

Jānis Riekstiņš

**CRIMES COMMITTED BY THE USSR
OCCUPATION ARMY IN LATVIA
1940-1991**

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Crimes Committed by the USSR Occupation Army in Latvia

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Jānis Riekstiņš has extensively researched, selected, and compiled archival material that describes the brutality and cruelty of the Soviet regime. It is only a fraction of the documentation that exists, but it offers insight into many aspects of the Soviet occupation of Latvia, not least of which is the contemptuous attitude towards local Latvian authorities and people, the brutality of the Soviet armed forces, and the extended period of depravation and lawlessness experienced after World War II. The fact that many of these documents were secret also reveals the true face of the Soviet occupying regime.

The most frequent complaints about the Soviet military describe looting, stealing, and drunkenness. Historically, looting was acceptable, sometimes even a government-sanctioned method of payment, but declared illegal by Hague Conventions (1899, 1907, 1949). This did not stop looting by the Nazis or the Soviets during World War II or the looting of Iraq or Cyprus or many other events in the 20th century, but recent events in Ukraine – blatant looting of cultural treasures and even mundane household items by Russian soldiers – indicate Russia's continued inability to abide by the norms of civilised nations and societies. The USSR then and Russia today can offer neither its civilians nor its armed forces a lifestyle that does not require theft to supplement its daily needs. The rampant alcoholism described in the documents continues to plague modern-day Russia.

Detailed descriptions of events reveal that many Soviet soldiers and functionaries were poorly educated (pp. 102, 119), unfamiliar with basic hygiene practices (p. 48), and primarily from Russia. There are internal complaints that the work by staff in military units to prevent such actions was insufficient, noting that even members of the education staff were arrested for hooliganism (p. 147). Nevertheless, they had a clear advantage of Russian as the language of central authority and no knowledge of Latvian, once again placing indigenous Latvians in an unenviable position. In fact, the language used by Latvian civilians in their submissions is often submissive and deferential, clearly in line with the attributes of a colonised nation. Phrases such as 'humbly request' and 'I hereby beg you' (p. 19) leave no illusions as to whom power belongs and do not indicate belief in due process or rule of law. A confidential report even comments on the effect of such behaviour and how it could 'influence ... the mood of the population and form nationalistic views' (p.153). Russians, recalcitrant

in their willingness to learn Latvian, increased interaction with other Slavic migrants to Latvia, thus reinforcing their distinct cultural identity. For Latvians and other Balts, Russian economic control coupled with cultural separatism was experienced as greater Russian chauvinism and colonial control.

Reports by functionaries are examples of language that developed into ‘hypernormalised’ discourse – precise passages and structure of language. Stalin’s obsession with ‘proper’ language use resulted in standard phrases and language forms that permeated language structure and use throughout the Soviet Union, resulting in static and cumbersome forms that were difficult to interpret at the level of constative meaning and that polluted the Latvian language with ‘Russicisms’ and ‘Sovieticisms’.

When the Russian army finally left Latvia in 1994, it left behind highly polluted territories and a hostile contingent of ex-officers and their families who were allowed to remain in Latvia. The current war in Ukraine has had at least one positive effect in Latvia – the monuments that glorified the Soviet army have been removed, but the effects of 60 years of occupation are less easily dismantled.

Aija Abens, Dr.paed.

CRIMES COMMITTED BY THE USSR OCCUPATION ARMY IN LATVIA. 1940-1991 JĀNIS RIEKSTIŅŠ

Historian Jānis Riekstiņš has invested a great deal of work in researching and presenting the tragic pages of the history of our country and people, i.e., crimes committed by the Soviet occupation army in Latvia over more than fifty years. Thanks to the initiative of the Latvian Society for the Study of the Occupation of Latvia and its work, we can learn about the losses that the Soviet totalitarian communist regime inflicted on the Latvian state and its people.

The history of Latvia is written in blood: looking back at the events of the past, stretching from the time of independence in 1918 to the restoration of independence in 1991 and the present day, Latvia has been occupied for many years of its history. To understand the complex history of our country, it is important to read an objective and comprehensive account and analysis of the occupation, such as that offered by Riekstiņš.

The author gives insight into the internal correspondence of the occupying power, which vividly depicts their contemptuous attitude towards local Latvian authorities and people. Riekstiņš has researched, selected, and compiled a wide range of archival material, hitherto unpublished in historical literature, which describes the brutality and cruelty of the occupation regime.

Archival materials describe the communist regime's omnipotence and indifference towards the values of Latvia and its people. The book allows readers to learn about the tragic fates of families from different regions of Latvia who were affected, as well as about the arbitrariness of USSR military officials and unpunished criminal offences. We see that in most cases, occupying army officers acted as masters on Latvian soil, disrespecting the values of the Latvian people.

Secret documents depict numerous violent robberies and other crimes committed by the Soviet military against local people and municipalities. Shocking facts reveal that the crimes often involved brutal killings carried out during occupation, for property and revenge.

Readers will see in the historical evidence crimes of the occupiers that affect them personally as the documents reveal both

specific dates when the crimes were committed and victims' names, places of residence, and other relevant details. For example, the book details a specific case in which on 10 May 1953, Latvian SSR Dundaga District military officers arrived drunk at Rinda Church and destroyed or removed church property. Local police reported this vandalism to the head of the unit. Yet, the head did not take any measures to find the perpetrators.

Everyone needs to know the history of their country – about the hard-fought battles predecessors fought to win back their country and the losses suffered. This is especially important today as Latvia faces new security challenges by foreign-initiated attempts to justify crimes committed against the Latvian land and people during Soviet occupation.

This book succeeds in debunking the myth of a happy life in Soviet Latvia and the Soviet army as liberators, which is still perpetuated by many. Today, it is important to learn from history because the events of the past are the basis for the formation of the Latvian state, and it is our duty to leave a lasting historical record for future generations.

History teaches us that it is the responsibility and duty of every member of society to safeguard and preserve Latvia's independence for future generations. I call upon everyone to serve our country with a sense of mission so that the pages of Latvian history may be written in the future on this firm and unwavering foundation!

Regards,
Minister of Defence, Dr.sc.pol. Artis Pabriks

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FOREWORD

Archival material and the memories of the population characterise 50 years of Soviet occupation in Latvia as outright arbitrariness by the military, countless criminal offences, and a cruel, imperialist attitude towards Latvia and its indigenous peoples.

I have compiled some of the losses inflicted on Latvia by the Soviet military in three collections of documents: *The Ruined Land. The Losses to Latvia's Cultural Environment by the USSR Occupation Army* (1995), *The Ruined Land. Losses to the Latvian Countryside by the USSR Occupation Army* (1997), and *The Ruined Land. The USSR Military in Riga* (1998). This collection contains documents on crimes committed by the Soviet occupation army against Latvians and their personal and state property from 1940 to 1991.

As early as the summer of 1940 when the USSR invaded Latvia, Soviet troops destroyed and razed peasants' fields, gardens and meadows and destroyed and looted seized premises. There were frequent cases of looting of state and personal property. In the summer of 1944 when the Soviet army re-occupied Latvia, the crimes of military officers against Latvia and its inhabitants began again.

Acts of war continued for almost ten months. Huge numbers of troops seized homes, farms, and other essential facilities. The Red Army and its commanders, mainly from the rear, regularly engaged in theft and armed robberies, committed numerous murders, and engaged in other serious crimes against the peaceful population, so much so that the local population rightly came to regard the army not as liberators, as official propaganda proclaimed daily, but as invaders and occupiers who behaved as conquerers.

At the end of World War II, this occupying army was not withdrawn from Latvia but remained until the autumn of 1994. Archival documents indicate that the highest number of serious crimes committed by Soviet soldiers took place in the initial post-war years. This is confirmed by regular reports of the Minister of the Interior of the Latvian SSR A. Eglītis, his deputy A. Košeļevs, and other officials to the Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of the LSSR (Council of Ministers) Vilis Lācis, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Latvia Jānis Kalnbērziņš, and the Command of the Troops of the Baltic Military District. These

extensive reports identified specific crimes committed by the Soviet army and demanded they be stopped immediately and the perpetrators prosecuted. In practice, nothing was done. Troop commanders and garrison superiors were criminally indifferent to crimes committed by their subordinates; in fact, they even supported them and tried to prevent the criminals from deserved prosecution. The same was also true of military prosecutors.

The second major wave of crimes committed by the Soviet army was in the late 1950s and early 1960s when construction of missile bases, military airfields, and other military facilities was expanded in Latvia. Large numbers of military construction workers were brought in, many of whom were 'declassed elements'. They unleashed unprecedented terror on the local population at all military construction sites. The only force that confronted these armed vandals was the local police who suffered considerable losses in this unequal struggle.

When Latvia experienced the broad popular movement for the restoration of independence in the late 1980s, one of the main, most militant, and most aggressive opposing forces was the Soviet military. This was particularly evident during the August 1991 putsch. Therefore, in the struggle for restoration of state independence, one of the first and main demands was the withdrawal of the Soviet army from Latvia.

This collection of documents contains materials mostly from Council of People's Commissars (Council of Ministers) of the Latvian SSR, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Latvia, and the Supreme Soviet. The documents selected clearly reveal the crimes of the Soviet military and are arranged in chronological order.

The facts they contain are serious indictments of the totalitarian regime of the USSR and its occupation policies.

Jānis Riekstiņš

1. Extracts from The Mutual Assistance Pact Between Latvia and The Ussr, 5 October 1939

Moscow

5 October 1939

Mutual Assistance Pact between Latvia and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

Article III

The Republic of Latvia, to ensure the security of the Soviet Union and to safeguard its own independence, grants to the Soviet Union the right to maintain naval bases and specific airfields in the cities of Liepāja and Ventspils on a lease basis at an agreed price. The boundaries of the bases and aerodromes shall be demarcated and defined by mutual agreement at the specified locations.

For the purpose of guarding the Irbe Strait, the Soviet Union is granted the right to establish a coastal artillery base on the seafont between Ventspils and Pitragš on the same terms.

For the defence of naval bases, aerodromes, and coastal artillery bases, the Soviet Union shall have the right to maintain in the Districts assigned to these bases and aerodromes, at its own expense, a strictly limited number of Soviet armed ground and air forces, the maximum numerical strength of which shall be determined under a separate agreement.

Article IV

Both Parties undertake not to enter any alliance or participate in any coalition against either Party.

Article V

The implementation of this Pact shall in no way prejudice the sovereign rights of the Parties, inter alia, their system of government, economic and social systems and military conduct.

The Districts to be designated for bases and airfields (Article III) shall remain the territory of the Republic of Latvia.

...

This Agreement shall remain in force for a period of ten years; in the event that either Party does not deem it necessary to terminate this

Pact one year prior to its expiry, it shall automatically remain in force for a further period of ten years.

...
Signed in Moscow in two originals, in Latvian and Russian.
5 October 1939.

V. Munters

V. Molotovs¹

2. Extract from the transcript of a speech by the Latvian Minister of the Interior K. Veidnieks at a meeting of senior staff of the Ministry of the Interior on 21 February 1940

As regards the relations of our citizens with the soldiers of the USSR garrison stationed in Latvia, it should be noted that various unwanted misunderstandings and incidents still occur. For example, recently, a Russian military attaché travelling by train from Liepāja to Riga caused unnecessary commotion. He did not like the reserved sign on the compartment and started an argument with the conductor, asking him to take it down. When the conductor did not do so, because the sign was placed there by agreement with the Russians themselves, the attaché tore the sign down and threatened the conductor that he would no longer travel on the trains.

Another Russian officer went on a rampage in Liepāja at Kalpaka Bridge at this time, pulling out a revolver and threatening our policeman who would not let him cross the bridge without permission. But it turned out that the Russian guard post had also refused to let him into Tosmare without permission. The locals of Ventspils began to complain about Russian planes using live ammunition during training in the air. When they reached the ground, some bullets broke windows. Complaints have come in that Russian tractors have been breaking trees along the roadsides. Such cases have been particularly frequent recently. It is becoming noticeable that Russians are not taking the necessary steps to prevent the recurrence of these unpleasanties.²

¹ *Valdības Vēstnesis* [Government Herald]. – 10 October 1939

² *Latvijas okupācija un aneksija: 1939-1940: Dokumenti un materiāli* [Occupation and annexation of Latvia: 1939-1940: Documents and materials] -Riga.1995. - pp 219, 220

**3. Directive No 0262 of 9 June 1940 from
S. Timoshenko, People's Commissar for the Defence of
the USSR to Vice-Admiral V. Tribuc, Commander of
the United Baltic Fleet, Admiral N. Kuznetsov, People's
Commissar of the Navy, and K. Meretskov, Commander
of the Leningrad Military District on the occupation of
Latvia and Estonia**

Order

1) From 10 June of this year at 5.00 a.m., the RBF (Red Banner Baltic Fleet) shall come under the operational command of the Commander of the LMD (Leningrad Military District) and on 12 June be ready to carry out combat tasks as last instructed:

- a) Ensure the readiness of the NB (naval bases), as well as of the naval vessels in the ports of Tallinn, Paldiski and Liepāja,
 - b) Seize naval vessels based in Estonia and Latvia on the instructions of the commander of the Leningrad Military District,
 - c) Take possession of the merchant fleet and floating transport,
 - d) Prepare and organise a landing in Paldiski and Tallinn and take Tallinn harbour and the (shore) barracks,
 - e) Close the Gulf of Riga,
 - f) Organise a permanent and safe watch in the Gulf of Finland from the Finnish side and in the Baltic Sea from the Swedish side and to the south,
 - g) Assist the LMD units in the attack on Rakvere in close cooperation with ground troops,
 - h) Prevent Estonian and Latvian aircraft from flying to Finland and Sweden with fighter jets.
- 2) The exact time of the start of war will be specified by the commander of the LMD.

1. To develop the RBF Combat Action Plan in light of this Directive and to submit it for approval on 11 June of of this year.³

³ Heinrihs Strods. *Sarkanarmijas haotiskā atkāpšanās no Latvijas (1941. gada 22. jūnijs – 5. jūlijs)*. // *Latvijas Okupācijas muzeja Gadagrāmata. 2001. Nācija gūstā* [The chaotic retreat of the Red Army from Latvia (22 June - 5 July 1941) - Yearbook of the Latvian Occupation Museum. 2001. A Nation in Captivity] - Rīga, 2002, p 44

4. Note from the USSR government - ultimatum to the Latvian government, 16 June 1940

... The Government of the USSR considers the following to be necessary and urgent:

1. Form immediately a government in Latvia capable of and ready to ensure a fair conclusion of the Soviet-Latvian Mutual Assistance Pact,

2. Ensure, without delay, the free admission of Soviet troops into the territory of Latvia to place them in the most important centres of Latvia in sufficient numbers, ensure the realisation of the mutual assistance pact between the USSR and Latvia, and prevent possible provocative acts against Soviet garrisons in Latvia.

The Soviet Government regards the fulfilment of these requirements as an elementary condition without which the fair and loyal execution of the Soviet-Latvian Mutual Assistance Pact cannot be achieved.⁴

5. Extract from the Minutes of the Cabinet of Ministers meeting No 40

...

The meeting begins at 7:00 p.m.

1) Foreign Minister V. Munters reports on the ultimatum presented by the Chairman of the USSR Council of Commissars to the Latvian envoy in Moscow on 16 June 1940 at 2:00 p.m. (1:00 p.m. Latvia time).

2) Accept the request of the Government of the Soviet Union for the introduction of additional troops in Latvia.

The meeting is ended at 10:00 p.m.

Prime Minister K. Ulmanis

Acting Director of the State Chancellery R. Bulsons.⁵

⁴ *Valdības Vēstnesis* [Government Herald]. – 17 June 1970

⁵ NAL, 270. f., 1. desc., 2. file, p 84 (Original)

6. Extract from the Minutes of the Cabinet of Ministers' meeting No 43

...

1) Approves the minutes of 17 June 1940 between representative of the Latvian Army and representative of the USSR Army on the stationing of Soviet troops in Latvia.

2) A liaison headquarters shall be established under the Army Commander for the purpose of organising and promoting co-operation with troops of the Soviet Union in Latvia. General M. Hartmanis is appointed Chief of the liaison headquarters.

....⁶

7. Secret report by the People's Commissar for the Defence of the USSR S. Timoshenko to J. Stalin and V. Molotov, 17 June 1940

To ensure the earliest possible preparation of the Baltic TW [theatre of war], I consider it necessary to initiate the following measures immediately on the territories of the conquered republics:

1. The border with East Prussia and the Baltic coast is immediately occupied by our border troops to prevent espionage and diversionary activities by our western neighbours.

2. Bring into each of the conquered republics (as a first step) one regiment of the People's Commissariat for the Interior to ensure internal order.

3. Resolve as soon as possible the question of the governments of the conquered republics.

4. Start disarming and disbanding the armies of the conquered republics. Disarm the population, the police, and the existing militarised organisations.

5. Entrust the guarding, securing and garrisoning of the objects to our troops.

6. Begin the sovietisation of the conquered republics in the prescribed manner.

⁶ NAL, 270. f., 1. desc., 2. file, p 84 (Original)

7. Establish a Baltic Military District with headquarters in Riga in the territory of the conquered republics.

Colonel-General Apanasenko, Commander of the Central Asian Military District, is hereby appointed Commander of the troops of the District.⁷

8. Form the District Headquarters for the Headquarters of the 8th Army.

9. Undertake work to prepare the area as a theatre of war (construction of fortifications, conversion of railways, construction of roads and motorways, establishment of warehouses, etc.).

I will additionally submit a theatre of war preparation plan.⁸

8. Extracts from the report of the Commission of Inquiry on the armed provocation by the USSR on the Latvian border on 15 June 1940

(not later than 20 June 1940)

The Commission of Inquiry, after examining the scene and interviewing the surrounding population, found the following:

On the night of 15 June of of this year, an attack was made on the 2nd and 3rd Guard Posts of the 3rd Abrene Battalion. At the 2nd Guard Post in Masļenki, gunfire broke out between the attackers and the border guards; hand grenades were also thrown. 4 persons killed in the fighting. ... Telephone wires from the 2nd Guard Post to the rear were cut, several cartridge shells not in use by the Latvian Army, 7 hand grenades, a gas mask with Russian inscriptions were found in the vicinity of the 2nd Guard Post. Several footprints are visible at the bend of the border river, indicating that the border river was crossed in both directions. The attackers took with them the border guards who were at

⁷ Colonel-General A. Loktionov was appointed Commander of the Baltic Military District.

⁸ Meltukhov. *Narashhivanie Sovetskogo voennogo prisustviya v Pribaltike v 1939-1941 g.g.* [The build-up of the Soviet military presence in the Baltics in 1939-1941] // *Otechestvennaja istorija* [National History]. 1994. No 4, p 65

the 2nd Guard Post and other border guards who rushed to help, as well as individuals - family members of the border guards and residents of surrounding homes.

...

A total of 5 border guards and 11 individuals were taken from the 2nd Guard Post and its surroundings.

...

It was revealed that 5 border guards and 16 individuals had been taken from the 3rd Guard Post and its surroundings.

A total of 10 border guards and 27 individuals were taken from the 2nd and 3rd Guard Posts and their surroundings.

Chair of the Commission: Gen. Bolšteins

Members: (2 illegible signatures).⁹

9. Extract from the District police chiefs' reports on the invasion of Latvia by Red Army troops

Riot Police department
20 – 24 June 1940

The Madona District chief reported that 3 USSR military commissars arrived in Madona and invited the District chief to organise a procession to celebrate the new government by posting banners. The march is set for 22 June of this year at 7:00 p.m. Soviet soldiers will take charge of order; 2 armoured cars and 1 infantry company have arrived from Cēsis for this purpose. The police have been instructed not to appear on the streets and to remain at their headquarters, and the District chief and town mayor will be the first to take part in the march. In addition, Russian commissars told them that President Ulmanis was no longer in office.

⁹ *Latvijas okupācija un aneksija: 1939-1940: Dokumenti un materiāli* [Occupation and annexation of Latvia: 1939-1940: Documents and materials] - Rīga. 1995, pp 378-379

As there were no political prisoners in Madona, the Soviet military commanders ordered the release of the following persons who were released: Grenģis – a recidivist burglar, Adamovičs – a recidivist thief, Kaparjosts - a recidivist thief, and Liepiņš - suffering from arson mania and having burnt down about 15 barns.¹⁰

10. Letter of gratitude sent to S. Timoshenko, People's Commissar for the Defence of the USSR by V. Lācis, Acting Chairman of the Council of Ministers in the puppet government headed by J. Kalnbērziņš, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the CPL, and A. Kirhenšteins, July 1940

[July 1940]

To the People's Commissar for Defence, Marshal of the Soviet Union, Comrade Timoshenko:

With deep feelings of gratitude and joy, the working people of Latvia welcomed the great liberator - the Red Army. For more than 20 years, our life was like a prison in which deprivation, hunger, humiliation, and captivity persisted. Now we have the widest prospects for economic and cultural development. The hearts of the working people of Latvia burn with joy and gratitude to you, the leader of the great, mighty, and invincible Red Army, the leader of the army that rescued us from the horrors of war and captivity. We shall be worthy guardians of the new, mighty fatherland. In mighty, unbreakable ranks, we will lead the Latvian people in the struggle for the final victory of the working people.

Long live the invincible Workers and Peasants' Red Army!

Long live the leader of the Red Army and the inspirer of its historic victories - the Great Stalin!

CPL CC Secretary Kalnbērziņš
Acting Prime Minister V. Lācis¹¹

¹⁰ NAL, 270. f., 1. desc., 339. file, p 1, 1a (Original)

¹¹ *Valdības Vēstnesis* [Government Herald] – 7 August 1940

11. Instruction from the Chairman of the Soviet Garrison Supply Committee, J. Krīšbergs to Bauska District Alderman

z.m.
Soviet Garrison Supply Committee

True copy
Riga, 6 July 1940
5 Andr. Pumpura Street, apt 4
Phone 23114, 23733, 20534, 20583
No B.1
Bauska District Alderman
Straumēni, next to the City of Bauska

On the basis of the provisions of the Soviet Garrison Supply Committee (Law No 206 of 1939), we ask you to observe the following procedure in your economic relations with the Soviet troops in Latvia, which should also be presented to local Township governments.

1. If the leadership of the USSR troops or their units approach municipal elders with a request to provide or transfer land, buildings, or movable property for the use by the troops, the head of the local garrison of the Latvian army or if there is none, the Liaison Headquarters, and the commissioner or representative of the committee, if there are such in the District, must be contacted before proceeding with the execution of the case.

2. A representative of the municipality concerned, the owner of the property to be transferred or his/her authorised representative, and an expert in the respective field must be invited to the transfer of the items requested: for example, for buildings - the nearest structural engineer, for forests - a forester. There must be at least one representative from Soviet troops.

3. Statements shall be drawn up about the items to be transferred showing: a) members of the transfer-acceptance committee, b) time and place of transfer, c) names of the buildings, dimensions, and construction materials, d) age and condition of the buildings as a percentage of the new building, e) list of movable property to be transferred, f) area of land transferred by category (meadows, gardens, fields, etc.) (g) fruit trees, if any, (h) forest by area and species), and (i) amenities, if any (water supply, electrical installation, etc.). In addition, the market value of each of the

objects transferred, i.e., at time of transfer, must be determined. The value of each building must be determined separately from the value of the land.

4. The area of the premises to be transferred must be measured: in residential buildings, all rooms except corridors, restrooms, and stairs and (b) in other buildings, all separate compartments. Measurements shall be taken inside the space from wall to wall.

5. In accordance with Article 6(6) of the Regulations on Committees, losses or expenses of any kind which the State, municipalities, or individual citizens have incurred as a result of the liberation of the items to be transferred (displacement of population, loss of fields and garden crops, etc.) or independently of the transfer (grazing of meadows by Soviet troops, destruction of crops, etc.) shall be ascertained and assessed only at the request of the victim or his representative.

6. Persons referred to in Article 2 shall be called upon to ascertain and assess the damage (Article 5) and evaluation statements shall be drawn up.

7. Statements (Article 6) shall note the composition of the damage assessment, time and place of the assessment, detailed description of the damage, and the evaluation. Separate opinions by representative of Soviet troops and of the victim shall be entered in the deeds at their request. Supporting documents should be attached to the deeds, as much as possible – receipts, invoices, etc.

8. Statements of transfer of items and statements of evaluation of the damage (may be drawn up in Latvian as well as in Russian) shall be sent to the Soviet Garrison Supply Committee of the Ministry of Defence at 5 Andreja Pumpura Street, Riga.

All statements must also bear the signatures of the USSR troops.

/J. Krēsliņš/ Committee Chair

/E. Kļaviņš/ Construction Unit Acting Chief

/J. Priedītis/ Senior Accountant, Secretary of Bauska District

For all Township Councils of Bauska District.

For information and implementation.

Bauska, 10 July 1940

No120

V. Annus, Bauska District Alderman

J. Priedītis, accountant-secretary.¹²

¹² NAL, 1258. f., 1. desc., 10. file, p 2 (True copy)

12. Jānis Rudzīte's request for compensation for damages caused by the Red Army

LSSR Municipal Administration in Riga
From Latvian citizen Jānis Rudzīte,
living in Svente Township, Ilūkste District, Lakstīgalas
in the case of war damages
Petition

I hereby humbly request the honourable LSR Municipal High Council to address my case and the case of the rest of the landowners. In the month of June 1940, 10 km away from me, individual meadows measuring 3 ha were utilised by Soviet Russian troops. The same occurred for other peasants for whom the meadows were the only means of support for cattle and horses and where an agronomist had also come out to look and assess; as a result I am in a state of despair. Now fodder is expensive, there is no money for farmers, there is no money for this allowance. If it had been applied for earlier, we would have been able to buy fodder. Now it appears that all our hopes are lost and, on the contrary, we have been thrown over the fence by the new government. But still hoping and consoling other landowners, I hereby beg you to hear my request and report and to come to the victims and issue the indemnity with an addition, including the cost, which is now 3 times more expensive than it was at that time. For all the above, I ask that my request and report be respected and supported so that it can be said that this Government is indeed just and supports the working people and the people's breadwinner, the landowners.¹³

13. Statement concerning meadows utilised by the Red Army on the farm of Jūlijs Zirdziņš, owner of homestead Driķukalns in Mālupe Township

Statement
on the grazing of Jūlijs Zirdziņš' meadows, owner of homestead Driķukalns in Mālupe Township, by horses on 18 June 1940 of the advancing troops of the Soviet Union.

