. Vishinsky, that gravedigger of our liberty, to the bar of true justice for the crimes he personally directed in Latvia in June 1941. Our memory is long. We have not forgotten the 1355 executions and the 32,895 deportations of that month of Vishinsky's bloody rule. Our illegal resistance paper, **Mazais Latvīis** (The Little Latvian), keeps our sense of patriotism and justice alive."

One Lithuanian who managed to escape recently reported: "On June 3rd, 1947, I went to Vilna to see an opera. On my way I met a group of prisoners who were just being thrust into cattle trucks for deportation. Having seen their faces I was entirely unable to give the opera a further thought. The only thing I could manage to think about were rifles, knives, with which I would have loved to save my country from brutal annihilation."

### Belief in God and the Triumph of Justice

The churches are the only places where the people at least find a little relief from their oppressors. So the churches are always crowded and people are standing in long lines before the houses of the priests boldly and doggedly defying all possible consequences.

Concerning these facts the members of the underground movement report:

"Our Latvian pastors and priests, those who still remain here, are continuing their pastoral work. Christianity is not dead. Confirmation days, both Lutheran and Catholic, have become occasions of national significance. The Communist Youth League is, of course, continuing its violent, but inept atheist campaign. And anybody who occupies a position in the State service cannot retain his membership in a church. The state is the new god.

You should have been here, in the church at Christmas, and you would have perceived in the eyes of everyone all the bitterness, grief, and misery."

We cannot but cry and we loathe all those who have brought all this upon us.

Everybody firmly trusts that this second Russian occupation will come to an end in the same way as the first one and the German occupation did."

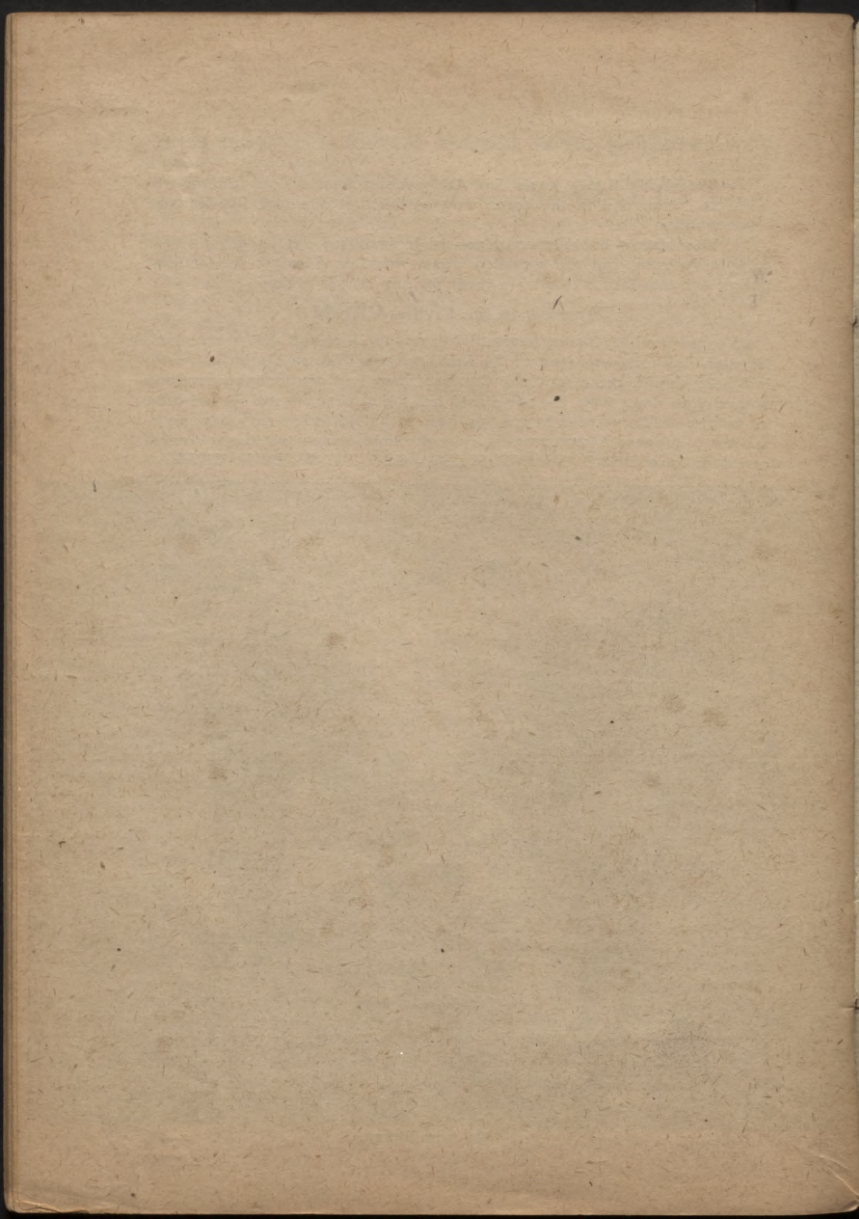
This strong hope is continuously intensifying the people's power of perseverance, but the question arises whether a small, but gallant nation can stand such a terrible strain for any length of time.

### Warning to the Civilized World

We are waiting for an international action in behalf of the promised freedom and independence of the small nations. We are afraid, however, lest help should come too late. Our best men and our most courageous you may be dead then. We are afraid lest the civilized world should only be talking, while what is happening here in Latvia today may happen to the rest of the world tomorrow, the rule of criminals over all that is sacred and dear to us: DIEVS, TAVA ZEME DEG - GOD, THY EARTH IS AFLAME."



Flight from Home.



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