¹³ NAL, 270. f., 1. desc., 412. file, pp 6, 6a (Original)

The statement was drawn up on 22 June 1940 by Ādolfs Krustiņš, Alderman of Mālupe Township, in the presence of Jūlijs Zirdziņš, owner of the affected farm, and the following local witnesses: 1) Alberts Incenbergs, lives at homestead Jaunsalenieki and 2) Voldemars Priede, lives in homestead Kļavukalns.

The total area of the affected farm is 44.06 ha, divided as follows: arable land 10.36 ha, grassland 9.27 ha, pasture 20.72 ha, forest 2.71 ha and unusable land ... ha. The farm must pay state and local taxes in the amount of LVL 2,644.

Details of grazed grassland areas and damage assessment:

Having checked and measured the grazed meadow area, it was found that on the 1.90 ha of meadow where more horses were grazing, all the productive primary grass had been completely eaten and could not be harvested again of this year, with the exception of the new grass.

The grazed meadow area is an uncultivated, sufficiently wet meadow of medium yield, which, on the basis of the previous year's yield and compared with existing similar natural conditions, could produce a total of 3,200 kg of fodder hay again of this year.

Calculating the yield of 3,200 kg of hay from the grazed meadow at LVL 0.10 per kg, which is the price expected locally for hay of this quality after of this year's harvest as there will be hardly any hay to harvest in the area of this year due to the poor harvest, the present actual damage to the holding referred to in the statement as a result of the grazing of the meadows, irrespective of any further damage which might result from the reduction in the number of livestock, was estimated at three hundred and twenty lats (LVL 320).

The signatories are aware that knowingly making false statements is punishable.

Owner of the farmstead – J. Zirdziņš

Witnesses: 1) A. Incenbergs, 2) V. Priede

Statement drawn by: Mālupe Township alderman

(signature - illegible)

Secretary: signature illegible)¹⁴

¹⁴ NAL, 270. f., 1. desc., 412. file, p 12a (Original)

14. Statement on damage caused to the farm of Jānis Liberts

Statement

On 4 September 1940, Jānis Bērziņš, Alderman of Kocēni Township, in the presence of Captain Sīmanis, representative of Valmiera Garrison, and Ādolfs Lesiņš, Secretary of Kocēni Township, drew up the following statement on the assessment of the losses suffered by Jānis Liberts, Kocēni Township, Liberti, due to the deployment of Soviet troops.

Jānis Liberts informs the Township Council that he has suffered damages on his farm Liberti due to the Soviet troops stationed there, which he asks to be assessed and reimbursed.

On the basis of Mr Liberts' application and the actual damage suffered, the above-mentioned damage assessment committee assessed Mr Liberts' losses as follows:

1) Failure to put cows out to pasture, loss occurred	Ls 30.-
2) Unpaid rent for 2 months from rented premises	Ls 22.-
3) Rent paid for an apartment in another house	Ls 20.-
4) Loss due to non-harvest of berries and garden crops	Ls 21.-
5) 20 boards 26 feet long 1x1 1/2 missing, valued at	Ls 60.-
6) Broken crop crib and missing wooden materials, valued at	Ls 50.-
7) 5 doors in the cellar broken and all iron hooks and potato bins in the cellar broken, value of damage	Ls 30.-
8) Broken wheelbarrow, value	Ls 10.-
9) Broken milk churn, value	Ls 20.-
10) One wooden bed broken, value	Ls 10.-
11) One oak veneer bed broken	Ls 40.-
12) One chest and window curtain missing, valued	Ls 15.-
Total value of all losses	Ls 328.-

(Three hundred and twenty-eight lats)

Township Alderman J. Bērziņš

Sīmanis, Valmiera Garrison representative ¹⁵

¹⁵ NAL, 270. f., 1. desc., 412. file, pp 84 (Original)

15. Statement for damages suffered by Kocēnu Township School

Statement

On 4 September 1940, Jānis Bērziņš, Alderman of Kocēni Township, in the presence of Roberts Zuika, Deputy Superintendent of the Apsīšu Jēkabs 6th Grade Primary School, Township secretary Ādolfs Lesiņš, representative of the Territorial Rifle Regiment of the Latvian SSR, Captain Sīmanis, liaison with the troops of the USSR (in Kocēni), and Captain Volkovs being present drew up the following act on the return of the premises from the troops of the USSR.

The following inventory shortage was found at the time of school building repossession:

1. Piano	Ls 40
2. Bookcase	Ls 0,5
3. 4 school benches	Ls 8
4. Brown bed	Ls 8
5. 2 oak chairs	Ls 10
6. Clothes hanger	Ls 5
7. 3 dining room tables	Ls 75
8. Class table	Ls 20
9. Broken glass in the windows of a greenhouse	Ls 40
10. 3 dining room tables	Ls 9
11. Class single chairs	Ls 1,50
12. Sitting chair	Ls 0,50
13. 4 veneer chairs	Ls 10
14. Paper boxes - wooden, 10 pcs.	Ls 20
15. Wheelbarrow	Ls 5
16. 15 l oil can	Ls 1
17. Wood-sawing stack	Ls 1
18. Cross-cut saw	Ls 1
19. Axe	Ls 1
20. Glass bottle	Ls 3
21. Door mat	Ls 0,25
22. 2 floor brushes	Ls 6

23. Bench on metal legs	Ls 10
24. Axe	Ls 3
25. 6 towels	Ls 3
26. Pamphlet – Ancient Latvian brooches	Ls 0,20
27. Pamphlet – Beekeeping in Latvia	Ls 0,20
28. Pamphlet – coverage (?) Rauna Kauleni	Ls 0,20
29. J. Cimze portrait	Ls 3
30. M. Kaudzīte post-mortem mask	Ls 0,50
31. Photo - enlargement of the local government house	Ls 9
32. Tentelos portrait	Ls 7
33. Knife sharpener	Ls 0,50
34. Wooden circle compass	Ls 0,05
35. Spoon carving knife	Ls 0, 20
36. Small calibre rifle <i>Erma</i>	Ls 69,67
37. Scythe	Ls 4,05
38. 4 hoes	Ls 4,05
39. 2 hand hoes	Ls 4,80
40. Political map of Latvia	Ls 0,90
41. Kokmuiža Township road map	Ls 4,50
42. Transporter	Ls 4,50
43. Household utensils	Ls 11,13
44. Aluminium ladle	Ls 7,50
45. 11 kitchen knives	Ls 15,65
46. Library books, magazines, albums	Ls 168,3
47. Miscellaneous metal objects for school doors and window	Ls 45,20
48. 25 l floor oil - 1,20 kg	Ls 30,00
49. 3 toilet bowls	Ls 195,0
50. 8 m ² linoleum	Ls 129,0

Township Alderman J. Bērziņš
School Deputy Superintendent R. Zuika
Valmiera Garrison Representative Captain Sīmanis¹⁶

¹⁶ NAL, 270. f., 1. desc., 412. file, pp 118, 118a (Original)

16. Invoice for damages caused to Kocēni Township School

Invoice for damages

Compiled on 5 September 1940 by Jānis Bērziņš, elder of Kocēni Township, in the presence of Roberts Zuika, deputy school administrator, and Ādolfs Lesiņš, Township secretary.

After examining the defects and damages referred to in the statement of 4 September, the above-mentioned committee valued them on the basis of current market prices and acquisition value:

1.	
Building of the school	
1. 11 windowpanes broken (74x156 cm) 12,70 sq.m. - LVL 3,80 per 1 sq.m.	Ls 48,26
2. 22 door panes (49x28 cm) broken at a cost of LVL 2.74 per sq.m, 3,80 per 1 sq.m.	Ls 10,41
3. One round (oval) window frame with glass removed, valued	Ls 20
4. One oval windowpane broken, valued	Ls 5
5. Two enamel wash tables broken - Ls 72	Ls 144
6. Broken and torn off nickel brass bath battery with hand shower, valued	Ls 80
7. Attic access door removed	Ls 15
8. 55 cubic metres of wood burned - Ls 8,50	Ls 467,50
9. Electrical light switch removed	Ls 2
10. Electricity consumed for lighting 629,1 kilowatt-hour - Ls 0,38	Ls 235,05
11. Electricity consumed for pumping water 506,5 kilowatt-hours - Ls 0,25	Ls 126,62
12. Inventory shortfall by statement as at 4 September of this year, totalling	Ls 993,30
Total	Ls 2151,14

2.

Electricity consumption in the Community Centre amounting to LVL 31.54. Total losses incurred by Kocēni Township due to the Red Army: two thousand one hundred and eighty-two lats and 68 santims.

Township Alderman	J. Bērziņš
Deputy school superintendent	R. Zuika
Secretary	A. Lesiņš
Valmiera Garrison Representative	Captain Sīmanis ¹⁷

17. Request by Alderman of Kocēni Township for compensation for damages caused by the Red Army

MoIA

Kocēni Township Council
Valmiera region

13 September 1940

No130

Commissariat for Agriculture
Soviet Garrison Supply Committee
Riga, 5 Andreja Pumpura Street

Having sent the Kocēni municipality's invoice for the loss, together with the statement of 4 September 1940 on the reposession of the premises from the USSR troops and the inventory shortage, the Municipal Council asks that the loss of LVL 2,151.14 be reimbursed as a matter of urgency, since the school building and inventory must be put in order urgently before the start of school, but the municipality has no funds to invest.

The school building was rebuilt in 1937, when all the funds were used and large sums were borrowed and now requiring considerable payments to settle the debt; therefore, it is not possible to spend the money on school repairs.

Attached: aforementioned.

Township Alderman	J. Bērziņš
Secretary	A. Lesiņš ¹⁸

¹⁷ NAL, 270. f., 1. desc., 412. file, pp 120a (Original)

¹⁸ NAL, 270. f., 1. desc., 412. file, p 127 (Original)

18. Explanatory note from the Chairman of the Soviet Garrison Supply Committee on how to deal with compensation for damages

ZIK

Soviet Garrison Supply Committee

4 October 1940

L. No 320/2049

No Nv. 6

To Kocēni Township Council

In reply to your letter No 130 of 13 September, the Soviet Garrison Supply Committee returns the statements and applications and explains that the damage assessment statements are one-sided, i.e., there are no relevant signatures or endorsements from officials of USSR troop units, i.e., stamp, unit name, etc.

These deficiencies make it difficult and even impossible for the Soviet Garrison Supply Committee to collect compensation from the authorities on the basis of incomplete or one-sided damage assessment certificates.

In view of the above, all claims for compensation in cases of loss should first be settled on the spot with the head of the USSR troop unit or household concerned, but if this is not possible (the unit has left), the nearest USSR garrison head or commandant should be approached to confirm the loss, but in any case to ask to be told which unit should be referred to. If he does not find it possible to name the unit, at least ask for the name of the commander of the regiment to which the unit which caused the damage is subordinate. This would be sufficient to enable the authority, which would pay for the damage, to verify, if necessary, the correctness of the claim.

A representative of the relevant USSR military unit must also be invited in writing when the damage assessment report is drawn up. In the event of failure or refusal to attend, a written refusal and reasons shall be requested. When the acts are given to the Committee, a copy of the letter of invitation and of the letter of possible refusal must be attached.

Attached: aforementioned on 15 pages.

Chair of the Committee
Acting Head of the Settlement Unit

J. Krīšbergs
A. Ozols¹⁹

¹⁹ NAL, 270. f., 1. desc., 412. file, pp 129., 129a (Original)

**19. Request from Kocēni Township Council
to the Chief of the Valmiera Garrison to verify and sign
the damage assessment documents**

MoIA Kocēni Township Council
Valmiera District

7 October 1940

No 320/2049

To the Chief of the Valmiera Garrison of the Red Army

By sending the statements of damage assessment together with the claims for compensation, we ask for your kind attention that the acts of damage assessment be verified and signed by the representatives of the USSR troops who were stationed in Kocēni Township between 19 June and 4 September 1940.

Annex: 6 applications and 8 statements, each in duplicate, and Informational Letter No Nv. 6 of 4 October 1940 by the Soviet Garrison Supply Committee.

Township Alderman J. Bērziņš
Secretary A. Lesiņš²⁰

**20. Lieutenant-Colonel Lobe's explanation
to the Soviet Garrison Supply Committee concerning
compensation for damages**

Commander/Assistant of the 295th Rifle Regiment 17 October 1940

No 1277/k

to the Soviet Garrison Supply Committee of the People's Commissariat
for Agriculture
Riga, 5 Andreja Pumpura Street

On behalf of the Chief of the Valmiera Garrison, I send you damage assessment report No 320/2049 of the Kocēni Township

²⁰ NAL, 270. f., 1. desc., 412. file, p 125 (Original)

Council of October 7, together with the claims for compensation on 32 pages, accompanied by correspondence for your further action – compensation for the claimed damages.

From the correspondence, it can be seen that there were units of Red Army tanks stationed in Kocēni Township whose representative, Captain Volkov, was invited to participate in the commission but who, for service reasons, did not take part in the commission.

According to the regiment, the tank units belonged to the 39th brigade.

Lieutenant-Colonel
Assistant Chief of Captain of the Headquarters

Lobe
Mežīts²¹

Farmers in Kocēni and other townships did not receive any compensation for their farms destroyed by the occupying troops.

**21. Report of 8 January 1941 from A. Deglavs,
Chairman of the Riga City Executive Committee to
V. Lācis, Chairman of the Council of People's
Commissars of the LSSR on the Red Army's arbitrary
cutting of city forests and parks and removal of
firewood**

Riga City Provisional Executive Committee

8 January 1941

To the Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars
of the Latvian SSR

Despite a ban by Riga City Executive Committee's Forest Guard officials, Red Army units stationed in and around Riga carried out arbitrary clearing of the city's forests and parks and removed the prepared firewood.

It is very difficult for Forest Guard officials to collect evidence against the Red Army because they did not designate their unit and did not give their names or surnames. Most of the firewood was taken away

²¹ NAL, 270. f., 1. desc., 412. file, p 124 (Original)

in vehicles without number plates, and for this reason evidence has been received only in the following cases:

- 1) On 27 August 1940 in Olaine forestry, 1 m³ of firewood worth 9 rubles 30 kopecks was taken from the forester Pērkons. At the forester's request, the first lieutenant issued a receipt for the firewood taken (receipt enclosed).
- 2) On 23 October 1940 in Mangaļi Forestry, the forester Melnalksnis found that 21.4 m³ of firewood worth 115 roubles and 56 kopecks had been taken away. It turns out that the people who took the firewood were Red Army men from the Aviohydro base who were stationed at Suži homestead.
- 3) On 9 November 1940, the same troops arbitrarily took 15.8 m³ of firewood worth 85 roubles and 32 kopecks.
- 4) On 11 November 1940, the same troops arbitrarily took 3 m³ of firewood worth 16 roubles and 20 kopecks.
- 5) On 1 December 1940, the same troops arbitrarily took 2.2 m³ of firewood worth 39 roubles and 60 kopecks.
- 6) In Piņķi Forestry, forester Briņķis discovered that a unit stationed at Cīņi homestead was arbitrarily removing firewood:
On 29 October 1940, 5.5 m³ worth 62 roubles and 70 kopecks.
On 13 November 1940, 10.40 m³ worth 114 roubles.
On 18 November 1940, 10.40 m³ worth 52 roubles.
On 23 November 1940, 3 m³ worth 34 roubles and 80 kopecks.
- 7) On 22 November 1940, in Piņķi Forestry, forester Kazaks discovered a Red Army team loading 50 m³ of firewood into a car worth 610 roubles. To the forester's prohibition to take the town's firewood without permission, Senior Lieutenant Vasilyev replied that he had no time to ask for permission and that he would take the firewood for the staff and issued a receipt (enclosed).
- 8) On 17 and 22 November 1940 in Anniņmuiža, Riga City Park, the Red Army cut down 41 trees worth 300 roubles 06 kopecks.

The City Forest Department reported this to Lieutenant-General Klenov, who ordered Major Chaika to be sent to investigate the situation. Those commanders who were guilty of the acts of arbitrariness referred to in paragraphs 5 and 7 were found and questioned by Major Chaika. The Major then gave a promise that the acts of arbitrariness would stop. However, this did not prove to be the case and the removal of firewood continues.

- 9) On 26 November 1940, Red Army soldiers, who were in the forbidden zone of Cekule, in Liepu homestead, under the command of Senior Lieutenant Poznakov, took away 5.5 m³ of firewood for the sum of 41 roubles 40 kopecks from the Zaķi Forestry.
- 10) On 6 December 1940 in Olaine Forestry, Red Army soldiers in car No BT 10-62 removed 1.60 m³ of firewood from forester Traumans' District for the sum of 24 roubles 28 kopecks.
- 11) In the Piņķi Forestry, the unit of the Red Army located in the Fighting House, for which Major Chaika gave a promise, also continues to take away the town's firewood from the District of forester Briņķis:

On 12 December 1940, 4 m³ taken for 72 roubles

On 16 December 1940, 4 m³ were taken for 72 roubles.

In addition to the cases already mentioned, the Forest Guard has issued 63 reports for 4408 roubles 38 kopecks, for which there is evidence that the Red Army took the firewood, but it has not yet been possible to find out who the troops were and where they were located.

I ask that an order be given that the arbitrariness be stopped and that the Riga City Executive Committee be reimbursed for the value of the firewood taken by the Red Army.

Attached: 2 receipts.

Chair:

Secretary:

Deglavs

Ermsons²²

²² NAL, 270. f., 1. desc., 412. file, pp 29-29a (Original. Translation)

22. Request by K. Sprugevics, Chairman of the Ventspils District Provisional Executive Committee and I. Paldiņa-Rūsis, Secretary of the Comunist (Bolshevik) Party of Latvia Ventspils [District] Committee to the Chairman of the LSSR Council of People's Commissars, 12 March 1941, to set up a joint commission and coordinate their views on the establishment of a polygon

Ventspils District Provisional Executive Committee
Ventspils, 12 March 1941
No 500/150

To the Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars
of the Latvian SSR

13 households were evicted from their homes in Zīri and Užava Townships. A 60 square kilometre strip has also been fenced off and no one is allowed in. All this has happened without the knowledge of the District executive committee and the party committee, and they have been confronted with the fact of what has happened. Of course, this disorganises the work of the executive committee, and it is impossible to draw up any plan and prepare for the spring sowing, because there are no defined boundaries and no information as to under whose economic control and disposal the area will remain.

The Vendzava Plain, which covers most of the area, is a grass peat bog and is therefore not suitable for a polygon site, as frequent ground burning in summer is likely and difficult to suppress.

Please urgently set up a commission, including representatives of the District executive committee and the Party, to investigate on the spot and take the necessary steps to finally settle the matter.

The matter is very urgent, so that the necessary surveying work can be carried out.

Chairman of the Provisional District
Executive Committee
Secretary of the Comunist (Bolshevik) Party of Latvia
Ventspils [District] Committee

K. Sprugevics
I. Paldiņa – Rūsis²³

²³ NAL, 270. f., 1.s desc., 50. file, p 58 (Original)

**23. Report of 27 March 1941 from R. Bamlovskis,
authorised supervisor of the 2nd District of the Riga
City Communal Housing Department to the Housing
Department on the vandalism of the apartment by
the Red Army officer Nikitin**

Authorised supervisor of the 2nd District
of the Riga City Communal Housing Department

No 1889

27 March 1941

To the Housing Department

I report that the former tenant of apartment 9 in the building at 9 Valdemāra Street, Red Army officer Nikitin, left the apartment without official notice on the night of 21-22 March.

He handed over the keys to the caretaker on 24 March of this year. In addition, the tenant in question took the gas cooker belonging to the apartment, cut the electrical wires and accessories, and left a large amount of dirt in the apartment.

A similar letter was sent to the Workers and Peasants' Police, Division II, tel. 20802.²⁴

**24. Report of the Secretary of the Executive Committee
of Lielvircava Township, Jelgava District on criminal
activities of the Red Army**

To the Chair of the Jelgava District
Executive Committee

Confidential

On 6 September 1944 on my way home from work, I met citizen Jānis Citrons, who told me that the Red Army had broken into the Lielvircava Consumers' Association shop and wanted to loot it. I immediately went there. I met the shopkeeper's wife in the courtyard, who confirmed what was already said. Then a Red Army major came up to me and started swearing at me, was getting ready to hit me, but at

²⁴ NAL, 270. f., 1.s desc., 155. file, p 600 (Original)

first he didn't succeed. The second time he attacked me together with a senior lieutenant. In the second attack, the major hit me twice on the head and twice on the stomach with his foot. I forgot to mention that the senior lieutenant asked me to produce my papers, which I did, but he did not give the papers back to me, but instead hit me on the head with his pistol after which I tried to run away but tripped on a pole on the ground, at which point the senior lieutenant, who already had a pistol in his hand, fired at me and the bullet went close to my head. I rushed to a nearby NLGB [People's Commissariat for State Security] officer and reported what had happened, who started to capture the fleeing officers. When comrade Cidovičs asked the military commissariat for a car to capture the fugitives, they refused to give it.

7 IX 44. V. Engers²⁵

25. Report by the manager of Bērziņi homestead in Lielvircava Township on the robbery by the Red Army

To the Lielvircava Township Executive Committee **Confidential**

Report No 1 by Anna Vagulāne, Manager of Bērziņi homestead,
Lielvircava Township

On 6 September 1944, Troop Unit No 05920 was threshing at Bērziņi homestead (Captain Filonenko was in charge of the threshing). On 6 September 1944, a portion of oats was threshed, a certificate for 1,520 kg was put in front of me for signature, and was taken away both by carts and car.

On 7 September, the threshing of the oats was completed and most of the barley was threshed, about 4,260 kg according to the certificate given to me to sign, which was also taken away. This morning, as I was leaving Bērziņi homestead, a lorry pulled up for the last of the barley. The grain, although there were scales, was not weighed; only one smaller sack was weighed and then the weight of all the larger sacks was roughly calculated from that. Individual sacks carried by wagons were not counted.

²⁵ NAL, PA-101. f., 8. desc., 12. file, p 15 (Original)

By removing all the threshed summer crop in this way, we have exceeded the standard of oats and barley (3,650 kg) set by the Township Executive Committee and have been left completely without summer crop seed and the cereals needed to feed livestock and people. There are 12 pigs at home, which now have absolutely no cereal flour to eat, and the people are short of any grits.

Please take the necessary steps to ensure that all the threshed rye and wheat is not taken away too, because the rye is being threshed today.

The people living at home - 12 individuals - are threatened with a shortage of bread, because there is no more old rye to thresh.

Anna Vagulāne²⁶

26. Report by the People's Commissar for Internal Affairs of the LSSR, A. Eglītis on crimes committed by Red Army servicemen, 14 October 1944

Strictly Confidential

Secretariat of the People's Commissariat
of Internal Affairs of the LSSR
No 1/00336

14 October 1944

Daugavpils

To Lieutenant-General Comrade Zeleznikov,
head of the Baltic Front Counterintelligence
Department Smersh

To the Military Prosecutor of the Baltic Front

Copy: to the Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of the
Latvian SSR,
Comrade Lācis

Recently - in September - the People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs of the Latvian SSR have registered many cases of marauding,

²⁶ NAL, PA-101. f., 8. desc., 12. file, p 14 (Original)

theft, and robbery with elements of banditry, using weapons against the peaceful population in the territory of the Latvian SSR. These have been committed by individual members of the Red Army, for example:

1. On 13 September of this year, two military officers with weapons broke into the apartment of citizen Stepan Tikhonov, who lives in Rēzekne, 52 Bukmuižas Street. They fired 6 shots into the floor and ceiling, took his watch and boots and left. Military officers were apprehended by search measures carried out. On enquiry, it turned out that they were Captain Botov P.M. of the 42nd Reserve Army of the 2nd Baltic Front and Captain Korotkov B.I. of the 301st Regiment of the 48th Rifle Division of the 42nd Army.

The materials of the preliminary investigation together with the persons were handed over to the head of the Smersh section of the Rēzekne Garrison Counterintelligence Department.

2. On 17 September of this year, a Red Army sergeant arrived at the home of farmer Ančipāns Osips in the village of Lielie Ancipāni in Rēzekne District and demanded homemade booze but received a negative answer. He then threatened to take a gun but was immediately detained by People's Commissar for Internal Affairs authorities. On enquiry, it turned out that Sergeant Matveev A.A. was from the 4th Battalion of the separate road exploitation unit.
3. On 17 September of this year, military personnel of the 13th Brigade Railway Battalion - Field Post No 92690-v, Peshkov and Kablanov, armed with submachine guns, attacked the apartment of farmer Bojevskis, who lives in the Spirino settlement of Rēzekne District, and, as if they were searching, took a wristwatch, 4 women's dresses, and a winter hat and fled. After a search, the criminals were apprehended and arrested.
4. On 25 September of this year, the 153rd Artillery Reserve Regiment - l.p. No 28568 Battery, Staff Sergeant Voloshin carried out an armed attack on workers of the Malta MTS (Machine and Tractor Station) of Rēzekne District, who were transporting horses to Malta. Threatening them with a machine gun, he took 5 horses from the workers and fled.

On 26 September 1944, Voloshin and his horses were detained and arrested.

5. On 20 September of this year in Daugavpils, military servicemen from aviation unit No 19393, together with the head of the canteen of the same unit, D.Z. Trušenko, who was the organiser of the theft, stole belongings and furniture from the apartment of Deputy Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of the Latvian SSR, Comrade Ķīšs.

Trushenko has been arrested by the the People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs, but investigation materials on military officers Bosharov A.Z., Fedotov A.S., Chudakov and Gusev, who took part in the theft, have been handed over to the military prosecutor.

6. On 25 September of this year, a bag with money and a passport went missing from homestead Špakovska in Stroķi, Daugavpils District, after soldiers spent the night there.

The soldiers left in an unknown direction.

7. On 25 September of this year, Akermene G., a citizen living in Lelsabas homestead, Sesava Township, Jelgava District, was robbed of her horse by two strangers dressed in military uniforms who then fled in an unknown direction.

8. On 9 October of this year, at homestead Daili, Prauliena Township, Madona District, military servicemen murdered Pētersone Ella, Robert's daughter, 45 years old.

On the scene it was established that the murderers of Pētersone were military servicemen from the fuel and lubricants supply company of the 10th Army, troop unit No 08634, as reported by the driver of the same troop unit car No K-6-43-20, Motorin Nikolai, Trofim's son.

The above examples illustrate the actions of some military officers who act negatively towards the peaceful population, causing them to feel frustrated and have sometimes undeserved anger towards the Red Army. Based on the above, I request that the perpetrators named above be prosecuted and that appropriate measures be taken in the future to prevent similar actions.

People's Commissar for Internal Affairs of the Latvian SSR
A. Eglītis²⁷

²⁷ NAL, 270. f., 1.s desc., 92. file, pp 36, 36a (Original. Translation)

27. Report by the Chairman of the Riga City Executive Committee, A. Deglavs to the Chief of the Riga City Garrison on the illegal removal of firewood by troops, 1 November 1944

1 November 1944

To the Chief of Riga City Garrison, 17 Skolas Street

The Riga City Executive Committee reports that troops stationed in Riga City are arbitrarily, without the permission of the City Executive Committee, removing firewood prepared in city forests.

For example:

On 25 October of this year, troop unit, Field Post No 47900, located at 99 Kr. Barona Street, removed 5 m³ of firewood from Dreilīņi Forestry.

On 24 October, troop unit, Field Post No 51512, located in the Artillery Barracks, removed 2 m³ of firewood from the Dreilīņi Forestry.

On 24 October of this year, the 244th Convoy Regiment of the People's Commissariat of the Interior, Field Post No 7458, located at 93 Brīvības Street, posted its guards at the firewood removed from the Dreilīņi Forestry and took it away in lorries.

On 26 October of this year, a troop unit owning truck No B-03-81 removed 23 m³ of firewood from Mangaļi Forestry.

As this firewood is prepared for the needs of the city of Riga, the Executive Committee of the City hereby requests you:

1. Ensure that firewood is not arbitrarily removed by troops.
2. Instruct the 244th Convoy Regiment to stop the arbitrary removal of firewood, remove the guards, and allow the City Executive Committee to use the firewood for the needs of the Riga City Committee.

Instruct troops to apply to the State Planning Commission of the Latvian SSR for firewood.

Chairman of the Riga City Executive Committee
(Deglavs)²⁸

²⁸ NAL, 270. f., 1.s desc., 170. file, p 44 (Copy. Translation)

28. Statement of 6 December 1944 drawn up by hotel staff concerning the arbitrary removal of property from the hotel at 3 Kirova Street

6 December 1944

Statement

On 2 November 1944 at 9 a.m., two heavy-cargo cart riders entered the courtyard of the hotel at 3 Kirova Street and carried and loaded furniture from the third floor of the hotel.

It was found out that the order had been given by the President of the Naval Tribunal, a captain who lived there. I reprimanded him that the furniture belonged to the hotel and that I would not allow it to be taken away, locked the gate, and took the key and sent comrade Daugule Olga to the manager of the Trust.

The said captain refused to wait and started to break the gate and take them away, so I went to the Executive Committee to report this, but by that time the gate had been unlocked with some piece of metal and the carts of furniture had been taken away.

The other two carts of stuff were taken away later when I unlocked the gate, because they threatened to break them open once more.

After approximate stock-taking, the following items [were taken away]:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------|
| 1) Floor cupboard - clock | 1 pc. |
| 2) Upholstered chairs | 40 pcs. |
| 3) Sofa benches | 2 pcs. |
| 4) Tables | 3 pcs. |
| 5) Armchairs | 12 pcs. |
| 6) Desks | 5 pcs. |
| 7) Couches | 3 pcs. |
| 8) Bookcase, poppy polisher | 1 pc. |
| 9) Leather armchairs | 2 pcs. |
| 10) Sofas | 2 pcs. |

Hotel manager (Baumanis Herberts)
Building caretaker (Jāzeps Abaroks)
Trust employee (O. Daugulis)²⁹

²⁹ NAL, 1400. f., 5. desc., 1. file, p 65 (True copy)

29. Strictly confidential report of 29 December 1944 by Colonel A. Košeļevs, Deputy People's Commissar of Internal Affairs of the Latvian SSR to V. Lācis, Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of the Latvian SSR on the liquidation of the Red Army military gang

Strictly confidential

LSSR People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs
Police Administration

No 8/2/00465

29 december 1944

Comrade Lācis, Chairman of the Council of People's
Commissars of the Latvian SSR

Special report on the liquidation of the military gang

In November and December of this year, several brazen crimes were recorded in the Moscow District of Riga. For example, on the night of 13 November 1944, unknown criminals broke the lock to a barn belonging to citizen Cīrule and stole a cow.

On 10 December 1944, a cow was stolen in a similar manner from a citizen of Kozlova.

On 25 December 1944 at night in the apartment at 260 Maskava Street, Citizen Zommere was killed with a machine-gun and the apartment was robbed.

On 17 December 1944, locks to the barn of citizen Briede were broken and a cow was stolen.

Since the method of the crimes was the same in all cases and the crimes were committed in the same neighbourhood close to each other, it could be assumed that all these criminal offences were committed by one well-organised and conspiratorial group of criminals. In addition, it was apparent from the examination of the scene, as well as from other evidence found, that the members of the criminal group were military.

The criminal search officers of the People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs of the LSSR who had this information developed and carried out operative measures, as a result of which it was established that on the outskirts of Maskava Street in the city of Riga there was

stationed the 758th Separate Zenith Artillery Division of the Artillery Department of the 3rd Baltic Front and that certain Red Army men of this division, organised in a criminal group led by Lieutenant Sevastyanov, were committing various crimes.

Based on the information obtained, the Police Department of the People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs of the LSSR submitted a request to the Prosecutor of the 3rd Baltic Front to arrest the group of military personnel of the specified troop unit, allowing the initial investigation to be conducted directly by the Criminal Search Department of the Police Department of the People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs of the LSSR. The following Red Army men of the 758th Separate Zenith Artillery Division were arrested after receiving the above sanctions:

1. Grigory, son of Roman, Logunets, born in 1912, from Chernigov oblast, private.
2. Semyon, son of Dmitry, Kravchenko, born in 1919, from Voroshilov, private.
3. Grigory Trufanov, son of Nikolay, born in 1913, from Orla Region, private.
4. Vasiliy, son of Nikita, Galkin, born in 1918, from Bataisk, private.
5. Vladimir, son of Mikhail, Ryabov, born in 1917, from Tambov Oblast, sergeant.
6. Alexander, son of Ivan, Popov, born in 1921 in Tambov Oblast, sergeant.

As well as the commander of the squad, Lieutenant Nikolai, son of Nikolai, Sevastyanov, born in 1918, from Gorky, who had previously been convicted of murder.

During the investigation, the arrested persons were proven guilty and confessed to the crimes, testifying that their group committed a total of 6 cattle thefts in November and December of of this year, breaking locks, killing citizen Zommere, one robbery, and several other thefts. The proceeds of the crimes were used for the purpose of drinking.

Along with the arrest of these 7 military officers, the guilt of 5 more Red Army soldiers and 3 of their supporters - local residents - was proven.

The case is transferred to the Military Prosecutor's Office of the 3rd Baltic Front for completion of the investigation.

Deputy People's Commissar for Internal Affairs of the Latvian SSR, Colonel Košeļevs.³⁰

Notes in document: Read on 2.01.15. V. Lācis.

**30. Report by the Deputy People's Commissar
of Internal Affairs of the Latvian SSR, Colonel
A. Košeļevs, 24/25 January 1945, to Chairman of the
Council of People's Commissars of the Latvian SSR,
V. Lācis on criminal offences committed by military
officers**

Strictly Confidential

LSSR People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs

No 8/2/192-s

24/25 January 1945

To Comrade Lācis, Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars
of the Latvian SSR

Special report

On the night of 3 January of this year, unknown criminals dressed in military uniforms broke the window of the apartment of 85-year-old Helēna Zariņa, who lives with her daughters Anna Zariņa, 55 and Milda Brennere, 50 at 14 M. Lubānas Street, Riga, and demanded money and valuables.

Milda Brennere, who tried to run out of the apartment, was stabbed six times with a knife and died. They seriously injured her mother, Helena Zariņa, and her sister, Anna Zariņa, and then, after taking 1,500 roubles in cash, a lady's watch, five gold rings, clothes, foodstuffs, and other valuables, they fled.

The Criminal Investigation Division, together with the operational and investigative measures to detect and capture the perpetrators of this crime, also directed the counter-intelligence service Smersh of military units deployed in the Riga City area.

³⁰ NAL, 270. f., 1.s desc., 124. file, p 4, 5 (Original. Translation)

On 12 January 1945, the 1st Strike-Army counter-intelligence service Smersh of the 2nd Baltic Front arrested a group of Red Army deserters in the city of Riga for the murder of a military officer - Sergeant Major Dyukov, consisting of the following persons:

1. Alexander Borisov, born in 1924, deserted from the 143rd Rifle Reserve Regiment of the 2nd Baltic Front in December 1944.
2. Vladimir Kazantsev, born in 1923, deserted from the 143rd Rifle Reserve Regiment of the 2nd Baltic Front in December 1944.
3. Dmitrijs Sazonovs, born in 1923, deserted from the 143rd Rifle Reserve Regiment of the 2nd Baltic Front in December 1944.
4. Vladislav Podubny, born in 1925, deserted from Hospital No 3037 in December 1944.
5. Nikolai Zorin, born in 1916, deserted from the 251st Motor Battalion in December 1944.

As well as their accomplices:

1. Yevdokia Okulonoka, born in 1921, from Riga, lived at 1 Virsaiša Street, apt 4.
2. Leontiy Lipatov, born in 1925, from Riga, lived at 1 Virsaiša Street, apt 4., brother of Yevdokia Okulonoka.
3. Akulina Kuzmina, born in 1920, resided in Riga, 154 Maskavas Street.

The operational and investigative measures carried out by the groups of operatives of the Criminal Investigation Department of the People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs of the LSSR, together with the counter-intelligence service Smersh of the 1st Strike-Army of the 2nd Baltic Front, have established that citizen Milda Brennere was robbed and murdered by the above-mentioned group of deserters. It was therefore established that this group committed the following crimes in Riga:

1. On 29 December 1944 in Riga, M. Maskavas Street No 12, apt 1, the apartment of citizen Nikolajs Možeņiciņš was robbed.
2. On 6 January 1945, in Riga, Dārziema Street No 4, apt 1, the apartment of citizen Anna Kolpakova was robbed.
3. On 8 January 1945, 38 Stopiņu Street, Riga, the apartment of citizen Anna Serafimoviča was robbed.

4. On 8 January 1945, 2 Stopiņu Street, Riga, the apartment of citizen Elza Bērziņa was robbed.

The investigation materials have been handed over to the Smersh section of the 1st Strike-Army Counterintelligence Service of the 2nd Baltic Front.

Deputy People's Commissar for Internal Affairs of the Latvian SSR,
Colonel Košeļevs³¹

31. Statement of the Main Office for Combating Banditry of the People's Commissariat for Internal Affairs of the USSR of 15 February 1945 on Red Army banditry in Latvia in July-December 1944

Strictly Confidential

Statement

On acts of banditry committed by military personnel on the territory of the USSR in July-December 1944

In the second half of 1944, 384 cases of banditry by Red Army servicemen were recorded in the territory of the Soviet Union (excluding the western oblasts of the Ukrainian SSR), representing 10.8% of all cases of banditry recorded in the Soviet Union.

In some regions and republics, the percentage of banditry by military is significantly higher.

Of 384 cases of banditry committed by military personnel:

(a) armed attacks on state, cooperative, public organisations, and institutions - 64,

(b) attacks on private persons and citizens' dwellings for robbery and other purposes - 320.

648 military personnel (including 111 officers) engaged in banditry were arrested during the suppression of bandit groups and bandit-officers.

The banditry carried out by military killed 14 Soviet and Party activists and 75 other citizens.

³¹ NAL, 270. f., 1.s desc., 124. file, pp 27, 27a (Original.Translation)

The following are some of the facts of banditry and looting:

Latvian SSR

1. On 9 October at homestead Danilīši (possibly Dambīši - J.R.) in Prauliena Township, Madona District, military officers killed citizen Pētersone. It has been established that the murder was committed by military servicemen from Trop Unit 08634.
2. On 3 December, three military officers drove up in a car to homestead Siliņi in Viskaļi Township, took 7 sheep from Siliņi, and drove away. As a result of measures taken, the robbers were arrested: Sergeant Major Yahrenko of the 54th Motor Regiment of the 12th Separate Motor Brigade, and Red Army men Lukyanov and Tungatov.
3. On the night of 17-18 November, a group of military servicemen from the Fifth Reserve Artillery Regiment, Dyomin and Kurilev, robbed citizen Prauliņa at homestead Ausma in Bīriņi Township. The robbers were detained.
4. On 22 November, four military officers detained the chairman of Turaida Township Executive Committee, Lasmanis, representative of the Riga District Committee, Bulāns, and procurement agent, Drelle, on the road, put them on the ground, and started shooting at them. They wounded Drelle, beat Lasmanis, and [then] fled.
It has been established that the bandits are military officers from the internal troops of the People's Commissariat for Internal Affairs who guard the camp in Valka. The material has been handed over to the counter-intelligence unit of the 5th reserve artillery regiment Smersh.
5. On 4 December, at the homestead of citizen Ernests Kauliņš in Gailiņi, Ropaži Township, three servicemen stole foodstuffs and left. On the same day, the same servicemen came to the house in a car and ordered the owner to load potatoes into the car. At this time, the house was approached by a task force, taking fire from the bandits who, after stealing a watch and other items from the owners, drove to Dumbaki homestead and [also there] took flour and bacon, fired on the house, and fled in the car.
6. In October-November, a group of military officers committed several robberies in the township of Medzula, Madona District.

The robbers were arrested: Sergeant Shcherbakov (troop unit 68903), Sergeant Kabishev, and two Red Army men.

7. On 31 December, in the township of Jaustraupe, Cēsis District, in Berziņi, a midshipman of the Red Banner Baltic Fleet, Bolotov took two cows and two rams and, after issuing a receipt, disappeared. As a result of the measures taken, Bolotov was apprehended.
8. On December 16 on Brīvības Street in Riga, a group of military electricians - Captain Novoksazhennikh, Engineer Captain Goldberg, Senior Lieutenant Lyubanov, and Accountant Yevstafiev - stabbed with knives the Commissioner of the People's Commissariat of Supply Zjuzenko, his deputy Smagins, Supreme Court lawyers Krembergs and Zariņš, and the State Bank Controller Bolotnijs. The perpetrators were detained.
9. On the night of December 29, senior patrol lance corporal A.Z. Haņins was killed on Brīvības Street in Riga. The killers were apprehended. They were military officers of the 140th reserve rifle regiment of the 85th Rifle Division, M.V. Mikheev and Ashmerin.
10. On December 9, a group of military officers, led by Senior Lieutenant Nazarov of the aviation unit, carried out a series of robberies in homes in Stalbe Township. All members of the group were detained.
11. On the night of November 18, two military cavalymen robbed citizen Vera Prauliņa at her home in Auģemi (?), took her valuables, and disappeared. As a result of measures taken, the robbers were apprehended: V.B. Dyomin and Kuryshev from the 5th reserve artillery regiment. The materials were handed over to the counter-intelligence unit of the 3rd Baltic Front Smersh.
In October-November, several armed robberies took place in Irsi Township, Madona District, where robbers stole alcoholic beverages, clothes, shoes, and watches. The robbers were arrested.
The gang leader was Senior Sergeant Aleksandrs Ruļevs. The material and the detainees were handed over to the counter-intelligence unit of the 2nd Baltic Front Smersh.
12. On November 12, at homestead Sarmas in Dreiliņi Township, Sergeant Shlem Rozberg of the 4th separate intelligence

battalion of the Guard killed citizen Freimane, took four cows from her, and disappeared. The murderer was apprehended.

13. 16 military personnel from the 16th Tank Brigade committed robbery in Valmiera District. The group was led by Senior Lieutenant V. Spiridonov. All members of the group are detained.
14. On December 31, the Border Guard Detachment detained military personnel from the 657th Rifle Regiment of the 125th Rifle Division who were robbing citizens. The members of the gang were: Junior Lieutenant I.K. Ivanov, nicknamed Boris, Lieutenant Baikov, Junior Lieutenant Vakhaushev, lance corporal Klimov, and six Red Army enlisted men.³²

32. Riga City Lenin District Apartment Department Act of 30 March 1945 on damage caused by troop unit No 2151 at 11 and 13 Kuģu Street

Act

Riga, 30 March 1945

We, the undersigned, have drawn up this instrument to the following effect:

The Commission consists of the following: chief engineer of Lenin District Semyon Strogonov, son of Philip, Sector 1 - Timofey Kovalonok, son of Fyodor; Yelena Zinaish, daughter of Ulyan, manager of the houses mentioned below and her assistant Zenta Ulyan, daughter of Ivan. Having inspected the houses at 11 and 13 Kuģu Street, it found the following damage caused by troop unit No 2151 stationed there, which requires major repairs in approximately the following amounts:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------|
| 1. Window frames | 70% |
| 2. Doors and door frames | 60 % |
| 3. Ovens, stoves, and bath ovens | 70 % |
| 4. Internal partitions | 50 % |

³² State Archive of the Russian Federation, 9478 f., 1 Desc., p. 280, pp 13-14
(Translation)

5. Central heating	70 %
6. Water supply and sewerage	80 %
7. Plastering of walls and floors	35 %
8. Floor and floor skirting approx.	15 %
9. Electricity	80 %
10. Painting with adhesive paint	100 %
11. Oil painting	60 %

These two houses cover an area of 3,540 m² and need to be brought into order. The capital repairs require a sum of Rb 210,000 for which this deed has been drawn up.

District head engineer	(Strogonovs)
Sector 1 instructor	(Kovaļonoks)
House administrator	(Zimaiša)
Witness	(Uļjanovs) ³³

33. Act of 23 May 1945 on the illegal actions by the Red Army troops drawn up by R. Kalniņš, Head of Riga City Stalin District 352nd House Administration

23 May 1945
352nd House Administration of Stalin District
Manager
Kalniņš Rūdolfš
34-1 Koknese Av.
(lives at 19 Sigulda Av., apt 1)

Act

From 15 October 1944, in the houses of my administrative District - 25, 27, 29 Koknese Av., 28, 30, 32 Meza Av., 4, 6 Amatas Street, 17, 29 Siguldas Av., 2, 6, 8 Bergenes Street - there were troops - a kontrazvedka (counter-intelligence service - J.R.). From 15 to 21 April of that year, the troops - counter-intelligence service - left the houses at 17 Siguldas, 4, 6 Amatas, 28, 30, 32 Meza Av., 25, 27, 33 Kokneses Av.

³³ NAL, 270. f., 1.s desc., 170. file, p 15 (Original.Translation)

When they left, they also took with them the furniture from the houses mentioned above. When I approached the car and asked who was taking the furniture and on what basis, the representative of the Garrison's Apartment Operation Department (AOD), Engineer Egorov (Yegorov - J.R.), produced a Russian-language document stating that the AOD had put the furniture at his disposal. As I don't understand Russian, I couldn't find out what the document was about, but the AOD stamp was there. I explained that the furniture was the property of the State Fund and the Stalin District Finance Department and that the AOD had no right to dispose of it or move it. Then Eng. Yegorov said that the furniture would be placed in one of the separate houses. Later, I found that there was no furniture in any of the houses. About two days after this incident, when I saw that the furniture was being taken away, I turned to Captain Kornev, who was there, and told him that the furniture must not be taken away and that the damaged and dirty furniture must be put in order. Captain Kornev said that he and the garrison AOD were the masters of the houses, and not I, and that if I meddled in his affairs I would be arrested, as I was a servant of Ulmanis, and that I could be eliminated forever, and he ordered me to quickly leave the District I had entered on official business.

The houses were damaged as follows:

1. Fences, goalposts downed.
2. Yards are dirty and water meter covers have been removed, and the water meter shafts themselves have been used as manure bins.
3. Door locks smashed, doors with all their wooden parts broken, damaged.
4. Windows smashed, the frames damaged and removed.
5. Plaster on the walls is smeared and broken in places.
6. Central heating appliances damaged, radiators broken, and water leaking on the floor.
7. Floors are completely damaged, both wooden plank and parquet.
8. Water supply appliances damaged, pipes torn from the walls, taps knocked out.
9. The flats themselves are so filthy that it is disgusting to enter them, the baths are half full of human faeces, and there are faeces in the apartment corners.

On 16 October last year, the troops received the premises in proper order and fully furnished.

The officials of the financial department of the Stalin District Executive Committee, whom I had invited in December 1944 to describe the furniture, were not allowed into the apartments and were ordered to leave the District.

Some of the furniture was taken out of the houses in the District:

32 Meža Avenue, apartment 1 – apartment furnishing, apartment 2 – furnishing of 5 apartment rooms, apartment 3 – furnishing of 4 apartment rooms.

30 Meža Avenue, apartment 1 and 2: furnishing of 4 apartment rooms.

28 Meža Avenue: furnishing of 1 apartment room.

6 Amatas, apartment 4: furnishing of 5 apartment rooms.

4 Amatas, apartment 2: furnishing of 3 apartment rooms

17 Siguldas, apartment 2: furnishing of 3 apartment rooms

25 Kokneses Av., apartment 1: furnishing of 4 apartment rooms

27 Kokneses Av., apartment 1: furnishing of 4 apartment rooms

33 Kokneses Av., apartment 1: furnishing of 9 apartment rooms

2 Bergenes Street, apartment 1: furnishing of 10 apartment rooms

8 Bergenes Street, apartment 1: furnishing of 2 apartment rooms

It was evident that the furniture was being transported by horses and cars. The cars were driven up to the front door of the building so that pedestrians could not see from the street what the cars were loading, but they could still be seen loading desks, tables, chairs, beds, sofas, ottomans, pianos, chandeliers, furniture sets, leather sofa sets and other furniture. The remaining items and mattresses had the cloth torn off.

Household utensils were seen being taken away: dishes, pots, even cooker rings, as well as radios.

Administrator R. Kalniņš

In the second half of April 1945, I drew up a report on the case for the chairman of the Stalin District Executive Committee, who sent the case to the garrison prosecutor at 4 Sverdlova Street, where I had already been questioned once.³⁴

³⁴ NAL, 270. f., 1.s desc., 170. file, pp 6, 6a (Original)

34. Report of 11 September 1945 by K. Novikovs, Secretary of the Comunist (Bolshevik) Party of Latvia, Riga City Committee to N. Shatalin, Chairman of the Latvian Bureau of the Central Committee of the All-Union Communist (Bolshevik) Party, J. Kalnbērziņš, Secretary of the Central Committee of the Comunist (Bolshevik) Party of Latvia, and I. Bagramyan, Commander of the Baltic Military District on the situation of public security in the city of Riga

Strictly Confidential

Chairman of the Latvian Bureau of the Central Committee of the All-Union Communist (Bolshevik) Party

comrade N. Shatalin

Secretary of the Central Committee of the Comunist (Bolshevik) Party of Latvia

comrade J. Kalnbērziņš

Commander of the Baltic Military District, General

comrade Bagramyan

Official report

On the state of public safety of citizens in the city of Riga

The Riga City Committee of the Comunist (Bolshevik) Party of Latvia considers it necessary to inform you of the extremely unfavourable state of public safety of the citizens of the city of Riga. During the last three months of 1945 - June, July, and August - 961 crimes were recorded in the city, including:

- a) 26 homicides, 17 of them solved,
- b) 46 robberies --- // --- 30,
- c) 741 thefts --- // --- 618,
- d) 25 other crimes --- // --- 25.

A large number of robberies, murders and thefts are committed by members of the military. For example, of the 17 murders discovered, 14 were committed by military personnel; of the 30 robberies, 16 were committed by military personnel; of the 618 thefts, 356 were committed by military personnel.

The following facts of the commission of crimes are evidence of the extremely alarming state of public safety in the city due to the enormous debauchery of the military and the inability of military commandants and troop commanders to combat it:

On 1 June 1945 at 9 p.m. at 3 Smilšu Street, while trying to drive away a car Villis belonging to the People's Commissariat of Trade of the LSSR, Junior Lieutenant of the Guard N.K. Matyushin of the troop unit 57367 was detained.

On 2 June 1945 at 4 p.m. in the apartment of K.I. Buračevska, residing at 7 Pushkina Street, apt 9, with the intent to commit robbery, 1st Class Sergeant Major Plemans A.Z., born in 1931, from military unit 81383 broke the door of the apartment of citizen Buračevska, but was detained at the scene of the crime.

On 4 June 1945, in apartment No 1, Branbergas Street, unknown criminals in military uniforms murdered citizen Žīgurs J.S., born in 1893, and seriously wounded his wife, Žīgure A.J., born in 1896, and son Žīgurs Harijs, born in 1931.

On 3 July 1945, Sergeant Major Archipov P.P., born in 1906, of the 1182nd Regiment of the 358th Division was arrested for the theft of a bicycle at Riga Hotel.

On 5 July 1945, two unknown criminals in military uniforms stopped Šmits F.E., born in 1883 (lives at 3 Ezeru Street, apt 3), in Mežaparks, 3 Varoņu Street, who was riding a bicycle Erenpreis No 600262, hit him on the head and took the bicycle and a leather briefcase and fled.

On 8 July 1945 at 9:00 p.m., a group of unknown criminals in military uniform broke into a private shop, beat the owner of the shop, citizen Berga who lived in apartment 18, 1 Dzirnāvu Street, robbed the shop, and fled.

On 9 July 1945, Morstakov A., a deserter from military unit 1073, born in 1922, was arrested for several thefts in Riga. During his detention, he was deprived of the stolen goods.

On 11 July 1945, a combatant of the 708th Regiment of the 43rd Guards Workers' Division, Usenko J.I., born in 1915, was detained in Riga Central Market for pickpocketing citizen Klaviņš. Money and documents were returned to the victim.

On 13 July 1945, four unknown criminals in military uniform, one of them in the uniform of a lieutenant, at 3 a.m. broke into the

apartment of citizen Cepliete A., who lives at 14/16 Andavas (? - J.R.) Street, and threatened her with weapons, stole money - 700 roubles, 2 cameras, and other belongings, and fled.

On 12 July 1945, a *Villis* car pulled up in front of the house at 27 Kuršu Street, and 2 military officers got out, one of them a lieutenant, the other in a Sergeant Major uniform, and entered apartment No6, demanding that citizen Jakušenoka give them money. When she refused, the strangers repeatedly hit her on the head with the handle of a pistol, stole her money and belongings, and fled.

On 12 July 1945, Vasiliev V.I., who was serving in military unit l.p. 7432, was detained in Riga Central Market for stealing a suit from citizen Barkan who lives at 34 Katoļu Street, apartment No 35. The suit was returned to the owner.

On 16 July 1945, K.F. Andersons, a citizen living at 24 Dīķu Street apartment No 3, had items stolen from his apartment while he was away. The perpetrator was arrested. The perpetrator was a military serviceman without identity documents.

On 17 July 1945, citizen Bundila, M.A., was returning home from the market when she was stopped at the entrance to her apartment by unknown servicemen, who, having snatched her handbag containing 200 roubles and documents, fled.

On 17 July 1945 at the Riga station, the Latvian Railway Police detained a Red Army deserter, Koshelev K.V., born in 1924 in Moscow, who was serving in the 240th Artillery Reserve Regiment. He was hiding in Riga for a long time and committed several thefts.

On the night of 18 July 1945, Senior Lieutenant Antipin T.V., born in 1922, from troop unit l.p. 03594 was detained near the station, heavily drunk, and in whose possession two suitcases were found with clothes which had been stolen from sailors.

On the night of 19 July, Sergeant Bogdanov A.V., born in 1922, and Senior Sergeant Solovyov V.P., born in 1912, from military unit l.p. 45780 were detained in the territory of Police Station 10 for stealing property from citizen Andersons K.F. who lives at 24 Dīķu Street, apartment No 3.

On 19 July 1945, a Red Army serviceman from the 145th Reserve Rifle Regiment, Shpaev A.S., was arrested for several thefts in the city of Riga.

On the night of 20 July at 2 a.m., because of a shoot-out between military servicemen near the VEF factory, Sergeant Major Bogdanov V.K.,

born in 1925, from military unit l.p. 79874 was killed. The murderers: Senior Lieutenant Tesinikov V.A, born in 1917, from the 48th Officers' Regiment of the 2nd Strike Army Troop; Senior Sergeant Materluk N.Y., born in 1923, from the 152nd Reserve Rifle Regiment, and Red Army Sergeant Krisnevsky N.Y., born in 1925, from the 152nd Reserve Rifle Regiment.

On 21 July 1945, while trying to steal things from the apartment of citizen Pavlova P.O. who lives at 9/11 Gogoļa Street, apartment 3, a Red Army man Dikns I.S., born in 1910, from the 708th Regiment of the 43rd Guards Rifle Division, and Rizhov V.S., born in 1918, from the same unit were detained.

On 20 July 1945, a Red Army serviceman, Makarov I.M., born in 1921 in the Smolensk region, was detained at the Riga station. He was a deserter from the Red Army.

On 2 August of of this year, citizen Haritonova who lives at 45 Marijas Street, apartment 10, returned from work at 2 a.m. and met a serviceman who threatened her with a gun, entered her apartment, and committed robbery - stole a gold wristwatch, a pocket watch, and clothes. He then fled.

On 3 August 1945, the Criminal Investigation Department of the Riga City Police Administration detained the following in Riga Central Market:

1. Klimov N.A., born in 1909 in Ufa, military serviceman of the 8th Guards Division, for pickpocketing,
2. Abramov B.V., born in 1922 in Gorky, served in the 145th reserve rifle regiment, for pickpocketing,
3. Maslov I.G., born in 1914 in the Kashirsky District of the Moscow Region, served in the 35th Rifle Regiment, for pick-pocketing.

On 4 August 1945, citizen Taumars J.K. who lives in homestead Nivra in Panemune Township, Bauska District, reported that on 3 August at about 10 p.m., a military officer entered his home on Vienības Avenue and ordered him to follow him to the police station. While walking along Robežu Street, the stranger hit citizen Taumars on the head, pulled out of his pocket a wallet containing money - 3,000 roubles and identity documents and then fled.

On 4 August 1945, as a result of operational measures, the following apartment thieves were apprehended:

1. Captain P.P. Benviks, born in 1905, worked as an engineer in road construction, lived at 24 Valmieras Street, Riga, apartment 24,
2. Kišlers Alfrēds, son of Andris, born in 1907 in Riga, no party affiliation, Latvian, worked as director of the Latvian Railway Industrial Factory.

On 5 August 1945, military officer Vasin N.I., born in 1922, from Zenith Regiment 145, who committed several thefts in the market, and military officer Dementiev I.I., born in 1923, from Zenith Regiment 145, were detained in Riga Central Market for pickpocketing.

On 6 August 1945, citizen Āboliņa, who lives at 92 Jelgavas Street, apartment 10, reported that on 4 August of of this year, was walking along Briznieku (? - J.R.) Street when three servicemen snatched a bag containing money and documents from her hands.

On 6 August 1945 at 9:00 p.m. on Vaļņu Street, three Red Army officers, who were very drunk, fired for an unknown reason, as a result of which one of them was wounded in the right cheek and sent to the 1st City Hospital. He was Captain Burilov I.M. from the 254th Rifle Regiment of the 56th Guards Rifle Division, named after Matrosov.

On 6 August 1945, senior Red Fleet Serviceman Svirsky A.P., born in 1918 in Zhytomyr region, deserted from naval unit - l.p. 90614, was arrested. On July 25 of this year in the Kīšezers area he killed citizen K.O. Kelris, who lived at 20 Sarkanarmijas Street, apartment 1a.

On 7 August of this year, citizen Kaudiņš, who lives at 2 Kauguru Street, apartment 1, reported that a robbery had been committed in his apartment while he was away. Mr Kaudiņš had left his mother in the apartment. At 12 p.m., 5 people dressed in military uniform arrived. One of them approached the old woman, hit her on the head, and covered her eyes with a handkerchief while the other four servicemen committed the robbery.

On 10 August 1945 in front of the Riga City Police Administration building, a group of military personnel from naval unit 90155, 5 of them drunk, attacked Comrade Bočarovs, a member of the Police Administration, beat him, took away his TT pistol, and tried to escape, but they were apprehended. They were Bondarenko A.I. and Chuprov T.G.

On 11 August 1945, Captains Kirilin G.I. and Mamonov M.I. from troop unit l.p. 01597 were detained for attempting to sell a Valter pistol No-4428 with 127 combat cartridges.

On 12 August 1945 at about 12 p.m., it was reported that a corpse had been found in Apartment 14, 5 Arlavas Street. It was established that the murder was committed for the purpose of robbery. On examination of the corpse, it was that of citizen M.F. Gauļutkeviča, born in 1907, who had been hanged after being severely beaten on the head. Her sister Zihmanis, who was there drinking with two military servicemen, a sergeant, and Sergeant Major, was arrested on suspicion of this murder.

On 13 August 1945 at 11 p.m. on Baložu Street opposite house 20a, a serviceman from military unit l.p. 2163 Khudyakov I.A., born in 1911, was shot. After active search measures, the murderer was apprehended. He was a member of military unit l.p. 2452, Soldier Reutov A.G.

On 17 August 1945, 2 corpses were found at 2 Priežu Street, apartment 46. The investigation established that Sergeant I.I. Lishinkevich, who served in the 145th Reserve Rifle Regiment, killed citizen E.E. Bukandere with a shot from a Parabellum pistol in the chest, and after this murder committed suicide himself with a pistol shot.

On 19 August 1945 at 8:00 p.m., four Red Fleet servicemen entered a beer shop at 19 Tiltu Street and stole 9 thousand roubles but were detained. They were N.A. Lebedev from the 51st Chemical Defence Battalion and I.F. Shamelnov from the 70th Tank Brigade, decorated with the Suvorov Order.

On 20 August 1945, citizen Rocans A.L., who lives at 3 Ludviga Street, apartment 2 reported that on 19 August of of this year, at about 11 p.m. while walking along the Arkadija park, he was approached by 6 military servicemen. One of them hit him on the head and the other pulled out of his pocket a wallet containing documents and money.

On 31 August 1945 at about 4 a.m., it was reported that a murder had been committed at 35-6 Kuldīgas Street. It was established that citizen Gintere V.J., born in 1915, who lived at 18 Kuldīgas Street, apartment 6, had been killed by two shots from a TT pistol while leaving the house. She worked as the head of kindergarten No 5 at 7 Mārtiņa Street. Senior Lieutenant Kempīšs of the 123rd Rifle Regiment of the 43rd Guards Rifle Division was detained on suspicion of murder.

In 1945, many crimes committed by military servicemen treated in hospitals were recorded in Riga. In addition, these crimes did not decrease, but increased.

The number of typical crimes committed by the wounded (sick) and by hospital workers stationed in the city of Riga:

On 12 January 1945, a group of Red Army deserters were arrested for the murder of military officer Dyukov, including Podubnyi Vladimir, son of Ilya, born in 1925, who was wounded in Hospital 3037.

On 3 February 1945 at 8:00 p.m., an unknown serviceman killed citizen Kisilev Lyubov, born in 1911, with a pistol shot at 12 Kalupe Street, apt 9 and escaped. It was established that the murder was committed by Captain Yefimov I. from Hospital 3356

On 22 June 1945 at 6 p.m., on Dīķu Street, near house no 3, Lieutenant Mitkevich D.S. of Hospital 1089 killed an unknown citizen, aged between 23 and 25, whose identity has not been established, with a shot from a firearm.

We have informed the Chief of the Riga Garrison and military Commander of Riga City about the above crimes, but no effective measures have been taken to establish order.

In addition, between 1 June and 1 September 1945, 70 offences have been recorded relating to traffic offences in the city of which 50 accidents were caused by military personnel. 68 people have been injured because of accidents caused by military personnel, including:

killed	- 11 individuals
wounded	- 39 --- // ---

During this period, 1,394 driving licences were withdrawn for traffic offences, of which 1,090 were withdrawn from military drivers, representing 78%.

Despite our repeated demands to military command about arbitrary occupation of dwelling houses and other premises, this arbitrariness has continued until recently. For example, in the last days of August and the beginning of September 1945 in the Red Army District of Riga, the following premises were occupied with the help of machine-gunners, and no one was allowed to enter:

1. The house at 13 L. Altonova Street was occupied by military unit l.p. 55362.
2. The house at 5 Medus Street was occupied, by armed force, by military unit l.p. 24502.
3. The house at 43a Bauskas Street was also occupied, by armed force, by military unit l.p. 28558.

In the Proletarian District of Riga, Colonel Kopeikin of military District Headquarters arbitrarily occupied an apartment at 9-18 Ģetrūdes Street, etc.

Owing to the numerous cases of robbery, theft, harassment, etc., the inhabitants of Riga, especially in the outlying districts, are afraid to

go out on the streets at late hours. It is difficult to spot military patrols in the late hours of the night, but in the Red Army and Lenin Districts there are none. At night, the city is still being shelled.

All this has compelled us to appeal to you for help to exert a firm influence on the troops and to impose revolutionary order on them, and we also ask you to withdraw unnecessarily stationed troops from the city (Kirova, Valdemāra Streets, etc.).

Secretary of the Riga City Committee of the Latvian Communist (Bolshevik) Party of Latvia

K. Novikovs

11 September 1945

Riga³⁵

35. Report by the Minister of the Interior of the Latvian SSR, Major General A. Eglītis to the Chairman of the Latvian Bureau of the Central Committee of the All-Union Communist (Bolshevik) Party, N. Shatalin, Secretary of the Central Committee of the Latvian Communist (Bolshevik) Party of Latvia, J. Kalnbērziņš, and Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of the Latvian SSR, V. Lācis on crimes committed by Red Army servicemen, 11 September 1945

Strictly confidential

Chairman of the Latvian Bureau of the Central Committee of the All-Union Communist (Bolshevik) Party

comrade N. Shatalin

Secretary of the Central Committee of the Latvian Communist (Bolshevik) Party of Latvia

comrade J. Kalnbērziņš

Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of the Latvian SSR

comrade Lācis

I declare that, in spite of the special consultations on this subject held by the Commander of the Military District on 10 August of of this year, criminal offences committed by criminal persons in the territory

³⁵ NAL, PA-101. f., 8. desc., 9. file, pp 193-201 (Original. Translation)

of the Latvian SSR have not only decreased but are continuing to increase, as a result of the fact that the measures proposed by the Commander of the Military District are being poorly implemented in practice by the commanders of the troops, garrison commanders and political workers, and that the necessary breakthrough has therefore not yet been made. The increase in crimes committed by military personnel is illustrated by the following data:

In May-June, of 36 crimes detected by the People's Commissariat for the Interior and committed by military personnel, the most typical were: murders - 3, armed robberies - 12, thefts - 3 and other - 18 crimes of various types.

In July, of the 43 crimes committed by military personnel, 3 were murders, 17 armed robberies, 18 thefts, and 5 other crimes.

In August, 106 crimes committed by military personnel were detected through the line of the People's Commissariat for the Interior, divided as follows: murders - 24, armed robberies - 19, thefts - 30, and other types of crimes - 33.

I have periodically informed the commanders of the respective fronts, and lately also General Bagramyan, Commander of the Baltic Military District, of all these crimes by special reports.

The 39 crimes discovered in Riga in August are divided as follows:

Murders – 8, of which:

1. On 2 August of this year, during the arrest of a group of criminals who had committed an armed robbery against citizen M.A. Normane, who lives at 102 Dzirnava Street, apartment 11, Konstantins Rjabovs, son of Jakovs, Riga City 7th Police Division Operational Official, born in 1903 in Rēzekne, Russian, member of the AC(b)P, was killed.

After the search, the following criminals were apprehended:

- 1) Senior Lieutenant Ivan Vengovsky, son of Andrey, Baltic Military District Political Staff Reserve, born in 1923 in Poltava Oblast, member of AC(b)P from 1943,
- 2) Junior Lieutenant Mikhail Jurasovs, son of Vasily, Baltic Military District Political Staff Reserve, born 1924 in Buryat - Mongolian ASSR, candidate for AC(b)P membership, earlier tried for theft, released from Daugavpils prison by decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR of 7 July 1947.

It has been established that I.A. Vengovsky and M.V. Yurasov committed two armed robberies in Riga on 2 August 1945.

2. On 6 August 1945, Red Fleet serviceman A.P. Svirsky, born in 1918 in Zhytomyr region of the USSR, who in May of this year deserted from military unit l.p. 90614 and who on the grounds of jealousy killed citizen K.O. Kellere, who lived in Riga at 20 Sarkanarmijas Street, apartment 1a in the area of Ķīšezers.

On 13 August 1945 on Baložu Street, opposite house No 20a, a soldier from military unit 2163, Khudyakov, was killed with a shot from a rifle.

On the same day we apprehended the murderer. It was the Soldier of troop unit - l.p. 2452, A.G. Reutov.

3. On 17 August 1945, two corpses were found in apartment 43, 2 Priežu Street, Riga - landlady Bukamdera and military officer Lišinkevičs.

The investigation established that Bukamdere was murdered by I.I. Lišinkevičs, a member of the 145th Reserve Rifle Regiment, who subsequently committed suicide.

4. On 19 August of this year on the shore of Ķīšezers lake in Jaunciems District, the body of J.K. Miklav, born in 1904, was found – killed with a firearm. The killers were arrested following investigation. They were:

- 1) Junior Lieutenant J.B. Konkov, born 1924 in Uralsk, member of the All-Union Leninist Communist Youth League,

- 2) Second Lieutenant A.P. Kabakov, born in 1914 in Kursk region, member of AC(b)P, military officer of military unit - l.p. 1052.

5. On 26 August 1945, unknown criminals in military uniform threw citizen R.A. Zavadskaja, born in 1926 in Daugavpils District, lived in apartment 6, Krišjāņa Barona Street No 89/91, out of the window of her apartment.

The investigation has established that the murder was committed by:

- 1) Senior Sergeant P.M. Yegor, born 1924.

6. On 31 August at 4 a.m., citizen V.J. Gintere, born in 1915, who worked as the head of the Riga 5th kindergarten and lived at 18 Kuldīgas Street, apartment 6, was murdered in her apartment.

The killer was arrested the same day. It was Lieutenant Kemnisch of the 123rd Rifle Regiment of the Latvian Rifle Division of the 43rd Guards.

7. On 12 August 1945 at 12 p.m., the corpse of citizen Pauļutkeviča was found in her apartment at 5 Irslovno (?) Street, and the apartment appeared to have been robbed.

It was established that the murder had been committed by the sister of the deceased, Zihmane, together with two military servicemen, a sergeant and a Sergeant Major, who stole the property and fled.

Armed robberies - 7, of which:

1. On 10 August 1945 near the Riga City Police Administration, 5 military servicemen from naval force l.p. 90155, attacked police administration employee comrade Bočarovs, beat him, took away his TT pistol, and tried to escape. Two of them were detained. They were A.M. Bondarenko and G.G. Chuprov.
2. On 16 August of this year, the following military personnel were detained in Riga:
 - 1) Captain V.F. Titorenko - born in 1914 in Voroshilovgrad region, served in the 7th Tank Brigade and
 - 2) Senior Sergeant Yusupov Gelprohim - born in 1921 in Molotov region, served in the 36th reserve car regiment.In August of this year, together with other military personnel whose identities have not been established, they deserted from their military units and murdered citizen J.R. Kromane, who lived at homestead Galas-Ratnieki, Jevus (? - J.R.) Township, Bauska District. After stealing property worth 35,000 roubles, the criminals fled.
3. On 19 August of this year at 8:00 p.m., a group of Red Feet military officers robbed the cash desk of a beer shop located on Tiltu Street in Riga. The criminals were apprehended while trying to hide with the stolen money. They were:

- 1) Lebedev N.N., a military serviceman from the 51st Separate Chemical Defence Battalion and
- 2) Shamalnev, P.F., a military serviceman from the 70th Tank Brigade, decorated with the Suvorov Order.
4. On 4 August of this year, an unknown military officer entered the entrance yard in Riga on Vienības Avenue and ordered citizen Taumars, who lives in Niedras in Bauska District, to follow him to the police department. Upon leaving Robežu Street, the stranger punched Taumars on the head, pulled a wallet with documents and money from his pocket, and fled.
5. On 7 August of this year, a group of five military personnel arrived at the house of citizen Kauliņš, who lives at Kauguru Street No 2, apartment 1. One of them approached the old woman in the house, hit her on the head, blindfolded her [and robbed the apartment].
6. On 19 August of this year, unknown criminals in military uniform robbed Lieutenant A.F. Petrijakov, who is serving in military unit - l.p. 5161.
7. On 20 August of this year, a group of six people in military uniform robbed citizen A.A. Rodans, who lives at 3 Ludviga Street, apartment 2.
After stealing his wallet with money and documents, the criminals fled.

Thefts - 12, including the most typical:

1. On 3 August of this year, the following were detained at Riga Central Market:
 - 1) Klimov N.A. - born in 1909 in Ufa, military officer of the 8th Guards Rifle Division,
 - 2) Abramov Boris, son of Viktor, born 1922 in Gorky, member of the 145th Reserve Rifle Regiment,
 - 3) Maslov I.G. - born in 1914 in Kashira, Moscow Region, serviceman of the 35th Rifle Regiment, and
 - 4) Suhis I.M. - born in 1914 in Odessa, member of the 117th Reserve Rifle Regiment.The investigation established that Klimov, Abramov, Maslov, and Suhis committed pickpocketing.

2. On 5 August of this year, the following were detained at Riga Central Market:
 - 1) Vasin V.I. - born in 1922, served in the 145th Zenith Regiment, committed theft of money,
 - 2) Dementiev I.D. - born in 1923, served in the 145th Zenith Regiment, committed 3 pickpocket thefts.
3. On 6 August 1945, Kutuzov N.A., born in 1915, served in military unit - l.p. 83612, was arrested for pickpocketing in Riga Station Square.
4. On 10 August of this year near the pontoon bridge over the Daugava River in Riga, a military sergeant tried to steal from citizen R.K. Skeļte's trouser's pocket a wallet containing documents and money, but he was detained. It was Sergeant Titov A.I. - born in 1923, served in military unit - l.p. 82621.
On 11 August 2011, citizen J.O. Špermiņa, residing at 48 Sarkanarmijas Str., apt 5, had her clothes stolen.
On the same day, Prokofiev, who served in the 65th Rifle Regiment of the 43rd Guards Rifle Division, was arrested with the stolen goods.
5. On 11 August 1945, Viktor Rjuhins, son of Vasiliy, a member of military unit 1376, who had robbed the apartment of Junior Lieutenant Aleksandrov at Daugavpils Street No 6, apartment 4 was arrested on Marijas Street.
6. On 12 August of this year, Senior Sergeant Mereshkov Vasili, son of Vasili, born in 1920, who served in the 145th Rifle Regiment, was detained at the scene of the crime in Vidzeme Market.
7. On 16 August 1945, Red Army serviceman V.N. Kashkalamov, who was serving in military unit 6/855, was arrested at a tram stop in Riga for stealing a pocket watch from Lieutenant Murumbayev Muhamed.
8. On 26 August of this year, unknown criminals in military uniform stole household goods from the apartment of E.V. Zaķis at 101 Kirova Street, apartment 77.
Following a search, the perpetrators were arrested on 30 August of this year. They were:
 - 1) Second Lieutenant Leitchwan D.A., born in 1913,

- 2) Boshko K.N., born in 1920, served in the the 204th Reserve Rifle Regiment.
9. On 27 August of this year, Sergeant Obuhov M.S., born in 1912 in Kirov region, served in military unit - l.p. 518200, was detained while attempting to rob a city trading trust shop.
10. On 4 August of this year, a group of unknown persons dressed in military uniform snatched a lady's handbag containing money and documents from the hands of citizen Āboliņa on Briznieku (? - J.R.) Street. The criminals fled.
11. On 17 August of this year, military serviceman Tokmanov G., born in 1923 in the Kurgan region, served in military unit - l.p. 51561, was detained in the Central Market area for pickpocketing.

Other types of crimes - 12, including the most typical:

1. On 3 August of this year, the following were arrested while selling firearms in the Central Market:
 - 1) Siliņš Stepan, born in 1919 and
 - 2) Repiņš Vladimirs, born in 1924 - military officers from the 319th Artillery Regiment of the Latvian Rifle Division.
2. On 6 August of this year at 9:00 p.m., a group of drunken officers created a scandal on Vaļņu Street in Riga which ended in a shooting, resulting in one of the officers being wounded. This was Captain Burilov I.M., who served in the 254th Rifle Regiment of the 56th Guards Rifle Division, named after Matrosov.
3. On 11 August of this year, Captain Kirillinskaya I. and Captain Mamonov M.I., who were serving in military unit - l.p.01597, were detained for selling a Valter pistol and 127 combat cartridges.
4. On 16 August of this year in Station Square, deputy commander of the 1190th Rifle Regiment, awarded the Suvorov Order, Lieutenant-Colonel Vasiliev A.I., born in 1899 in Staraja Rusa, opened fire aimlessly while drunk, stopped a passing car and threatened with a gun, ordering him to be driven away. Vasiliev was detained, disarmed, and sent to the Riga City Commandant.

5. On 28 August of this year, while attempting to carry out an armed robbery in the apartment of citizen Povilaite at 5 Maskavas Street, apartment 19, the following were detained: junior lieutenant Sobolev A.Y., born in 1916 and Nikolai M.S., born in 1927.
6. On 15 August of this year, citizen Skabule A.I. met a captain (she does not know his surname) at a dance, who accompanied her to her home at 14 Slokas Street and forcibly entered Skabule's apartment, and when she tried to escape, the captain wounded her in the leg and fled.
7. On 16 August of this year, two military officers entered the apartment of citizen Ozola L.F., pretending to carry out a document check. After checking the documents, they demanded all her money and valuables. After, the criminals fled in car No 68-213.

Other crimes are less significant.

Many anonymous reports of crimes committed by police personnel are received from residents of Riga. An extract from one anonymous letter to Comrade Lācis is attached.

In the month of August, the the People's Commissariat for the Interior have detected 67 cases of crimes committed by military personnel in the Districts of the Latvian SSR of which:

Murders - 16, of which:

1. On 1 August of this year, in Vainode, Liepāja District, citizen Strauta Elizabete, daughter of Ivans, born in 1904, was killed by a revolver shot. The murderer was Lieutenant Titov Ivan, son of Kirill, who served in military unit - l.p. 15948. The criminal was arrested. The investigation established that Titov committed the murder because she refused to give him vodka.
2. On 6 August of this year, the body of an unidentified Red Army man was found near the Daugavpils market. The murder was committed by 23 stab wounds. The following are suspected of the murder: 1) Brattsev Nikolai, son of Nikolai, who served in military unit - l.p. 1078, and 2) Kulikov Anatoly, son of Ivan.
3. On 7 August of this year, fighter battalion soldier Hartmanis Ernests was killed at homestead Smiltnieki in Skrunda

Township in Kuldīga District. After a search, the perpetrators were apprehended. They were:

- 1) Popov S.K. - served in the disinfection company of military unit - l.p. 48209 and
 - 2) Takmanov P.A. - served in the same company.
4. On 8 August of this year, a criminal dressed in military uniform killed the Baumgarte family consisting of 3 people, at homestead Zižu in Puze Township, Ventspils District with the intention to rob them. After a search operation, the perpetrator was apprehended. He was Junior Sergeant Mansurov Tuhtalsson of the 59th Rifle Regiment.
 5. On 12 August of this year, at homestead Ozoliņi, Embute Township, Liepāja District, unknown military officers killed the owners, Prenslavs Vilhelms and Prenslava Anna. After committing this crime, the criminals fled.
 6. On 14 August of this year, at homestead Meijas, Grobiņa Township, Liepāja District, while detaining a group of military officers who had robbed the farmer Ruicens, members of the Destroyer Battalion shot and killed Sergeant Major Rudaev and detained Red Army soldier Korostilev, who were serving in military unit - l.p. 92530.
 7. On 16 August of this year, 62 km from Riga station, 200 metres from the Riga - Daugavpils highway, the body of an unidentified woman was found who had been killed by two gunshots. The murder was committed by a military driver, whose surname and military unit number have not been established. After the robbery, the perpetrator fled.
 8. On 25 July of this year, a group of 6 unidentified criminals in military uniform, who had arrived by car murdered farmer Grindals Z.Z. at homestead Dzidranki in Stende Township, Talsi District. After completely ransacking the house and placing everything in the car, the criminals drove off in the direction of Tukums.
 9. On 4 August of this year, a group of unknown criminals in military uniform murdered the family of the farmer Bērziņš, who lived at homestead Kaktusada in Krustpils Township,

- Jēkabpils District, for the purpose of robbery. The criminals stole a large amount of property and fled.
10. On 12 August of this year, at homestead Mižas in the Township of Graudze (Gramzda? - J.R.) in Liepāja District, two unknown criminals in military uniform killed citizen Mednieks Jēkabs and his wife Medniece Valerina for robbery, after which they fled with the stolen goods.
 11. On 24 August of this year, a group of military officers, including 4 people, murdered citizen Dzērve Žanis and wounded citizens Strapniece, Dzērve Fricis and Kopštala, who lived in homestead Klaigalas in Kaletu Township in Liepāja District, for the purpose of robbery. After appropriating property, the criminals fled.
 12. On the night of 8 August of this year, at Vilnīši homestead in Agresgals (Ogresgals ? - J.R.) military servicemen who were being treated at hospital No 459, Sergeant Major Ignatyev Evgeny, son of Maxim, and Soldier Anfilatov Nikolai, son of Vasily, murdered citizen Pabērzs Jānis, son of Jānis, and wounded citizen Beikmane Viktorija. After stealing property, the criminals fled. Following a manhunt, the criminals were arrested.
 13. On 28 July of this year, two unknown criminals in military uniform murdered citizen, Silionovs, at 10 Vidus Street in Jelgava. After stealing property, the criminals fled towards Dobeles.
 14. On 3 August of this year, three unknown criminals in military uniform murdered Šnore Kārlis and wounded his daughter Balode Anna, who lived at homestead Dzidrumi in Vircava Township, Jelgava District.

Armed robberies - 13, of which:

1. On 8 August of this year, a group of unknown criminals in military uniform robbed an apartment at homestead Kazupurvs of Priekule municipality, Cēsis District. After a search, the robbers were apprehended. They were: 1) Pupa P.J., 2) Burov A.T., 3) Mincis K.J. - military officer of the 121st Rifle Regiment of the Latvian Rifle Division of the 43rd Guards.

2. On 15 August of this year while train No 71 was standing at Rēzekne station, military officers took a suitcase and a bag of belongings from citizen Kirilova from the station's stage-dam command. The perpetrators were apprehended while trying to escape. They were Sergeant Yulbatov Mikhail, son of Stepan, who served in the commandant's office of the 148th stage-dam command post, and Terryokhin S.M., who served in the same unit.
3. On 6 August of this year at Abrene station, a group of 4 military officers robbed citizen Korobļevs of 20,000 roubles. The perpetrators were detained. They were: Strepkov L.N., Pahomenkogad D., Runov I.I., Vlasov M.F., who were on their way to Berlin from Leningrad on train No 1447.
4. On 28 August of this year, a group of unknown criminals dressed in military uniform arrived at homestead Ķikoņi of Lustroze (? - J.R.), Valmiera Township District in car No 85-001 and carried out an armed robbery of local residents. After loading the stolen property, the criminals fled in the direction of Riga.
5. On 21 August of this year, a group of criminals dressed in military uniform committed a robbery in homestead Druvino in Stende, Talsi District. After robbing citizen Grīnbergs Kārlis of a large quantity of property, the criminals fled in armoured car No 1537-891 A IEO 6685224.
6. In August of this year, citizen Kauss Jānis, son of Kārlis, who lives in Ādaži Township, was robbed several times by military personnel from military unit - l.p. 23964. After a search, one of the perpetrators, Karlin Pyotr, son of Lavrentiy, who served in the 145th reserve rifle regiment, was apprehended.
7. On 29 July of this year, a farmer, Baltiņa Natālija, who lives in homestead Robežnieki in Zaube Township, was robbed by unknown military officers under the pretenses of a search. After stealing some of her clothes, the criminals fled.
8. In August of this year, the house of citizen Kļava was burgled in Makšēni Township, Rēzekne District. A group of military officers who identified themselves as members of the People's

Commissariat for the Interior came to Kļava's house. Under threat of weapons and searches, they selected 34 of the most valuable items of clothing, and then, after herding the inhabitants of the house into the cellar, fled with the valuable items.

9. On 9 August of this year, a group of 5 military officers entered the house of the farmer Vagalis, who lives in Lipski, Rēzekne District and robbed him at gunpoint. The criminals escaped with a large quantity of stolen goods.

The investigation established that the robbery of the farmer Vagalis was carried out by military servicemen Tsirulnikov Semyon, son of Leonty, who was undergoing treatment in evacuation hospital No 1859 and military serviceman Yosefov Joseph, son of Isay. Further investigation revealed that Lieutenant Anishin Konstantin, son of Mikhail, who was also undergoing treatment at Evacuation Hospital No 1859, had also taken part in the robbery. He was detained while selling the items he had stolen from the Vagalis home, but he resisted and hid in the evacuation hospital. At the request of the police of the Rēzekne District People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs, Anishin was taken to the headquarters of the hospital where the head of the evacuation hospital, Lieutenant Colonel Shtein of the medical service, obstructed further investigation, categorically refusing to give Anishin's surname and forbidding his release for interrogation. Despite the warning of the District People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs, on 2 August of this year, i.e., on the second day after Anishin's person was ascertained, he was discharged from the hospital and sent to the 42nd Officers' Reserve Regiment in Mītava (Jelgava – J.R.).

A significant number of crimes in Rēzekne and its surrounding municipalities are committed by military personnel undergoing treatment in hospitals. This is facilitated by the lack of strict requirements of the hospital superiors who are in Rēzekne.

10. On 10 August of this year, a group of criminals consisting of Red Army deserters was arrested for several robberies and

thefts committed in Jelgava in June-August: V.F. Melnikov (also Ivanov and Drobin), who served in the 204th reserve rifle regiment and V.D. Andreyev, who deserted from the same 204th reserve rifle regiment.

11. On 26 July of this year, two unidentified military officers raped Malvine K. and Juzefa B. in Jelgava, then robbed them and fled.
12. In August of this year on the Šiauliai highway near Jelgava, military personnel Lieutenant Safronov N.M. of the 204th reserve rifle regiment and Sergeant Kovalenko I.F. robbed Sergeant Ivanov, who had been demobilised from the army, at gunpoint from evacuation hospital No 190. The perpetrators were apprehended and sent to the military prosecutor of Jelgava Garrison.
13. On 31 August of this year, 6 military servicemen drove a truck into homestead Aišenieki of farmer T.I. Buka in Kabile Township, Kuldīga District. Threatening with weapons, the group of robbers herded all the inhabitants of the house into the cellar, locked the door and having piled the looted goods into the car, fled.
The prisoner Buka knew one of the group of criminals from Lieutenant Odintsov's command, military unit - l.p. 48641, who was in the house in July.

Theft - 18 cases, including the most typical:

1. On 6 August of this year, a military person was detained at Ventspils station: Sergeant Major Gusev Vasiliy, son of Vasiliy, 69th Guards Rifle Regiment, who on 6 August of this year stole items from the apartment of citizen Jaunzema V.H. The thief was apprehended. The stolen goods were returned to the victim.
2. On 9 August of this year, Sergeant Vorontsov Alexander, son of Alexander, a senior sergeant of the 145th Reserve Rifle Regiment, was arrested at the Jelgava station of the Latvian Railway for stealing money from Red Army men Gainovs and Korņejevs while being absent from the same troops. Vorontsov was sent to the military prosecutor of the Jelgava Garrison.

3. On 9 August of this year, three sacks of rye were stolen from Matvejevs, a citizen living in Rēzekne, at the Rēzekne station of the Latvian Railway. After a search, the perpetrator was arrested. The person was Mikhail Lenssekov, son of Ilya, who was serving in military unit - l.p. 28623.
4. On 1 August of this year, while breaking open the door of the Latvian Railway ... shop in Ventspils, an unidentified military person stole 45 kg of candies and 14 packets of cigars.
5. On 27 August of this year, citizen Gailiņš was robbed at the Pļaviņas railway station by unknown military officers. The criminals jumped on the train, snatched a bag and a briefcase with documents, money, and belongings.
6. On 26 August of this year, unknown criminals in military uniform stole household goods from Vanagi homestead, Straude (Strazde ? - J.R.) Township, Talsi District. It was established that the perpetrators are members of the Kandava Military Command.
7. On 30 August of this year, unknown criminals in military uniform stole a motorcycle from the vegetable drying plant in Talsi District. During the attempt to apprehend the criminals, they resisted and hid in the 326th Division repair base.
8. On 1 August of this year, unknown criminals in military uniform robbed citizen Treijers in Krimulda Township in Riga District. The criminals escaped.
9. On 3 August of this year, sheep were stolen from homestead Petrikeni in Ādaži Township. After a search, the perpetrators were apprehended. They were: Nikolai Andreev and Mergasim Hasanov who were serving in military unit - l.p. 23964.
10. Over the course of 10 days in August 1945 at homestead Vectaņi of citizen Puriņš in Ādaži Township, unknown military officers stole peas and potatoes from a 0.35 ha plot.
11. In August 1945, citizen Lilņins, who lives in Asmas in Ādaži Township, had his potatoes dug up by unknown servicemen on an area of 0.6 hectares.

12. In August, unknown military personnel from the 145th Reserve Rifle Regiment destroyed 0.3 ha of potatoes, took 2 tonnes of hay, and stole several cubic metres of planks from the home of citizen Velcins [Vilciņš] Petuss, son of Jānis. Farmer Vilciņš, who appealed for help from the command of the troop, did not receive any support.
13. In August of this year, unknown criminals stole foodstuffs and 100 metres of fabric from the storeroom of evacuation hospital No 2068 by breaking the door. After a search, the criminals were apprehended, and the stolen goods were returned to the hospital. In August of this year, foodstuffs and industrial goods worth Rb 17,222 were stolen from the Rēzekne Forest Factory shop ... by breaking into it. As a result of the search, the perpetrator was apprehended. He was Ivan Antipov, son of Konstantin, who was undergoing treatment in evacuation hospital No 1761 in Rēzekne.
14. On the night of 14 August of this year, a group of unknown criminals in military uniform stole a horse from the pasture of farmer A.S. Kudļs of Kudlija homestead, Sakstagala municipality, Rēzekne District. The criminals escaped.
15. On 26 August of this year, unknown criminals in military uniform stole a horse from the yard of A.S. Kudļs, a farmer, at Dzirnava Street No 9 in Rēzekne. The criminals escaped.
16. On 7 August 1945, cattle were stolen from homestead Keidani in Ruzina Township, Rēzekne District.
17. The investigation established that the cattle were stolen by Bogodelnikov J.V. and Petrov A.V., who served in Rēzekne, 143rd Rifle Regiment - l.p. 06650.
18. In addition to the above crimes, the People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs of the Riga District of the LSSR has received complaints from peasants in Ādaži and neighbouring Townships about robberies and thefts committed by members of the 145th Reserve Rifle Regiment.

Other types of crime - 21, including the most typical:

1. On 17 August of this year, at Daugavpils-2 station, citizen V.N. Filipov was seriously wounded by unknown

servicemen. The investigation established that the perpetrator was Mikhail Nikolai Tuezov, who worked as a driver at PCD [People's Commissariat for Defence] warehouse No 281 in Daugavpils.

2. On 22 August of this year, unknown criminals in military uniforms beat up residents of the houses of Salarāži, Zielova and Bari in an attempt to rob homestead Tauragi. The criminals were apprehended by fighters of the Sabile Township Destroyer Battalion, but the criminals resisted and fled.
3. On 5 August of this year, a group of military personnel arrived at homestead Purgaiļi in Ādaži Township and demanded foodstuffs. After refusing, the perpetrators, threatening with weapons, entered the garden and started to break berry trees, pull out peas, onions and cucumbers. After cries for help from the residents, the Riga District Ādaži Township Police Official arrived and, as the criminals approached, they opened machine-gun fire and fled.
4. On 13 August of this year, S.N. Simonin, who was serving in the 145th Reserve Rifle Regiment and deserted from it, was detained at Jelgava station on 1 August of this year.
5. Dmitrijevs, the head of the 1st Division of the Criminal Investigation Department of the LSSR People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs, was sent to Jelgava, and together with members of the Jelgava District People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs, arrested 14 members of the 204th Reserve Rifle Regiment in Jelgava.

The investigation revealed that one of the military personnel arrested from the 204th Reserve Rifle Regiment, Gabulyan, is the son of Shahyan Ashot Sarkis, a person wanted by the Criminal Investigation Department, who committed several robberies and armed assaults with double murder during his stay at the Hospital for the Slightly Injured No 1058 in Riga.

Shakhyan was engaged in criminal activities in the 204th Reserve Rifle Regiment with military officers Frolinov, Masyukov, Nechayev, Kudryashev and others.

The above group committed 1 robbery and 6 qualified thefts in Jelgava and the surrounding area.

6. In August, a group of Leningrad Front staff officers - Colonel Makovikov, Lieutenant Colonel Shkodo and Lieutenant (surname unclear) opened fire aimlessly in the area of the summer house of the Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Leningrad Front in Mezaparks.

The Lieutenant was arrested for 10 days by the Commandant of Mežaparks for violating public order.

Even bandits report a number of crimes by military personnel. An extract from one such letter is attached.

In view of the above, I consider it necessary to take the following measures:

1. To set up an authoritative commission of the Central Committee, the Council of People's Commissars and the staff of the Baltic Military District to inspect all non-barracks-type premises occupied by troops, naval units and institutions. To decide whether they should be left in the centre of the republic or moved to the outskirts of the city to form special military towns. Relocate some troops to unoccupied military barracks in other cities.
2. To prescribe the regimes and daily routines laid down in the regulations and orders of the troops, as well as to keep inventories of arms, combat equipment, vehicles and fuel, and to require garrison commanders and military commanders to comply strictly with them.
3. Garrison commanders and military commanders to provide all public places in towns with the necessary number of military patrols to check documents and monitor the appearance and behaviour of military personnel.

Attached: a copy of an anonymous letter to Comrade Lācis and an extract from a letter from Bisenieks, Skružinieks, Zvaigznīte and Dzenis.

People's Commissar for Internal Affairs of the Latvian SSR

Major-General

/Eglītis/

Nr. 1/452

11 September 1945. Riga.³⁶

³⁶ NAL, PA-101. f., 8. desc., 9. file, pp 176-189 (Original. Translation)

**36. Additional message of 14 September 1945
from the Minister of the Interior of the Latvian SSR,
Major-General A. Eglītis to N. Shatalin, Chairman of the
Latvian Bureau of the Central Committee of the AC(b)P,
J. Kalnbērziņš, Secretary of the Central Committee of
the Latvian C(b)P, V. Lācis, Chairman of the Council of
People's Commissars of the Latvian SSR, and
Hannikov, Chief of the Baltic Military District
Counterintelligence Office Smersh concerning crimes
by military officers**

Strictly confidential

Chairman of the Latvian Bureau of the Central Committee of the
AC(b)P

comrade N. Shatalin

Secretary of the Central Committee of the Latvian C(b)P

comrade J. Kalnbērziņš

Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of the Latvian SSR

comrade Lācis

Copy: Baltic Military District Chief of the Counterintelligence Office,
Lieutenant General

comrade Hannikov

Riga

In addition to my information of 11 September of this year, I am announcing additional facts of crimes committed by military personnel during the month of August.

In the township of Ādaži, Riga District, we have established the following facts:

1. On 16 August, 2 sheep were stolen from homestead Žagari, the trail leading to troops stationed in the Children's Colony. The commander of the military unit did not aid the local police in detecting the crime and did not allow them to enter the unit's location.

2. On 19 August, a sheep was stolen from Makternieki homestead after the lock was broken. The trail led to the Latvian division's location in the village of Lakstini (Langstini? - J.R.). The commander of the subdivision refused to help local authorities solve the crime.

3. On 22 August, 2 horses were stolen from the auxiliary farm of the Bolshevichka factory.

4. On 25 August, 2 sheep were stolen from the home of citizen Steberkla in Dīķi.

5. On the same day, a horse was stolen from a field in homestead Grotiņi owned by farmer Grotiņš Pēteris.

6. On 27 August, in the Rukuli homestead, a Red Army serviceman tried to steal a horse from the field in broad daylight. When the owner noticed this and made noise, the criminal abandoned the horse and, after walking a kilometre to Balvi homestead, stole a horse from the field from citizen Freimane.

7. On the same day, 2 cows and a horse were stolen from Lauki homestead during the night by breaking the barn door. The trail led to the location of the 43rd Guard Division. The animals' skin and intestines were found at the division's location. The local authorities, who carried out the investigation and the detection of the crime, were not allowed to enter the unit's location.

10. Horse stolen from homestead Ozolkalēji.

11. Horse stolen from homestead Drovnieki.

12. Clothes and underwear stolen from homestead Asmas.

The suspected perpetrators of the above crimes are military personnel, most of whom belong to the 145th Reserve Rifle Regiment commanded by Colonel Krievs, as well as penal battalions.

13. On 3 August of this year, a sheep was stolen from Petrikeni homestead. The Ādaži Township Police Station official took timely measures to apprehend the perpetrators. They were military servicemen from military unit - l.p. 23964 - Andreyev Nikolay, son of Gavriļa and Hasanov Mergasim from military unit 23964. The perpetrators were detained. During the detention, they demonstrated armed resistance.

14. Farmer Kauss Jānis, son of Karlis, was robbed on 22 July of this year. 2 chickens, 2 beehives with bees, onions, carrots, potatoes, peas, and hay were stolen, 50% of Kauss' vegetable plantings were destroyed. The military men dug up unripe potatoes from the potato field. The criminals who stole 2 beehives have been found and one of them was arrested. He was a fighter in the 145th Reserve Rifle Regiment, Karlin Pyotr, son of Lavra.

15.-17. Military servicemen stationed in Ādaži municipality systematically destroyed pea and potato fields, as well as onions, cucumbers and carrots in gardens. Bees were stolen from 3 farmers in

Ādaži municipality. The military is preventing the farmers of Ādaži Township from working peacefully, and they have to organise round-the-clock watches in the fields and gardens to save their crops. These abuses by the military infuriate the peasants and give rise to anti-Soviet sentiments.

Military personnel of the 145th Reserve Rifle Regiment battalions stationed in Ādaži Township systematically, without any leave documents, go to the houses of farmers in Ādaži Township and demand various foodstuffs from the farmers. The farmers of Ādaži Township have repeatedly reported these abuses by the military to the command of the military unit, but no action has been taken by the command so far.

18. On 17 August of this year, a black car with three servicemen, one of them a sailor, drove into homestead Apiņi in Katlakalns Township. Pretending to be members of the People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs, they carried out a search, stole money and clothes, and drove off.

19. On 12 August, three men dressed in military uniform stole household items from homestead Mežpumpuri in Baldone Township.

20. On August 3 in Ropaži Township, three persons dressed in Red Army uniform stopped a caravan on the Riga-Madona highway, drove it into the forest and, after striking Prazdiņš and Vītols with a gun, took their documents, money, and belongings.

21. A group of military personnel, including 6-7 people from a military unit engaged in the construction of a tower, stole 17,000 rbl, a bottle of vodka, and a bottle of alcohol from citizen Zeltiņa at homestead Strautiņi in Sigulda Township.

22. A group of 5 Red Army servicemen burgled an apartment in Kaktu homestead in Lielvārde Township. The case was transferred to the Military Prosecutor's Office of the Riga Garrison.

23. On 2 August, military personnel from the 145th Reserve Rifle Regiment burgled an apartment in Koltiņi homestead in Krimulda Township. The perpetrators were detained and prosecuted.

24. In Ogresgala Township on the night of 7-8 August, farmer Pabērzs Jānis, son of Jānis, born in 1908, was killed with a knife in homestead Vilciņi, and citizen Veikmane Viktorija, who lives in Riga, Stabu Street No 88, apt. 24, who had come to visit Pabērzs from Riga, was wounded. After the murder, the Vilciņi homestead was robbed. The criminals who murdered Pabērzs and wounded Veikmane (in text - Veikšāne - J.R.) were military officers from the war hospital in Riga (l.p. No 459) - Sergeant Major Ignatiev Yevgeny, son of Maxim, and

Soldier Anfilatov Nikolai, son of Vasily. Both criminals have been detained by the police.

25. On 11 September of this year in the township of Peternieki, Jelgava District, Sergeant Shijanov A.D. and Soldier Karpovs K.V. of the 145th Reserve Rifle Regiment stole a cow from citizen Paduce Elza and tried to sell it to citizen Lamberga Anna at homestead Valdati, but they were detained by the fighters of the Destroyer Battalion. A horse was also found, which the criminals had left in a house. A third participant in the theft, an Uzbek, escaped.

Thus, including these, the number of crimes committed by military personnel in August is not 106 but 131 of which: murders - 26, armed robberies - 25, thefts - 48, and other 32 crimes of various kinds.

Of the total number of crimes committed by military personnel that we discovered in August, 32 concerned the Riga District of which: murders - 2, armed robberies - 7 and thefts - 23, 27 of which were committed by military personnel of the 145th Reserve Rifle Regiment stationed in Riga and Jelgava Districts.

People's Commissar for Internal Affairs of the Latvian SSR

Major-General

/Eglītis/

14 September 1945

Riga³⁷

**37. Extract from the Order of 27 October 1945 by
General N. Bulganin, Deputy People's Commissar for
the Defence of the USSR on Disciplinary Violations in
the Baltic Military District**

Strictly confidential

Moscow, 27 October 1945

Extract from Order No 0017 of the Deputy People's Commissar
for Defence of the USSR

Many violations of military discipline have been observed among
the troops of the Baltic Military District.

³⁷ NAL, PA-101. f., 8. desc., 9. file, pp 202-204 (Original. Translation)

Military personnel, both individually and in groups, leave the quarters of troops and sub-units, appear drunk in public places and behave inappropriately. Individual servicemen commit violent robberies and other crimes against the local population.

Recently, there have been widespread cases of the military taking food, fodder, livestock, and furniture from the population, but the commanders of the troops not only do not fight against these shameful cases, but sometimes even support them.

....

Deputy People's Commissar for Defence of the USSR
Army General

N. Bulganin³⁸

**38. Report by Police Colonel A. Košeļevs, Deputy
Minister of the Interior of the LSSR to Lieutenant
General D. Brantkalns, Chief of the Riga Garrison on
illegal actions committed by military servicemen**

Latvian SSR, Ministry of the Interior, Police Administration
Passport Division

4 November 1945

No 8/6/1782 s

Riga

Confidential

Chief of the Riga City Garrison

comrade Brantkalns

Copy: Secretary of the Central Committee of the Latvian C(b)P

comrade Kalnbērziņš

The command of military units, evacuation hospitals, and other military establishments stationed in the city of Riga, as well as certain military personnel, mainly officers who live outside their units in private apartments, are in flagrant violation of passport regulations approved by the Council of People's Commissars of the USSR on 10 September 1940 under No 1667.

The following facts serve as confirmation:

Troop - Field Post 8264 has 220 squatters living in the troop's apartments without passports. The command of this unit does not take

³⁸ NAL, 270. f., 1.s desc., 131. file, p 86 (Original. Translation)

any measures to register the personnel but continues to recruit persons without a passport.

The command of Repair Plant No 29 recruited 76 people from a number of repatriated Soviet citizens at transfer points, a large number of whom were brought to Riga without any documents, and where they are not registered for lack of documents.

The command of troop unit - Field Post 20788 - sent a representative to the Soletsk District of the Leningrad region to recruit people to complete the free contract ranks.

The representative of the said unit, having arrived in the specified District and without the knowledge of the Soviets, Party organisations, and the People's Commissariat for the Interior, recruited 19 people from the local collective farm and local defence workers and brought them to Riga to the location of the unit without passports and without the permission of the Council of People's Commissars of the LSSR.

In this way, the command of the above-mentioned troops not only violates the passport law, but also commits anti-government practices by luring collective farmers and creating conditions for desertion from the defence industry. In addition, it is polluting Riga with undesirable elements since, according to the head of the Soletsk District People's Commissariat for the Interior Department, among those recruited by that department are persons with compromising material.

A check of the passport regime in Riga has revealed cases of entire apartments being occupied by officers living without registration. For example, in house No 2 on Slokas Street, officers of military unit - Field Post 24502 - Captain Svetlov, Captain Kazakevich, Major Antonov, and others live without registration.

Similar facts of undocumented persons being brought to Riga as free contract workers, officers living outside their units without registration, have been found in many other units and institutions stationed in the city. I therefore request that the commanders of the troop units, evacuation hospitals, and other sub-units of the Riga Garrison be instructed immediately to put in order the documentation and registration files of free contract workers as well as of military officers living outside the troop units.

LSSR Deputy People's Commissar for the Interior
Police Colonel Košeļevs³⁹

³⁹ NAL, PA-101. f., 8. desc., 9. file, pp 238, 239 (Original. Translation)

**39. Report by the Chairman of the Council of People's
Commissars of the LSSR, V. Lācis to the Commander
of the Troops of the Baltic Military District,
I. Bagramyan on disorder in houses occupied by
troops, 24 November 1945**

24 November 1945

To Army General I. Bagramyan, Commander
of Troops of the Baltic Military District
Report

The Council of People's Commissars of the LSSR informs that the houses at 2, 4 Parka Street, 9 Marijas Street, 22 Kirova Street, 28a Kr. Barona Street, 71/73 Kirova Street, etc. are maintained in totally unsatisfactory condition.

On handing over the unused premises of the Baltic Military District at 9 Strēlnieku Street to the Naval Coastal Defence Military School, the following items were found to have been taken from the house and removed: some baths, gas pipes, gas cookers, gas and electricity meters, door handles and locks, and sinks. The house is filthy and has no security.

In the houses at 2, 4 Parka Street, the corner of 9 Marijas Street, and 22 Kirov Street, which have been handed over for temporary use by the Baltic Military District, window frames and glass have been removed in large numbers, floors and kitchens have been damaged, heating stoves and doors have been destroyed, some rooms are flooded with water, there is a lot of rubbish and dirt both inside and in the courtyards, etc.

The houses at 28a Kr. Barona Street and 71/73 Kirov Street are in almost the same condition.

Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars
of the LSSR

V. Lācis⁴⁰

⁴⁰ NAL, 270. f., 1.s desc., 131. file, p 97 (Original. Translation)

40. Investigation report on crimes committed by military personnel in Sinole Township, Valka District Investigation Statement

Strictly confidential

24 November 1945

I, Captain Lisenko, authorised officer of the operational department of the Baltic Military District counter-intelligence service administration Smersh and Junior Police Lieutenant Kamoliņš, assistant to the officer of the operational department of Valka District, Ministry of the Interior, having examined the reports of the interrogation of witnesses and other materials concerning the mass robbery of farms in Sinole Township in Valka District in the Latvian SSR by military personnel involved in the procurement of firewood from the DzER [Apartment Operation Department] of the Riga District [Garrison] have ascertained the following:

Soldiers of the 313th Sapper Battalion of the Baltic Military District (battalion commander Major Chilkin, platoon commander Lieutenant Kudryakov), assigned on firewood preparation in the Riga District [Garrison] DED and settled in Malmuiža, Sinole Township, Valka District until 12 April of this year (February, March and April 1946) engaged in stealing foodstuffs from the farmers of Sinole Township.

In early January 1946 at 11 p.m., two military officers came to the home of citizen Bāliņa who lived in Venteli homestead, Sinole Township and talked with her for 40-50 minutes on various topics, and then left. After the soldiers had left, Bāliņa went outside to look at her farm and found that the lock to the cellar had been broken and 10-12 poods of potatoes had been taken from the cellar. Following the trail of the cart in which the potatoes had been taken, Bāliņa arrived at the house where the soldiers lived, but was not allowed to enter the apartment and was refused return of the potatoes.

In February 1946, criminals broke the barn window of Preiss, a citizen living in homestead Jauntiruļi, Sinole Township and stole one sheep. Tracks from the cart led Preiss to homestead Lāči in Sinole

Township where Preiss reported the matter to the officer in charge of the command, but the officer refused to search for the criminals.

On the night of 5 February of this year, at homestead Edepe in the township of Sinole, the barn window of citizen Paulīne Karole was broken and 5 kg of pig fat, 4 poods of wheat flour and 4 poods of rye flour were stolen. The theft was committed by soldiers who were staying in the house.

On the night of 10 February of this year, criminals broke the lock of the barn door of the citizen Pense in Veiniķi homestead and stole 5 poods of oats and 15-18 poods of potatoes. The next day, having been traced to homestead Mālmuiža, Pense reported the incident to an officer, who replied that if she reported the theft to anyone else, not only her belongings would be badly affected, but also herself.

In the beginning of March 1946, 14 kg of pork and 4 poods of potatoes were stolen from the apartment of Velta Biseniece at homestead Saule when the window of the apartment was broken. The thieves' trail led Biseniece to Veļi homestead, where soldiers of the 313th Sapper Battalion were staying, but the commanding officer refused to listen to the victim.

In the beginning of March 1946, the lock to the barn door was broken in the same way in the house of Eglītis, an agent of the procurement office, in the Township of Sinole, and 12 calfskins were stolen that were later found in the house of Sergeant Stankēvičs, senior sergeant of the 2nd sapper company of the 313th sapper battalion, living at homestead Lauri in the township of Sinole.

The specific perpetrators of each individual theft could not be identified - the thefts took place during the night. On 13 April of this year, sub-units of the 313th Sapper Battalion left the township of Sinole.

In addition to thefts committed by the soldiers of the 313th Sapper Battalion, the soldiers of military unit (Field Post No 77611) under the command of Lieutenant Litvinovsky-Smetanin (a precise surname of the lieutenant cannot be determined now) systematically robbed the farmers of Sinole Township; mainly they were the Red Army servicemen: Vladimir Kovalov, son of Ivan and Grigori Klukin, son of Vasily.

On the night of 5 April 1946, soldiers of troop unit (field post No 77611) led by Kovalov and Klukin stole 20 poods of potatoes from

the storehouse of citizen Karkune at homestead Oškalni in Sinole Township. When Karkune, together with police officers, followed the criminals' trail, the potatoes were found to be held by the soldiers and returned to the victim, but the criminals went unpunished. In addition, Lieutenant Litvinovsky-Smetanin, the senior member of the group of soldiers, insulted the police officers who were carrying out their duties.

On the night of 2 March of this year, the soldiers of Lieutenant Litvinovsky-Smetanin, residing in homestead Saulieši in Sinole Township, stole 10-12 poods of potatoes from the cellar of Svikle and then - on the night of 29 March of this year - stole 30 kg of meat, shoes, and boots from her. The thefts were committed by Kovalov and Klukin.

On the night of 16 March of this year, a group of armed soldiers broke a barn window on the farm of citizen Rikards Dūzelis (Kalnzirkali homestead), shot a pig weighing more than 100 kg and a sheep weighing 50 kg with a rifle, put them in a cart and took them away. Traces of blood took Dūzelis to Mālmuiža where soldiers of military unit (Field Post 88611) were stationed, but the officer who was there refused to search for the perpetrators and return the stolen items.

On the night of 24 March of this year, soldiers broke the lock of a sty on the farm of citizen Rihards Spila (Ezerkalni homestead) and stole a 75 kg pig. The soldiers opened fire with submachine guns on Spila, who went into the yard after hearing a noise, but did not kill him as he quickly hid. On 24 March of this year, Spila followed the trail of blood to homestead Saulieši in Sinole Township where soldiers of Lieutenant Litvinovsky-Smetanin were stationed, but Spila was driven out of the house.

On the night of 17 February of this year, soldiers of Lieutenant Litvinovsky-Smetanin broke the lock of the cellar on the farm of Alfrēdas Graislis (Javerlatkari homestead) and stole 90 kg of pork, 5 kg of bacon, 2 kg of butter, and 40 kg of rye. The victim's application to the senior commander about this group of soldiers was to no avail as there was no investigation.

It is also impossible to identify the specific perpetrators of each individual theft as the troop (Field Post 77611) commander Litvinovsky-Smetanin has left Sinole Township.

To bring to justice the Red Army soldiers Kovalov, Klukin, Sergeant Stankēvičs and Lieutenants Litvinovsky-Smetanin and

Kudryakov, the following witness statements from Sinole Township of the Valka District of the Latvian SSR are attached.

In addition to these thefts, 8 other thefts took place in 11 rural houses in Sinole, Valka District, but it is now impossible to find the perpetrators. We believe that these thefts were also committed by soldiers of the 313th Sapper Battalion as there were no other units in Sinole Township.

In the case of the theft of 211 cubic metres of firewood belonging to Sinole School, it was established that the firewood was taken and transported by the Riga District [Garrison] DzER vehicles because the firewood was located 20 metres away from Sinole School.

To stop and prevent further thefts of farms of Sinole Township, we consider it necessary for all troops arriving to prepare firewood for the Riga District [Garrison] DzER to register with the Valka District office of the Ministry of the Interior and to maintain contact with the Sinole Township executive committee and police department during working hours.

The original is signed by the authorised representative of the Operational Department of the Counterintelligence Service Smersh of the BMD

Captain Lisenko
assistant to the officer of the operational department of
Valka District, Ministry of the Interior Junior Police Lieutenant
Kamoliņš

Confirmed by:
Head of the Department, Valka District of the LSSR Ministry of the
Interior

Captain Mūrmanis
Accurate: Chief of the Secretariat of the LSSR Ministry of the Interior
lieutenant-colonel Arkatbalsts

18 April 1946

Accurate: Chief of the Military Department of the
Council of Ministers of the Latvian SSR

Šarapovs⁴¹

⁴¹ NAL, 270. f., 1.s desc., 230. file, pp 93-95 (Copy. Translation)

41. Report by the Secretary of the Riga City Stalin District Committee of the LC(b)P, J. Poišs to the Secretary of the LC(b)P Riga City Committee, Lecis on crimes committed by military officers, 6 September 1946

Latvian C(b)P City Committee Secretary
comrade Lecis

I am sending you two political reports by the chiefs of the 5th and 2nd Divisions of the Riga City Police Administration on the events of 3 September in the territory of the Stalin District. Citizen Trifonov, the operational official of Police Division 5 in Sarkandaugava, on his wife's initiative, changed into civilian clothes and on the evening of 3 September went with his wife to a gathering held by the Red Army servicemen from the Mobile Army Artillery Workshop 10 (MAW) - l.p. 48950 for free citizens in the club at 26 Ādolfa Street.

Upon arrival, citizen Trifonov sat down on a bench and talked with his brother-in-law while his wife went dancing with the others. At that time a young woman came up to him and said:

“Comrade Trifonov, someone asks you to step out into the courtyard.”

Trifonov immediately got up and left, but he was attacked in the corridor by a group of people dressed in Red Army uniform. He fired in self-defence, ran into the courtyard, and hid in the toilet, but a group of about 50 Red Army men found him, dragged him out of the toilet, and brutally murdered him.

At that time, his wife ran to Police Department 5 and told them that Trifonov had been attacked by the Red Army. The head of Police Department 5 and his men, taking also police school cadets, went to the scene to surround the site and find the perpetrators, but while surrounding this courtyard and the club, from the opposite side of the street a section of the Red Army began to machine-gun the chain of police officers, two of whom were wounded while the perpetrators fled.

On the advice of the prosecutor, the three murdering Red Army men, who were covered in blood, were found in the morning and detained.

Citizen Trifonov was an old, experienced police operative who solved up to 95% of all criminal offences and was highly valued.

For example, three bandit groups from military unit MAW No 10, one group of robbers who committed robberies on Kundziņsala

this winter, another on Vējzaķi Island, and a third for burglary are now counted as arrested.

All of them are from the same troop unit - MAW No 10. This is why the free men were dissatisfied with the work of Police Department 5 and Trifonov, who had been set up.

Since the leadership of the troop unit MAW No 10 - l.p. 48950 is not responsible for the political-moral situation of this unit and that 4 robberies and murders have been committed by Red Army members of this unit, I consider it impossible to leave this unit in the territory of Sarkandaugava and deem it necessary to move the unit to another place.

On the evening of 3 September, a policeman of the 2nd police post at 15 Kirov Street detained a drunken sailor - Sergeant Major Tolkachev Savely, son of Panteley, the warehouse keeper of Ekrom. The policeman took him to the department to summon the officer on duty from the commandant's office and hand him over to the commandant. It turned out that this sailor was soon relieved from the commandant's office. He took two other sailors with him and at about 11 p.m. the three of them went to Police Department 2 to settle the score with the police officers and attacked the duty officer. The hooligans cursed and threatened that they would get even with the Latvians and destroy them all. On the next day, September 4, in Strēlnieku Park, two drunken sailors attacked a policeman of the post, Veikšāns, and shouted that they were going to kill the Latvian bandits for driving them off the trams, forbidding them to walk on the grass of the park, forbidding them to break trees and pick flowers, that they were making up some special order, and that they would deal with the policemen and shoot them all.

An hour later, 4 sailors came up to the same policeman again and told him to prepare a frying-house for himself, where they would soon fry him and destroy all the Latvians. After these threats the policeman told the head of the 2nd police department, comrade Pētersons, that he would not go to the post again, that every hour he heard only threats, calling him a bandit, threats of the sailors to destroy and kill him.

This attitude of the sailors and Red Army towards the policemen can destroy them morally. Our police are not yet established because we do not give any help. It is therefore necessary for the Party to demand from the Red Army and the Fleet Command the political education of the Red Fleet and Red Army men, the development of a friendly attitude towards the population and the police, which must ensure Soviet order in our new Soviet republic.

Please help and support the order in these matters which concern me.

Secretary of the Riga City Stalin District Committee of the LC(b)P

J. Poišš

6 / IX 46⁴²

42. Report by the Director of the Riga Zoo, A. Vīksne to the Secretary of the Riga City Committee of the LC(b)P, Novikov on damage caused to the zoo, 21 June 1946

21 June 1946

No 18

Secretary of the Riga City Committee of the LC(b)P

comrade Noviks

copy: To the Secretary of the Riga City Stalin District Committee of the LC(b)P

comrade Poišš

For 5 years, Riga Zoo has owned about 10 hectares of grassland in Mežaparks near the former artillery warehouses next to Stendera Street which the zoo uses every year to produce green fodder for the forest animals.

In the spring of 1946, without prior notice to the zoo and in disregard of the zoo's repeated written reports, part of this meadow (approximately 2-3 ha) and another 2 ha of arable land were added to the former artillery warehouses to create a neutral zone. This reduced the possibility for the Riga Zoo to obtain sufficient green fodder.

Now, in the last week, troops have started to graze their horses (50-60) on a piece of meadow still left for the Riga Zoo. In the last few days, both by telephone and in writing (article No 17), the zoo administration has requested that the Riga City Commandant's Office forbid soldiers to graze their horses in this meadow, but the zoo has still not received any help and the horses are grazing here day and night.

We reported this case to the 5th Police District, but the latter refused to help, saying that it was a matter for the commandant's office. The protests of the zoo workers are ignored by the soldiers, and at 6 a.m. on

⁴² NAL, PA-102. f., 2. desc., 78. file, pp 62, 63 (Original. Translation)

21 June of this year when zoo worker Comrade E. Brikmanis arrived to cut the grass in the meadow, the soldiers drove him away and explained that there were still some 100 horses to come who needed the pasture.

At the same time, the Riga Zoo is adding new animals to its live inventory, sent from Moscow and Krasnodar, which are especially in need of green fodder.

The Riga Zoo asks for your urgent help to stop immediately the grazing of war horses in the zoo's meadows, otherwise the health of the zoo's most precious animals will be seriously affected.

Veterinarian A. Vīksne
Director⁴³

43. Statement by Inspector Lednev of the Homan Resources Department of the Central Committee of the LC(b)P to Mr Ryazanov, Chairman of the Latvian Bureau of the Central Committee of the AC(b)P, J. Kalnbērziņš, Secretary of the Central Committee of the Latvian C(b)P, and V. Lācis, Chairman of the LSSR Council of Ministers on the fight against crime in the cities of the Latvian SSR

Confidential

Chairman of the Latvian Bureau of the Central Committee of the AC(b)P
comrade Ryazanov

Secretary of the Central Committee of the Latvian C(b)P
comrade Kalnbērziņš

Chairman of the LSSR Council of Ministers
comrade Lācis

(24 December 1946)

Statement

On the state of the fight against crime in the cities of the Latvian SSR

From the materials which have come to the Central Committee of the Latvian C(b)P, it is evident that the bodies of the Latvian SSR police, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the courts and the prosecutor's office are

⁴³ NAL, PA-102. f., 2. desc., 78. file, p 27 (Original)

completely unsatisfactory in combating such serious forms of crime as banditry, fighting, robbery, theft, and hooliganism. An analysis of the state of these crimes shows that they are not only not decreasing from quarter to quarter but are increasing. For example, banditry rose from 19 cases in the second quarter to 35 in the third quarter, robbery from 19 cases in the second quarter to 35 in the third quarter, theft from 450 cases to 496, and hooliganism from 20 cases to 50.

The highest crime rate is in Riga, the capital of the republic, as well as in Liepāja and Daugavpils. According to the Riga City Prosecutor Comrade Dzenis, in the first nine months of 1946, the Riga City Police completed and sent to court 462 cases of which 27 are for robbery, 1 for murder, 403 for theft, 30 for hooliganism, and 1 for banditry. In addition, police have discontinued 166 cases during this period because no crime has been established. Many cases, in accordance with Article 108 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, were transferred to the prosecutor's office for investigation.

Criminal banditry, murder, robbery, theft, and hooliganism continued unabated in the fourth quarter of of this year. For example, on the night of 8-9 October, armed criminals with sub-machine guns broke into the apartment of citizen Kalniņa, who lives in Vecmīlgrāvis, Riga, stole her most valuable belongings, and fled.

On 27 October, V.I. Medņeva was killed when criminals, intending to rob her, took her from the market, where she was selling a fur coat, to their apartment. The perpetrators were arrested only after one of the participants in the murder was reported to the police.

On 27 November, a man named Borevs A.S. was shot with a pistol at the corner of Kalnciema and Slokas streets in Riga.

On 6 December at 12 noon, an armed robbery was committed at the apartment of A.I. Naidenova, a citizen living at 3 Marksa Street.

A high incidence of crime is observed among military personnel. The nature of the violations of socialist legality against the inhabitants of the city may be judged from the following examples:

On 19 May 1946, Major Petukhov, Chief of the 4th Division of the 10th Border Guard Unit and Lieutenant Verzun, Assistant Chief of the 5th Division, wishing to enter the Riga Meat Factory's gala evening on the occasion of Victory Day ... but being resisted by the guard guarding the meat factory building, decided to use their official

position. Petukhov summoned 15 subordinates, laid siege to the meat factory building, forced his way into the event, and, with the help of his subordinates, illegally arrested 6 of the participants in the event. The guard was beaten.

On 3 September of this year, a group of military personnel from stationary car repair shop - l.p. No 43965 attacked Riga City Police, Division 5 Operative Commissioner Trifonov L.M. Trifonov was killed. On 27 October, Soldatov, a guard of the prisoner-of-war camp of the Latvian SSR prisoner-of-war administration No 28, abandoned his post and went to a restaurant. While drunk, he shot sailor Chaynikov in the apartment of a girl he knew.

On 14 November, military servicemen from the 496th army depot, Semenov D.L. and Golmanov M.N., robbed 3 apartments at 11 Kuldīgas Street.

Factors such as the ongoing demobilisation and reorganisation of troops also have an impact on the prevalence of criminality among military personnel in the Baltic Military District.

The crimes committed by military personnel in Riga, Liepāja, and Daugavpils are mainly the result of the unsatisfactory performance of the commandant's duties in these cities. Insufficient numbers of patrols are being allocated, they are poorly instructed, and fail to carry out the duties assigned. The service performed by the patrols is not checked by the city commandants. The necessary contact between military commanderates and the police is lacking for the apprehension of public order offenders.

To reduce crime and fight it more effectively, the following is needed:

...

7. Request the Military Council of the Baltic Military District draw the attention of the commanders of subdivisions and heads of garrisons stationed in the territory of the Latvian SSR to the great number of violations of law and immoral phenomena (drinking, theft, hooliganism, and other forms of crime) committed by military personnel and the need to take measures to bring necessary order to troop units.
8. Military prosecutors of the Baltic Military District and Garrison must intensify supervision of investigations by

commanders of troop units and sub-units of crimes committed by military personnel and, for the most pressing cases, to organise, together with military tribunals, exemplary trials directly in troop units with judgments of military tribunals communicated to all personnel.

Inspector of the Latvian C(b)P Human Resources Department
Ļedņevs⁴⁴

44. Report by the Minister of the Interior of the Latvian SSR, Major General A. Eglītis to the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the LSSR, V. Lācis on the crimes of Red Army military officers, 18 February 1947

Strictly confidential

Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the LSSR
comrade Lācis

Report

On the criminal conduct of certain soldiers of troops deployed in the territory of the Latvian SSR

Although the number of troops in the territory of the Latvian SSR has decreased considerably compared to 1945, their deployment has stabilised, and the Military Command of the Baltic Military District has taken many measures, the number of criminal offences committed by soldiers in the territory of the republic has not decreased but on the contrary, has increased.

In 1946, 4.7% of all criminal offences recorded in the Republic were committed by servicemen, and in January of this year, the figure had risen to 7%.

In the second half of 1946 and in January 1947, a total of 231 crimes committed by military personnel were reported of which 19 were in July, 36 in October, and 44 in January of this year; 291 persons were prosecuted.

⁴⁴ NAL, 270. f., 1.s desc., 203. file, pp 197-203 (Original. Translation)

Types of crimes:

Banditry - 3 cases, 3 people prosecuted.

Robbery with murder - 4 cases, 7 people prosecuted.

Robbery without murder - 7 cases, 15 people prosecuted.

Theft - 58 cases, 66 people prosecuted.

Murder - 88 cases, 12 people prosecuted.

Theft of all types - 99 cases, 116 people prosecuted.

Hooliganism - 36 cases, 38 people prosecuted.

Other crimes - 19 cases, 34 people prosecuted.

These crimes and the prosecuted do not include military officers who were handed over to military commanders, unit commandants, and garrison commanders immediately after their arrest.

In fact, the percentage of crimes committed by military personnel is much higher since this percentage is calculated only from the ratio of detected crimes to the total number of recorded crimes, but a number of the unsolved crimes were also committed by military personnel, as established by the testimonies of victims and witnesses and examination of the scenes.

For example:

...

On 17 December 1946 at 11 p.m. in Tukums, citizen Timofejevs K.M., when returning from the mill with flour, was attacked by unknown criminals in soldiers' uniforms and after stopping his horse, they took one sack of flour (120 kg) and disappeared.

On the night of 9 January of this year, Babītis E., a citizen living in homestead Kupši, Grobiņa Township, Liepāja District, had his barn door broken and a pig stolen. One soldier's shoulder strap was found when the scene was inspected. Tracks led to the place where a group of soldiers guarding the goods was stationed.

On 23 January 1947 at 5 a.m. on the Liepāja - Rucava highway, unknown robbers in Red Fleet uniforms, armed with pistols in a car, robbed farmer Lauksardis, who lives in homestead Kargmaņi in Dunika Township in Liepāja District, who was driving a horse-drawn cart. Threatening with guns, the robbers took 80 kg of pork, various clothing, 100 roubles, and documents. They loaded it all into a car and drove off.

There are several cases where, while solving past crimes, the perpetrators or members of criminal groups turn out to be members of the military.

In the first days of January of this year on the Riga-Bauska highway 10 km from Riga, unknown criminals, some of them in military uniform, robbed 4 farmers who were passing by. The criminals disappeared after taking about 5,000 roubles.

As a result of the measures taken by the Riga City Police Administration, this group of 11 robbers was uncovered and apprehended. Among them were three soldiers of the 147th Fighter Aviation Regiment:

- 1) Sergeant Balibin Vasily, son of Ivan, born in 1923 in Novgorod region, member of the All-Union Leninist Communist Youth League,
- 2) Private Fyodorov Ivan, son of Alexander, born in 1926 in Kursk region, member of the All-Union Leninist Communist Youth League,
- 3) Sergeant Aleksey Neuzdonyshev, son of Nikolay, born in 1927 in Sumysk oblast, member of the All-Union Leninist Communist Youth League.

During the arrest, the robbers were stripped of a machine gun PPSH with three disks and 100 combat cartridges stolen from Rumyantsev, a soldier from the 147th Guards Fighter Aviation Regiment, a Bulldog pistol, two Finnish daggers, and 5,000 roubles.

The investigation established that the group had been operating for 5 months and had committed more than 20 armed robberies by car, which had resulted in some 80 casualties.

Here are some of the armed robber and thief groups recently discovered consisting of military personnel.

...

On 11 January of this year, a group of armed robbers was arrested in Salaspils municipality, Riga District after committing about 10 robberies and thefts in Daugmale and Salaspils, Riga District. The perpetrators were enlisted soldiers of military unit l.p. - 68493: Kozlov Vasily, son of Pimen, born in 1924; Golovna Fyodor, son of Sergei, born in 1927; Riss Konstantin, son of Pavel, born in 1913; Lebedev Pavel, son of Ivan, born in 1920; Voroby Andrei, son of Pavel, born in 1924.

The detainees confessed to the crimes and were handed over to the military prosecutor of the Riga Garrison together with the investigation materials and the seized weapons.

On 16 February of this year, three armed soldiers robbed a house in Zentene, Ventspils District, taking advantage of the fact that the adult residents of Digkalni homestead had gone to the polling station, and took various clothing and foodstuffs.

As a result of the search, one of the perpetrators was apprehended, a soldier from the 51st Rifle Division, Kuricin Gennady, son of Andrei, born in 1926, who named soldiers of his unit as accomplices in the robbery. The stolen goods were confiscated and returned to the victims.

The investigation is being carried out by the counter-intelligence service of the 51st Rifle Division of the MSS [Ministry of State Security].

Several crimes have been committed by soldiers of small teams and sub-units on various missions (firewood preparation, procurement of vegetables, guarding goods, auxiliary farms, etc.). During missions, soldiers who are away from their units often lack the presence and control of officers.

For example:

Soldiers of the 15th Air Defence Artillery Division, 1291st Zenith Artillery Regiment (l.p. - 01028) working in the auxiliary farm of Babīte Township: Pulpuk Anton, son of Andrei, Monokhin Vladimir, son of Gavril, and Shamorgin Nikolai, son of Ivan, systematically engaged in drinking, stealing, and robbing local residents. The last crime - robbery of peasant Purmanis J.J. of 475 roubles and various belongings - was committed on 29 January of this year.

On the evening of the same day, for the purpose of robbery, they attacked citizen Makaris Jēkabs, who was seriously injured.

They also sawed down a telephone pole for hooliganism.

The perpetrators were arrested on 1 February of this year and handed over to the Baltic Military District's Air Defence Military Prosecutor along with the investigation materials.

On 16 February at 2 p.m., a group of drunken soldiers (8 in total) led by a sergeant (81st Communications Regiment - l.p. 16767 k), who were working on firewood preparation in Pociems Township in Valmiera District, arrived at the Pociems Club where a film was being shown in connection with the elections. Drunken soldiers broke into the club, beat up the soldier on duty from the fighter battalion, teacher citizen Auns and other persons, smashed the loudspeaker of the mobile cinema, drove away the assembled citizens, and disrupted the screening of the film.

The hooligans were apprehended. The investigation is being led by the BMD Counterintelligence Service.

On 23 January of this year at the 13th kilometre roadmark of the Riga-Pskov highway, soldiers from the 2nd Machine Gun Company, 2nd Battalion, 125th Guards Rifle Regiment - Gribovskis Karpis, son of Jānis and Pomanovskis Jānis, son of Kazimirs - sawed down 12 birch trees planted on the side of the highway.

On the night of 10 December 1946, an unknown group of armed criminals murdered Linde Anna, daughter of Miķelis, a citizen born in 1876, who lived at homestead Groti, Ropaži Township, Riga District, for robbery. After taking many various items, the criminals disappeared.

As a result of measures taken, the perpetrators, 6 people, were found and arrested. It turned out that among them were two military officers - Orlov Ivan, son of Roman, born in 1910 in the Penza region, soldier from the 171st separate topographical reconnaissance division, living in Riga, 6 Komunala Street, apartment No 2 and Shoshkin Pyotr, son of Semyon, born in 1917 in the Smolensk region, member of the All-Union Leninist Communist Youth League, soldier from the 52nd special battalion of the 56th construction organisation.

There are several incidents of hooliganism and deliberate crimes by some members of the military officer corps of the Military District. In some cases, persons under their command act like hooligans with the officers.

On 22 December 1946, Captain Poznyakov Ivan, son of Vasily, of the Navy unit 22920, together with two Red Fleet servicemen, organised a drunken disturbance in the premises of the cooperative of Nica Township, Liepāja District, braking doors and windows.

The hooligans were arrested and handed over to the military prosecutor of the Liepāja City Navy.

On 7 January 1947 in the town of Subate, Ilūkste District, 8 drunken servicemen from military depot No 33-26, including two officers, came to the pre-election meeting in the Community Centre. They behaved like hooligans and staged a riot. Afterwards, they beat up the police station commissioner and wounded the driver of the Eglaine Union of Consumer Associations, Bastiņš K.K. in the hand with a pistol shot.

As a result of measures taken, one of the participants in the riot, Lieutenant Kovalyov Grigory, son of Zahar, a junior lieutenant of the

intendant service, was arrested despite armed resistance and handed over to the military prosecutor of the Daugavpils Garrison. ...

Disregard of orders forbidding carrying a personal weapon and reckless shooting has, in some cases, led to serious crimes.

On 18 January 1947, chairman of the Council of Pustinka Village, Ružina Township, Rēzekne District, Teptsov Vasily, son of Nestor, born in 1914, was killed with a firearm.

As a result of measures taken, Lieutenant Zimakovs Aleksejs, son of Pēteris, born in 1925, member of the AC(b)P, who was on a short holiday and drunk, opened fire on Teptsov V.N. who was walking behind him on the road for no reason and without warning and was arrested for murder.

Zimakov, as well as the investigation materials have been handed over to the Chief of the Rēzekne Garrison.

In many cases, criminals use military vehicles to commit crimes, and no exit tickets or other documents are issued.

On the night of 26 January 1947, a group of soldiers from military unit No 10420 drove up in a car, armed with pistols and a rifle. Threatening with the guns, they robbed farmer Lēvalds at his home in Gramzdas Township, Liepāja District - shot a pig and a ram, loaded them into a car, and tried to escape, but were apprehended. They were captain Penkin Nikolai, son of Ivan, Sergeant Major Klimov Gennady, son of Kuzma, junior lieutenant Kutashov Nikoai, son of Andrei, and soldier Ignatov Ivan, son of Nikolai (from unit 70700).

Three pistols and one rifle were seized from the robbers.

The detainees, as well as the investigation materials, have been handed over to the Navy prosecutor.

A group of 6 sailors from the 140th Regiment of 1180th Red Banner Baltic Fleet who were using military transport for criminal purposes were arrested for robbing homestead Čapuša, Lielaucē Township, Jelgava District: Orlov Yuri, son of Dmitry, born 1924, driver, sentenced in 1945 under Article 173/7, paragraph g, to 6 years' imprisonment but amnestied; Kudryashov Mikhail, son of Ivan, born 1924, sentenced in 1943 under Article 173/7, paragraph g, to 6 years' imprisonment but amnestied; Kudryashov Mikhail, son of Ivan, born 1924, sentenced in 1943 under Article 173/7, paragraph g, to 6 years' imprisonment but amnestied; Karpov Alexei, son of Maxim, born in 1927; Smonov Boris, son of Vasily, born in 1924; Kravets Evstafiy, son of Pavel, born in 1926; and Tyukov Nikolay, son of Peter, born in 1927.

The detainees and the investigation materials have been handed over to the Military Prosecutor of the North Baltic Fleet.

In many cases, the work of the police in searching for miscreants among the military and for stolen valuables is hampered by the fact that they are not allowed into the living quarters of commands and sub-units, so that some crimes with important evidence of having been committed by military personnel remain unsolved. While the police forces are linked to the high command and counter-intelligence authorities, traces of the crimes and the abductees have already been destroyed.

There are cases where some commanders encourage their subordinates to loot and then hide them.

For example, on the night of 10 February of this year, two pigs were stolen from the home of farmer Vilaks in Legzdīni, Ance Township, Ventspils District.

As a result of measures taken, sergeant Bryukhovetsky and soldier Chabanov, members of the 154th Guards Rifle Regiment of the 51st Division, were arrested for the theft. On 24 January of this year, a 12-man team under the command of Second Lieutenant Smorgunov arrived to carry out a special task in Renda.

The investigation established that military officers of this command, with the consent of Junior Lieutenant Smorgunov, committed several robberies and that Smorgunov had given his TT pistol to the criminals.

On 1 February of this year, Senior Sergeant Brubovetsky, armed with a Smorgunov pistol and soldier Chabanov stole a ram from a house in Renda Township.

On 3 February of this year, soldiers Makovsky, Sosyurchenko, and Aleksandrov and Junior Sergeant Gavrilov stole various foodstuffs from a farmhouse.

On 5 and 7 February, soldiers Sosyurchenko, Aleksandrov, Koshaev, Stepanov, Kondakov, Chernukhin, and Makhalin and Junior Sergeant Gavrilov committed the same thefts in a rural house.

The perpetrators were arrested. Investigations are ongoing.

Of particular note is the unfavourable situation in the 6th Disciplinary Battalion, deployed in Svete Township in Jelgava District. The military has committed several thefts and robberies in Svete and neighbouring Glūda, Vircava, and elsewhere.

Here are some facts.

On 10 January of this year, a group of criminals in uniform, broke a window, entered homestead Bretāni, Skrīveri Township, Riga District, and threatened citizen Pētersone with weapons and robbed her.

As a result of the search, the perpetrators were apprehended - they were deserters from the 6th separate disciplinary battalion: Duhov Nikolay, son of Ivan, born in 1925, Klimov Mikhail, son of Vasily, born in 1925, and Bordulin Grigory, son of Fyodor, born in 1925.

A Parabellum pistol, stolen from Senior Lieutenant Bortnikov of the 5th Separate Disciplinary Battalion, was seized from the perpetrators.

The detainees, as well as the investigation materials, were handed over to the Military Prosecutor of the Riga Garrison.

On 31 December 1946, junior lieutenant Kadočņikovs Mihails, son of Pēteris from the 6th Disciplinary Battalion, broke down a door in Jelgava for the purpose of robbery and got into the office of the oil base where he met the manager of the base, beat him up, and tried to escape but was apprehended by a police patrol.

Kadočņikovs, as well as the investigation materials, were handed over to the military prosecutor of the Riga Garrison.

The question of the crime situation in the 6th Disciplinary Battalion was discussed at a meeting of the C(b)P Jelgava City Committee and District Committee Bureau, attended by the Chief of the Jelgava Garrison and the Military Commandant but so far, the situation has not improved, and members of the Disciplinary Battalion continue to commit various criminal offences.

Since crimes by military officers undermine the authority of the Soviet army and encourage criminal anti-Soviet agitation. I am reporting these cases and requesting your assistance in taking effective measures to combat crimes by military officers and to remedy the deficiencies contributing to the spread of criminal offences, paying particular attention to the 6th Disciplinary Battalion and the small, scattered units of troops on temporary assignments that carry out various tasks.

Minister of the Interior of the Latvian SSR

Major General

18 February 1947

No 1/137-ps

Riga⁴⁵

Eglītis

⁴⁵ NAL, 270. f., 1.s. desc., 270. file, pp 192-200 (Original. Translation)

45. Riga Garrison Military Tribunal Judgment in the Military Prosecution Case

Case No 292

Judgement

On behalf of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Military Tribunal (MT) of the Riga Garrison, sitting in open court on 18-25 June 1947 and composed of, as follows: President, Captain Agaponov of the Guard of Justice; members Captain Serbinitski, Captain Kurinij, and the Secretary, Junior Lieutenant Melnikov in the presence of the Prosecutor of the Riga Garrison, Justice Colonel Kovizhenko being the party bringing the action, and defence lawyers, Madelstam, Kividis, Balodis, and Rotbergs, examined Case No 292 in which the accused are:

- 1) Assistant Chief of Staff of the Artillery of the 15th Air Defence Division, Alexey Medvedev, son of Grigory, born 1917, in Novyurets Village, Vyatka-Polanskaya District, Kirov region, Russian, graduate of a pedagogical school and the three-year Zenith Artillery School named in honor of Chkalov, member of AC(b)P since 1941, not tried, in the Soviet army since June 1936 - under Article 59 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic.
- 2) Officer-educator of the Riga [named in honour of] Nahimov School, Senior Lieutenant Nikolai Popov, son of Vasily, born 1923, in Velye Village, Demjanovsk District, Leningrad region, Russian, 9th grade education, Podolsk military infantry school, refresher course for officers of the Baltic Military District, member of AC(b)P since 1946, not tried, in the Soviet army since August 1941 - under Articles 59 and 107 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic.
- 3) Lieutenant Yuri Sapak, son of Joseph, Company Commander of the 10th Construction Battalion, born in 1922 in Russia, Russian, 8th grade education, Omsk Military Infantry School, member of AC(b)P since 1944, not tried, in the Soviet Army since 1941 - under Article 59 and Article 193.17(a) of the Criminal Code of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic.

- 4) Lieutenant Vladimir Golovanenko, son of Fyodor, stage technician from the 483rd Aviation Fighter Regiment of the 336th Aviation Fighter Division, born in 1921 in the town of Vasilkov, Kiev Region, Ukrainian, 8th grade education, graduated from the Volsk Aviation Technical School, non-partisan, not tried, conscripted into the Soviet Army in 1939 - under Article 167 (3) of the Criminal Code of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic.
- 5) Private Vasily Gorb, son of Leonty, 10th separate construction battalion, born in 1926 in Lyubinovskaya Village, Bolshealeksandrovsky District, Dnipropetrovsk region, Ukrainian, 9th grade education, non-partisan, not tried, in the Soviet army from March 1943 - under Article 59.3 and Article 193.7(b) of the Criminal Code of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic.
- 6) Private Anatoly Gorokhov, son of Peter, born in 1924 in the town of Serpukhov, Moscow Region, Russian, 5th grade education, non-partisan, not tried, in the Soviet army from February 1942 - under Article 59.3(b) of the Criminal Code of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic.
- 7) Private Alexander Koltsov, son of Aleksei, from the 484th separate prisoner guard battalion, born in 1925 in Golubovka Village, Sverdlov District, Voroshilovgrad region, Russian, 4th grade education, non-partisan, not tried, in the Soviet army from April 1945 – under Article 59.3 and Article 193.7 b of the Criminal Code of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic.
- 8) Private Alexander Baranykhin, son of Grigory, 10th separate construction battalion, born in 1926 in Gorky, Gypsy, 4th grade education, non-partisan, not tried, conscripted into the Soviet army in November 1943 - under Article 59.3 and Article 193.7(b) of the Criminal Code of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic.
- 9) Private Aleksei Chubunov, son of Pavel, 10th separate construction battalion, born in 1922 in Tula, Russian, 5th grade education, non-partisan, not tried, conscripted into the Soviet army in June 1941 - under Article 59.3 and Article 193.7(b) of the Criminal Code of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic.

- 10) Private Vladimir Baranov, son of Fyodor, 10th separate construction battalion, born in 1926 in Pochinku Village, Yegoryevo District, Moscow region, Russian, 5th grade education, member of the All-Union Leninist Communist Youth League since 1944, not tried, in the Soviet army since November 1943 - under Article 59.3 and Article 193.7(b) of the Criminal Code of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic.
- 11) Private Stanislav Disko, son of Bronislav, 10th separate construction battalion, born in 1924 in Berjozovka, Novogrudsk District, Baranovichi region, Pole, 7th grade education, non-partisan, not tried, in the Soviet army from March 1946 - under Article 59.3 and Article 193.7(b) of the Criminal Code of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic.
- 12) Private Alexei Khitrov, son of Vasily, 10th separate construction battalion, born in 1924 in Yeglizi Village, Tosna District, Leningrad region, Russian, 5th grade education, non-partisan, not tried, in the Soviet army from July 1945 - under Article 59.3 and Article 193.7(b) of the Criminal Code of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic.
- 13) Private Viktor Kolotaev, son of Nikolai, 11th Construction Battalion, born in 1927 in Leningrad, Russian, 5th grade education, non-partisan, tried, sentenced by the Military Tribunal of the 244th Convoy Division on 14 May 1946 - under Article 162(c) of the Criminal Code of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic to one year's imprisonment, sent to a disciplinary battalion to serve the sentence, served the sentence, in the Soviet Army from 1944 under Article 59.3 and Article 193.7(b) of the Criminal Code of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic.
- 14) Private Ivan Viktorov, son of Mikhail, 11th Construction Battalion, born in 1925 in Belkijkluch Village, Baranovsky District, Ulyanovsk Region, Russian, 5th grade education, member of the All-Union Leninist Communist Youth League since 1943, not tried, in Soviet Army since 1943 - under Article 59.3 and Article 193.7(b) of the Criminal Code of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic.

- 15) Senior Sergeant Vasily Larionov, son of Grigory, soldier from the 66th separate armoured personnel carrier company, born in 1925 in Teleponovo Village, Solnechnogorsk District, Moscow region, Russian, 7th grade education, non-partisan, not tried, in the Soviet army from January 1943 - under Article 59.3 and Article 193.7(b) of the Criminal Code of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic.
- 16) Private Pavel Kirillov, son of Yakov, 66th separate armoured personnel carrier company, born in 1925 in Rostolkovo Village, Lezhnev District, Ivanovo region, Russian, 4th grade education, member of the All-Union Communist Party since 1943 - under Article 59.3 and Article 193.7(b) of the Criminal Code of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic.
- 17) Junior Sergeant Vladimir Alekseyev, son of Mikhail, soldier from the 66th separate armoured personnel carrier company, born in 1925 in Binino Village, Kizacheska District, Ivanovo region, Russian, 4th grade education, non-partisan, not tried, in the Soviet army since 1943 - under Article 59.3 and Article 193.7(b) of the Criminal Code of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic.
- 18) Nikolai Voronin, son of Pavel, private in the garage of the headquarters of the Baltic Military District, born in 1926 in Balohna Village, Zadevskaya District, Oryol Region, Russian, 6th grade education, non-partisan, not tried, in the Soviet Army from November 1943 - under Article 59.3 and Article 193.7(b) of the Criminal Code of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic.
- 19) Sergeant Nikolai Burmistenko, son of Grigory, weapons master from the 66th separate armoured personnel carrier company, born in 1926 in Stalingrad, Ukrainian, 6th grade education, member of the All-Union Leninist Communist Youth League since 1944, not tried, in the Soviet Army since November 1943 - under Article 59.3 and Article 193.7(a) of the Criminal Code of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic.
- 20) Nikolai Arzhanov, son of Ivan, Sergeant of the Riga Political Military School, born in 1925 in the town of Pugachovo, Saratov region, Russian, 7th grade education, member of

AC(b)P since 1944, not tried, in the Soviet Army since January 1943 - under Article 167(3) and Article 193(a), Article 193.7(b) of the Criminal Code of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic.

- 21) Private Viktor Naumenko, son of Fyodor, from the Riga Political Military School, born in 1925 in Vernepoiv Village, Bajevsk District, Altai region, Russian, 5th grade education, non-partisan, not tried, in the Soviet army from January 1943 - under Article 167(3) and Article 193.14(c) of the Criminal Code of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic.
- 22) Vladimir Garbuzov, son of Alexander, private in the garage of the headquarters of the Baltic Military District, born in 1924 in Navlyansk Village, Bryansk Region, Russian, 7th grade education, member of the All-Union Leninist Communist Youth League since 1944, not tried, in the Soviet Army since March 1943 - under Article 59.3 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic.
- 23) Private Yevgeny Kondratenko, son of Mikhail, born in 1927, Alma-Ata, Russian, 7th grade education, not tried, non-partisan, in the Soviet Army from October 1944 - under Article 59.3 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic.

Citizens:

- 24) Valery Vesnin, son of Ivan, born in 1917 in Ishnura Village, Yaransk District, Kirov region, Russian, 7th grade education, non-partisan, not tried - under Article 59.3 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic.
- 25) Vladimir Kunko, son of Ivan, born in 1921 in Latishevo Village, Vasovsky District, Polotsk region, Belarusian, 7th grade education, non-partisan, not tried - under Article 59.3 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic.
- 26) Alexey Vertugin, son of Viktor, born in 1925 in Padolya Village, Utykubinsky District, Vologda region, Russian, 6th grade education, member of the All-Union Leninist Communist Youth League since 1943, not tried - under Article 59.3 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic.

- 27) Alexey Trofimov, son of Dmitry, born in 1913 in the town of Atkarsk, Saratov region, Russian, 4th grade education, non-partisan, not tried - under Article 59.3 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic.
- 28) Konstantin Orlov, son of Nikolai, born in 1926 in the city of Yaroslavl, Yaroslavl region, Russian, 7th grade education, non-partisan, not tried - under Article 59.3 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic.
- 29) Pēteris Martinskis, son of Aleksandrs, born in 1893 in Bārbele Township, Bauska District of the Latvian SSR, Latvian, 2nd grade education, non-partisan, not tried - under Article 59.3 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic.
- 30) Pēteris Golubevs, son of Anikijs, born in 1904 in Daugavpils, Latvian SSR, Russian, semi-illiterate, non-partisan, not tried - under Article 59.3 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic.
- 31) Anna Kuznetsova, daughter of Mikhail, born in 1919 in the town of Izhevsk, Udmurt ASSR, Russian, 7th grade education, non-party, not tried - under Article 59.3 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic.
- 32) Valetina Chikhalina, daughter of Ivan, born in 1925 in Filipovo Village, Kimrsky District, Kalinin oblast, Russian, 3rd grade education, non-party, not tried - under Article 59.3 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic.
- 33) Anastasia Korchan, daughter of Aleksei, born in Zelomeyevo Village, Slavkovsky District, Leningrad oblast, Russian, 5th grade education, non-partisan, not tried - under Article 59.3 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic.
- 34) Zinaid Poligalov, daughter of Aleksei, born in 1925 in the town of Semipalatinsk, Kazakh SSR, Russian, 7th grade education, member of the All-Union Leninist Communist Youth League since 1942, not tried - under Article 59.3 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic.

The preliminary investigation and the judicial inquiry have established:

In September 1946, Popov, Gorb, Garbuzov, and Vertugin agreed to commit a theft. Popov took a pistol and together with Gorb, Garbuzov, and Vertugin drove out to the Talsi highway where they ganged up on a farmer in a cart, stopped him, robbed him, and took a sack of potatoes. In the same month, the same gang of bandits went to the Pskov highway where they robbed a farmer in a cart, took a can of milk, a can of cream, and other foodstuffs. On the same night, bandits hit a cyclist riding on the highway with a car and took his bicycle.

Gorb left, after committing one more attack as part of this gang, and formed another gang, but Vertugin and Garbuzov, along with Ferganov who had joined them, continued bandit attacks on peasants until 19 November 1946 when Vertugin was wounded in one of the attacks. Garbuzov then joined the group of bandits led by Gorb in which he continued his criminal activities.

Gorb, having left the bandit group of Popov, Vertugin, and Garbuzov, organised his own gang, which included Gorokhov, Merki, Shramko, Voronin and later Kondratenko and instructed this group to attack citizens travelling on the highways leading to Riga, the capital of the Latvian Soviet Socialist Republic. In carrying out their task, the bandits systematically set out on the Pskov, Bauska, Kalnciema, Lubāna and other highways where they carried out armed attacks, acts of violence, and murder of citizens. In February 1947, the Gorb gang was joined by bandits Vesnin and Kunko. After they joined the gang, following Vesnin's suggestion, the gang began to carry out armed attacks against the inhabitants of rural houses. They were known for extreme cruelty, violence, and murder of citizens.

At the time of the criminal activity of Gorb's gang, its members included Koltsov, Disko, Chubunov, Baranykhin, Khitrov, Baranov, and Orlov, who after joining the gang actively participated in criminal activities. Later, at various times, the gang included Kolotaev, Larionov, Kirilov, Medvedev, Burmistenko, Sapak, Martinsky, Golubev, Kuznetsov, Poligalova, Korchane, and Chikhalina. The bandits also involved Trofimov, Viktorov, Alekseyev, Golovanenko, Anzhanova, and Naumenko in their attacks. The bandits Vesnin and Disko individually organised regular armed attacks on country houses and individual citizens on the highways, using gang members and other persons for this purpose.

The gang was armed with weapons illegally held by the bandits and obtained from troops with the help of the bandit Burmistenko, as well as weapons obtained by criminal means.

For their robberies, the gang used State vehicles and Colonel Kondratenko's personal car that his son, bandit Kondratenko, used for criminal purposes. On 13 April 1947, the gang stole a Mercedes [Benz] car in Riga, which was in the garage of the headquarters of the Baltic Military District.

Between September 1946 and 20 April 1947, the gang carried out over 50 attacks.

On 28 March 1947 at Sildedži homestead in Mangaļi Township, Riga District, the bandits robbed citizens Vilks, Fedotovs, and Maksimova of foodstuffs, belongings, and money at gunpoint and wrecked the apartment and broke all the furniture. After this attack, the citizens left their house and moved to Riga.

On the night of 6 April 1947, a gang broke into homestead Piļi, Sigulda Township, Riga District, took all the property and cattle, then brutally killed the owner of the house, the very old citizen Cīrtis, and his sister, citizen Cīrīte.

On the night of 11 April 1947, during an attack on homestead Kroļi in Katlakalna Township, Riga District, the gang killed citizen Krole, who was crying for help and looted her farm.

On 12 April 1947 when the gang once again set off to rob on the Pskov highway, a citizen whose surname has not been established, was put in the car. On the way, the bandits gang-raped the citizen, robbed her of 300 roubles, and threw her out of the car.

On 13 April 1947 at the 12th kilometre mark of the Riga-Bauska highway, bandits robbed Velta and Eriks Puzneres who were cycling, then immediately stopped the two Ozoliņš brothers riding in a cart, murdered one and seriously wounded the other, and took the watch and money of the wounded.

On the night of 18 April 1947 on the Madona highway, the gang robbed citizen Klasons at gunpoint and took his bicycle, watch, jacket, and half a bag of potatoes. The gang then attacked homestead Peterāni in Dreiliņi Township, Riga District where they robbed and killed Ampermanis, a citizen demobilised from the Soviet army and beat up Daktore and Krestjanova. On the same night, the same gang, threatening with weapons, stopped citizens travelling in three carts on the Mītava [Jelgava - J.R.] highway and took bacon, eggs, potatoes, and other foodstuffs.

The criminal acts of each accused person are characterised as follows:

- 1) **Popov**, an officer in the Soviet army, was the first to propose a group robbery in September 1946. Before his departure, Popov armed himself with a Mauser pistol, which he took from Lieutenant Colonel Gostev. He then took part in a group robbery attack on a farmer on the Pskov highway, laying the foundations for the organisation of the Gorb, Vertugin, and Garbuzov gang and its criminal activities. Popov took part in three bandit attacks. While living in Riga, he also was a black-marketeer: he bought large quantities of papyrus in state shops and sold it at speculative prices in the city of Šiauliai in the Lithuanian SSR; he travelled to Mogilev in the Belarusian SSR where he bought apples and sold them at speculative prices in Riga. In October and November 1946, Popov made such purchases on three occasions.
- 2) **Gorb**, the leader of the gang, personally participated in 35 gang attacks, provided the gang with transport, driving to robbery sites in a Williys passenger car from the Baltic Military District Headquarters garage, which was given to him as a chauffeur. On 13 April 1947, he also stole a Mercedes [Benz]. On the night of 6 April 1946 during the attack on Pilis homestead, Gorb gave instructions to murder citizens Cirīši. He took part in all the attacks during which the murders took place. On 12 April 1947, Gorb was the instigator and the first to rape a citizen on the Pskov Highway. He continued his criminal activity until his arrest on 20 April 1947. On all occasions, he abandoned his place of duty.
- 3) **Gorokhov** joined the gang in September 1946, became an active member, and was the executioner of the gang. He killed citizens Cirīši and along with bandit Koltsov, killed citizen Krole during the invasion of her home, as well as citizen Ampermanis during the invasion of homestead Peterāni in Dreiliņi Township. He gang-raped a citizen on the Pskov highway. Gorokhov took part in no less than 30 bandit attacks. He continued his criminal activities until the day of his arrest on 20 April 1947. Every time he went on a raid, he abandoned his place of duty.
- 4) **Koltsov** joined the gang in March 1947 and was illegally in possession of a gun. He took part in 10 bandit attacks.

Koltsov was particularly brazen when he stormed Kroli homestead - he was the first to open fire on citizen Krole, who was crying for help. On 12 April 1947 on the Bauska highway, he personally killed one of the Ozoliņš brothers and wounded another. On 18 April 1947, Koltsov broke a window, entered Peterāni homestead and fired first at citizen Ampermanis. Koltsov supplied the gunman Baranykhin with a pistol. The criminal activity continued until the day of his arrest. On all occasions he abandoned his place of duty. He involved Martinsk.

- 5) **Vesnin** joined the gang and started attacking farmhouses; he took part in 8 attacks, leading three of them. Vesnin recruited Kirillov, Larionov, and Medvedev into the gang. He also involved Golovenko, Arzhanov, Naumenko, and Alekseyev in bandit attacks. From the bandit Larionov he received a PPS submachine gun and a TT pistol. Vesnin gave the machine gun to the bandit Orlov but kept the pistol for himself. He was also armed with a Finnish dagger. On 17 April 1947 on the Daugavpils highway, he led an attack on citizen Purgaile, and Vesnin, threatening citizen Purgaile with a knife, searched her. The attackers took 5 sacks of grain from the caravan of Purgaile. After this attack, he was detained on the same day.
- 6) **Disko** joined the gang in March 1947 and encouraged Chubunov to join the gang; later he involved Kolotaev and Polugalov. Disko took part in five bandit attacks, two of which resulted in murders. He was armed with a submachine gun. In April 1947 in the early hours of the morning, he personally organised a bandit attack on a citizen who was riding in a cart along the Kalnciema Highway. Threatening him with weapons, the gang took 3 cans of milk, 6-7 kilograms of bacon, a sack of potatoes and other foodstuffs, and a metal scale. In this attack, Disko involved Viktorov, who was injured at the time, as the gang was being pursued in an organised manner. Disko then proposed to kill the injured Viktorov to cover up the crime. However, other members of the gang did not agree with Disko's proposal. On his way to the robbery, he abandoned his place of duty.
- 7) **Kunko** had a Nagan revolver as a weapon when he joined the gang. He led the gang to Peterāni homestead on 5 March

1947. On the night of 18 April 1947, Kunko again led the gang to the same home where citizen Ampermanis was killed. He took part in two other bandit attacks during which murders were committed. In total, he took part in 15 bandit attacks. He continued his criminal activities until the day of his arrest on 20 April 1947.

- 8) **Garbuzov**, together with Popov and Gorb, laid the foundations for the organisation of the gang and was an active member until the day of his arrest. During the bandit attacks, Garbuzov was armed with a Walther pistol, and on 19 November 1946 he wounded the victim of the attack, citizen Veiters. On 12 April 1947, Garbuzov raped a citizen on the Pskov Highway. On 13 April 1947 on the Bauska highway, Garbuzov and Koltsov assaulted the Ozoliņš brothers. After Koltsov killed one of the brothers and wounded the other, Garbuzov took the wounded man's watch. In total, Garbuzov took part in more than 10 bandit attacks.
- 9) **Vertugin**, active member of the Popov gang, took part in 5 bandit attacks between September and 19 November 1946 armed with a Walther pistol. Twice, he drove the gang to a robbery in a car given to him.
- 10) **Baranin**, 11) **Chubunov** joined the gang in March 1947 and became active members. Both took part in 10 bandit attacks, three of which resulted in the murder of citizens. Both were armed: Baranykhin had a TT pistol, Chubunov - a Nagan revolver. On the night of 18 April 1947 during an attack on the Peterāni home, Chubunov used the butt of the Nagan revolver to beat citizens Doktore and Krestjanova. He recruited Kuznetsov into the gang. Chubunov and Baranykhin abandoned their place of duty when they went to rob.
- 12) **Hitrov** joined the gang in April 1947. On the night of 11 April 1947, he took the gang to the Kroli home. At this home the gang killed citizen Krole, and ransacked her farm, going on a robbery spree, abandoning his place of duty for 4 hours.
- 13) **Larionov**, 14) **Kirilov**, after joining the gang, became active members and both took part in three bandit attacks in March and April 1947. In preparation for one of the attacks, Kirilov and Larionov, in accordance with part of the agreement,

stole a machine gun of the PPSH system, which was used in turn in the subsequent attacks. From the bandit Burmistenko they took a TT system pistol. Later, Larionov gave the machine gun and the pistol to bandit Vesnin. Larionov and Kirilov abandoned their places of duty three times.

- 15) In March 1947, **Burmistenko** joined the gang and became an active member, taking part in supplying it with arms. Abusing his position as master-at-arms of the 66th Armoured Personnel Company, he took a pistol of the TT system from the armoury and gave it to the bandits for use in 4 attacks. The pistol then remained with the gang. Burmistenko hid from account the PPSH system submachine gun stolen by Larionov and Kirillov.
- 16) **Medvedev** joined the gang in April 1947. On 17 April 1947, he had already taken part in the bandit attack on citizen Purgaile, organised by Vesnin, and it was he who took the sacks of grain from the wagon and loaded them into the car. At the time of the attack, Medvedev was carrying a weapon - a machine gun of the PPSH system.
- 17) **Baranov**, 18) **Orlov**, and 19) **Kondratenko** were involved in the gang and actively provided the bandits with vehicles and transport for the kidnapped. From February to 20 April 1947, Orlov and his gang went on robberies in a car belonging to the material warehouse of the BMD's apartment use department, which had been placed at his disposal. Orlov also took part in the bandit attack on the citizen Purgaile organised by Vesnin on 17 April 1947. Baranov and Kondratenko, no longer drivers, went out to rob five times as drivers from March 1947 – Baranov, in a car belonging to the 2nd Construction Battalion, and Kondratenko, in a car belonging to Colonel Kondratenko. Baranov showed the gang the Pilis homestead where on the night of 6 April 1947, the gang brutally murdered the citizens Cirīši. Baranov abandoned his place of duty 5 times for a period of 2 to 5 hours.
- 20) In December 1946, **Voronin**, as a member of the gang, went on trips to the Pskov highway with the gang in a car from the garage of the headquarters of the Baltic Military District,

which he was in charge of as a chauffeur. On 20 April 1947, Voronin drove out to the Bauska highway to tow the wrecked car in which the bandits had previously robbed. He did not tow the wrecked car because he was detained. Voronin abandoned his place of duty twice, each time for about 6 hours.

- 21) On 18 April, **Kolotaj**, as part of a gang, participated in a gang attack organised by Disko on a citizen driving on Kalnciema Highway. After the arrest of bandits Gorb, Gorokhov and others, he took part in the hiding of the stolen property. On 18 April 1947 Kolotaev abandoned his place of duty for three hours.
- 22) On 19 April 1947, **Viktorovs** was involved in an armed attack by the bandit Disko on a citizen driving along Kalnciema Highway. Viktorov was armed with a PPSH submachine gun. He abandoned his place of duty for three hours.
- 23) **Trofimov**, a driver for the construction administration of the Baltic Military District, was recruited by bandit Koltsov on 17 April 1947. That night he took part in three gang attacks. In all cases, he took the bandits to the scene of the crime and the kidnapped man to a hiding place, including to the Peterāni home, where the gang murdered citizen Ampermanis.
- 24) **Golvanenko** was recruited into the gang on 17 April 1947 by bandit Vesnin. He took part in an armed robbery during which citizen Purgaile was robbed of 5 sacks of grain.
- 25) **Arzhanov**, 26) **Naumenko** was involved in an armed robbery by bandit Vesnin on 17 April 1947: Arzhanov as the commander of the car, Naumenko as the driver. Arzhanov and Naumenko took part in the robbery of citizen Purgaile. In this case, Naumenko illegally used a car given to him, which belonged to the Riga Political Military School, while Arzhanov did not return to his place of duty in time and was detained after 7 hours of arbitrary absence.
- 27) On 12 April 1947, **Alekseev** was involved in a bandit attack by bandit Vesnin. However, on his way to the scene of the crime, Alekseev voluntarily refused to take part in the attack and returned to his unit after an unlawful absence of 10 hours. Knowing the composition of the gang and the robbery

on 12 April 1947, Alekseev did not report it to the Soviet authorities.

- 28) **Sapak**, company commander of the 10th Construction Battalion, was criminally negligent in his duties from 20 March 1947 when did not control whether the personnel of the company observed the internal rules of the unit, did not fight against abandonment of the place of duty, and against drinking by the personnel of the company. This led to the intensification of bandit activity by Gorba and Gorokhov, who were transferred to this company to continue their service, and the expansion of the gang, when soldiers Chubunov and Disko, subordinated to Sapakov, joined. In April 1947, Sapak became a member of the gang. As a member of the gang, he did not participate in attacks organised by the gang, but he hid and personally used the loot. On 21 April 1947, having learned of the detention of Gorb, Gorokhov, and Chubunov, Sapak abused his official position and altered in the company's city leave record book, changing the details of the time of return of Gorb, Gorokhov, and Chubunov to the unit to conceal the crime they had committed. With the aim of concealing the robbery, he warned gang members Korchani, Chikhalina, and Kuznetsova of their detention.
- 29) **Golubev** and 30) **Martinskis** joined the gang in 1947 but did not take part in the attacks. They took an active part in hiding and disposing of the looted goods, used the looted goods themselves, and allowed gang members to hold meetings in their apartments. Golubev expressed his wish to take the gang to attack a country house known to him.
- 31) **Kuznetsova**, 32) **Chikhalina**, 33) **Korchan**, and 34) **Poligalov** became gang members in March 1947 but did not take part in the attacks organised by the gang; they actively hid bandits, gang weapons, fuel, and loot in their apartments. Kuznetsova, Korchan, and Chikhalina lived off the proceeds of the loot.⁴⁶

Based on the above, the Riga Garrison Military Tribunal found all the accused guilty and sentenced them to various punishments.

⁴⁶ NAL, 1454. f., 2. desc., 88. file, pp 7-18 (Copy. Translation)

1. Article 59 of the Criminal Code (CC) of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic On banditry, i.e., on organising and participating in armed gangs and their attacks (...) provided for imprisonment for a term not less than three years with confiscation of all or part of the property and in particularly aggravating circumstances - shooting and confiscation of the property (CC, p 25).
References here and hereafter to the publication of the People's Commissariat of Justice of the USSR Legal Publishing House Criminal Code of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic. With amendments up to 15 April 1944. (M., 1944, p. 163).
2. Article 107 of the Criminal Code provided for imprisonment for a term of not less than five years and total or partial confiscation of property for the purchase and transfer of agricultural products and articles of mass consumption by private individuals for the purpose of enrichment (black marketeering) (CC, p. 44).
3. Article 193.17(a) of the Criminal Code for misuse of authority, abuse of authority, omission to act, as well as neglect of duty by a member of the Red Army's superior staff provided for imprisonment for a term of not less than six months (CC, p. 71).
4. Section 167(3) of the Criminal Code for robbery, i.e., an assault with intent to obtain another's property, coupled with violence dangerous to the life or health of the victim, provided for imprisonment for up to ten years (CC, p. 59).
5. Article 193.7(b) of the Criminal Code provided for referral to a martial tribunal with a transfer to a disciplinary battalion for a period of six months to two years (CC, p. 67).
6. Article 193.10(a) of the Criminal Code for arbitrary abandonment of duty provided for referral to a martial tribunal with transfer to a disciplinary battalion for a period of six months to two years (CC, pp. 67-68).
7. Section 193.14 (c) of the Criminal Code provided for imprisonment for up to three years for transferring weapons to others or violating the rules on their possession (CC, p. 69).

**46. Special message of 28 January 1948 from
A. Košeļevs, Deputy Minister of the Interior of the
Latvian SSR to V. Lācis, Chairman of the LSSR Council
of Ministers on the murder of the Silovs family**

Strictly confidential

Chairman of the LSSR Council of Ministers
comrade Lācis

Special Message

On the triple murder of the Silovs family
Daugavpils District of the Latvian SSR

On the night of 12 April 1947, in Gaspari homestead of Līvāni Township, Daugavpils District, an atrocious murder was committed for the purpose of robbery by strangling a family of three people:

Silova Zofija, daughter of Augusts, born in 1878,

Silova Marta, daughter of Ivans, born in 1919,

Romanovskis Alozijs, born in 1932.

After the murder, the criminals took property and valuables totalling 16,575 roubles and fled.

As a result of the measures taken by the Daugavpils District Criminal Investigation Department, the criminals were identified and found - one in Daugavpils and the other two in Ryazan Oblast and the BSSR City of Molodechna. They were:

Sazonov Alexey, son of Vasily, born 1924 in Pecherishche Village, Mikhailovskaya Village, Ryazan oblast, Russian, non-partisan, 3rd grade education, single, peasant, demobilised from the Soviet army in March 1947, no fixed place of residence.

Pyanov Ivan, son of Andrei, born 1923 in Yablonovo Village, Tula region, Russian, non-partisan, 5th grade education, single, labourer, demobilised from the Soviet Army in March 1947, no fixed place of residence.

Grachev Alexander, son of Vasily, born 1924 in Tomachenko Village, Oktryabsk District, Ryazan region, Russian, non-partisan, 5th grade education, married, peasant, demobilised from the Soviet Army in March 1947.

All the defendants are prosecuted under Article 59-3 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic.

The case has been transferred to the Daugavpils District Prosecutor.

Deputy Minister of the Interior of the LSSR, Rank III Commissioner of the Police

A. Košeļevs

28 January 1948

No 7/2-235 ps

Riga⁴⁷

**47. Special message of 18 July 1948 from A. Košeļevs,
Deputy Minister of the Interior of the Latvian SSR to
V. Lācis, Chairman of the LSSR Council of Ministers on
the arrest of a gang of robbers**

Strictly confidential

Chairman of the LSSR Council of Ministers

comrade Lācis

Special Message

On 17 June 1948 at about 1 o'clock in the seaside district of Riga on Jomas Street, Maksimov and his wife were attacked by a group of robbers, 7 in total, who threatened Maksimov with weapons, stripped him of his clothes, took some of his belongings, and, after warning him not to shout, fled with the stolen goods.

The officers of the 14th Police Division and the Criminal Investigation Department of the Riga Police Department immediately carried out operational measures, resulting in the location and arrest of the robbers.

They were:

1. Shvarin Vasily, son of Fyodor, born in 1931, Leningrad Region, L. Utorgoshenskaya District, worked as an electrical fitter at military unit 75320, lived at 7 Viļakas Street, apartment 5.

⁴⁷ NAL, 270. f., 1.s desc., 370. file, pp 44, 45 (Original. Translation)

2. Medvedev Leonid, son of Mikhail, born 1931, Pargalovo District, Leningrad region, worked as a free contract worker in military unit 66986, lived in dormitories at 25 Brīvības Street.
3. Medvedev Vladimir, son of Alexander, born in 1931 in Leningrad, worked as a locksmith in the repair mechanical workshops of military unit 75320, lived in dormitories at 25 Brīvības Street.
4. Mosunov Ivan, son of Vasily, born in 1929, Arbashskaya District, Novosibirsk region, worked as an electrician in military unit 66986, lived in dormitories at 25 Brīvības Street.
5. Shkvarin Yuri, son of Fyodor, born in 1930 in Yegoryevka, Moscow Region, worked as an electrician in military unit 75320, lived in apartment at 7 Viļakas Street, apartment 5.
6. Boris Gulyaev, son of Fyodor, born in 1930 in V. Volochek, Kalinin Oblast, worked as a metal-smith in the Ekomaizer factory, lived in dormitories at 25 Brīvības Street.
7. Chudikov Viktor, son of Gavriļa, born in 1929 in Leninsk, Omsk Region, worked as a locksmith in a repair factory, lived at 14/16 Sīmaņa Street.

A Parabellum pistol with live cartridges was found in the possession of the son of the robber Mosunov Ivan, son of Vasiliy.

A preliminary investigation by the Criminal Investigation Department of the Riga City Police Administration revealed that, in addition to the robbery of Maksimov, a gang of robbers led by Mosunov Ivan, son of Vasiliy, also robbed citizens Rozainis and Balgalvis who lived in Riga on 15 June of this year. On the night of 27 May, a theft of industrial goods was committed in the warehouse of the Roads and Highways Administration. Some of the stolen goods were taken from the criminals and returned to the owners.

The investigation is being carried out by the Criminal Investigation Department of the Riga City Police Administration.

Deputy Minister of the Interior of the LSSR, Rank III Commissioner of the Police

A. Košeļevs

8 July 1948

No 7/2-1938 p.s.⁴⁸

⁴⁸ NAL, 270. f., 1.s desc., 370. file, pp 279, 280 (Original.Translation)

48. Report by the Minister of the Interior of the Latvian SSR, Major General A. Eglītis to the Chairman of the LSSR Council of Ministers, V. Lācis on crimes committed by military officers, 3 January 1949

Confidential
3 January 1949

Chairman of the LSSR Council of Ministers
comrade Lācis

I hereby inform you that on 1 January 1949, the following crimes were committed in the city of Riga by military personnel:

On 1 January at 8.30 p.m. on Duntēs Street, the police detained Kozhukhov A., born in 1926, Perun N., born in 1927, Kaminski S., born in 1927, and Bulkov A., born in 1927. They were soldiers - sailors from military unit No 08990 - who beat citizens Yefomenko, Erlikh, and Plohotski with belt buckles; the last of whom was hospitalised.

The detainees were handed over to the military commander. The investigation materials have been sent to the military prosecutor.

On the night of 2 January, a patrol group of the Riga City 7th Police Division found a Braunin pistol No 12611 with seven live cartridges in the pocket of a coat left in the wardrobe of the Polygraph Club at 43 Lāčplēša Street. At 2 a.m., the owner of the coat, who was in the club and, according to the identity card presented, was a freelance worker for military unit No 81244 in Sychevsgad, was detained. During Sychev's convoy to the police station, Bogrudovic, the station agent, and the police agent were attacked by a group of five sailors on the corner of Marijas and Lāčplēša Streets, who freed the detainee and disappeared with him.

The incident was reported to General I. Bagramyan and Rear-Admiral comrade Ivanovsky.

Minister of the Interior of the Latvian SSR
Major-General A. Eglītis⁴⁹

⁴⁹ NAL, 270. f., 1.s desc., 439. file, p 4 (Original. Translation)

49. Report by A. Košeļevs, Deputy Minister of the Interior of the Latvian SSR, Rank III Commissioner of the Police to V. Lācis, Chairman of the LSSR Council of Ministers on the murder of citizen A. Grieze, 8 March 1949

Strictly confidential
8 March 1949

Chairman of the LSSR Council of Ministers
comrade Lācis
Special Report
On the murder of citizen Grieze
in the city of Ventspils in the Latvian SSR

On 22 February 1949 at 11:00 p.m., the Ventspils City Police was informed that a citizen had been murdered on the north side of the River Venta crossing by an unknown serviceman.

A task force from the criminal investigation department of the Ventspils City Police Unit left for the scene and found that the murder victim was a citizen Grieze Andrejs, son of Brenčs, Latvian national, born in 1903, residing in Ventspils, Targales Street. The murder victim had three stab wounds to the neck and chest.

At the crime scene, a 5th Border Guard Command patrol detained the murderer with a Finnish dagger in his hands; he was Senior Sergeant Ryzhov Alexander, son of Vladimir, from military unit 73883, member of the 156th Rifle Regiment of the 51st Guards Rifle Division.

The investigation revealed the following:

On 27 February 1949 at about 5 p.m. while on leave, Rizhov entered the Ventspils railway station cafeteria where, while drinking spirits, he accidentally met citizen Grieze Andrejs, son of Brenčs, and with him drank 200 grams of vodka.

At about 8 p.m., Rizhov and Grieze left the Ventspils railway station cafeteria and went to the River Venta crossing, as they both lived beyond the crossing. After passing the crossing, Rizhov, being drunk, began to suspect Grieze of being a spy and, taking a dagger out of his bag, stabbed Grieze three times in the neck and chest. Rizhov was detained at the scene.

Murderer Ryzhov Alexander, son of Vladimir, born in 1926 in Bilarsk Village, Bilarsk District, Tatar ASSR, Russian, member of the All-Union Leninist Communist Youth League, 8th grade education, unmarried, in the Soviet army from 1943, military rank Senior Sergeant, place of service - 156th Rifle Regiment, 51st Rifle Division, convicted - confessed to the crime.

Deputy Minister of the Interior of the Latvian SSR,
Rank III Commissioner of the Police

A. Košeļevs⁵⁰

50. Report by A. Košeļevs, Deputy Minister of the Interior of the Latvian SSR, Rank III Commissioner of the Police to V. Lācis, Chairman of the LSSR Council of Ministers on the liquidation of a group of military robbers, 25 March 1949

Strictly confidential

25 March 1949

No 7/2-283 ps

Chairman of the LSSR Council of Ministers

comrade Lācis

On the liquidation of the military robbery group
in the city of Liepāja, Latvian SSR

Special report

As a result of operational-investigative measures carried out by the staff of the Criminal Investigation Department of the Ministry of the Interior of the Latvian SSR and the Criminal Investigation Department of the Liepāja City Division of the Ministry of the Interior, the following group of military robbers has been liquidated:

1. Driver of the Chief of the Political Division of the 51st Guards Rifle Division, Sova Vasily, son of Stepan, born in 1926 in Primorsk District, Krasnoyarsk region, Russian, non-partisan.

⁵⁰ NAL, 270. f., 1.s desc., 459. file, pp 57, 57^a (Original. Translation)

2. Driver of the Deputy Commander of the 51st Guards Rifle Division, Klishevich Ivan, son of Leonty, born in 1928 in Bobruisk oblast, member of the All-Union Leninist Communist Youth League, Belarusian.
3. Driver of the Chief of Headquarters, 51st Guards Rifle Division, Katrushev Alexander, son of Ivan, born in 1927 in Voronezh Region, non-partisan.
4. Commander of the Chemical Detachment of the 51st Guards Rifle Division, Smetannikov Nikolai, son of Vasily, born in 1927 in Omsk region, Russian, non-partisan.
5. Chemical platoon private Momot Grigory, son of Matvey, born in 1927, Novosibirsk region, Russian, non-partisan.
6. Ashranenkov, driver of the commander of 51st Guards Rifle Division, who has now been convicted by the Military District Military Tribunal under Article 59-3 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic.

All the detainees were members of the 51st Guards Rifle Division Headquarters Company.

The investigation has established that this criminal group drove around Liepāja in a Vilis light passenger vehicle belonging to Colonel Shiryaev, Deputy Commander of the 51st Guards Rifle Division and forcibly dragged drunk men into the car, hit them on the head with a heavy object, stripped them of their clothes and valuables, and threw them out of the moving car.

Three robberies were committed in this way:

On the night of 13 March of this year at approximately 12 a.m., drunk citizen R.J. Kjupe was forcibly dragged into the car. He was hit several times on the head with a heavy object. He was then stripped to his underwear, taken out of town, and thrown out of the car onto the road.

Citizen Ošs M. was similarly stripped and robbed outside the Jewish cemetery in Liepāja and thrown out of a car.

On 22 June 1948, having put Lieutenant Rindin, administrative servant of the head of the 5th Marine - War Hospital, in the car, they robbed him, took 10,000 roubles, and threw him out of the car on the highway.

On the night of 14 March 1949, the robbers in question tried to drag a drunken citizen into their car on Avotu Street, but they were

apprehended by the Republic Criminal Investigation Department and the Liepāja City Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

The case has been handed over to the Military Prosecutor of Riga Garrison for further investigation.

Deputy Minister of the Interior of the Latvian SSR,
Rank III Commissioner of the Police

A. Košeļevs⁵¹

51. Statement prepared by LC(b)P Central Committee's administrative department instructor Pumpāns on hooligan behaviour of military personnel of subunits stationed in Skrunda and Broceni, Kuldīga District

(December 1949)

Confidential

Statement

on hooligan behaviour of military personnel of sub-units deployed in
Skrunda and Broceni, Kuldīga District.

Skrunda

On 29 November of this year, the Latvian C(b)P CC received a service report from the secretary of the Skrunda Latvian Communist Party Township committee, comrade Dimitriev, in which it was reported that military commands located in the territory of Skrunda had behaved scandalously throughout 1949: they were drinking, violating military discipline, robbing locals, and on 20 November of this year, they organised mass brawls and disrupted political mass events of local organisers.

The verification and the previous investigation have confirmed Dimitriev's report.

As of 20 November of this year, the following troop units were stationed in Skrunda:

43690 (artillery unit) - sub-unit commander Senior Lieutenant Doroshin.

42110 (Air Army) - Senior Lieutenant Kondufarov, sub-unit commander.

⁵¹ NAL, 270. f., 1. desc., 459. file, pp 73, 73^a (Original. Translation)

7458 (MoI Convoy Regiment) - Lieutenant Sumkin, sub-unit commander.

16787 (Communications Regiment) - Lieutenant Vinokurov, sub-unit commander.

Troop units 43640, 7458, and 16767 are stationed in premises near the market square. In all four commands, military discipline was lacking. Regulations were not respected, military leave was often taken without permission, uniform was not respected (walking around without shoulder pads, belts, etc.). No greetings between military officers. Military personnel appeared drunk in public places, especially on Sundays and public holidays. Sub-unit commanders did not deal properly with military discipline among their subordinates. There was no single military chief in the Skrunda Garrison. Sub-unit commanders often left Skrunda on Sundays and public holidays, leaving the sub-units without proper command and control. Political education among sub-unit personnel was unsatisfactory. There was no communication between the sub-units and the local party and Soviet authorities.

On November 20, sub-unit commanders Lieutenants Sumkin and Vinokurov left for Riga, leaving their sub-units in the hands of junior commanders who did not ensure the necessary military order on that day, and senior Lieutenants Doroshin and Kandufarov, who were on the spot, did not control their subordinates. Even worse, Senior Lieutenant Doroshin, together with the sergeants and soldiers under his command, organised drinking in celebration of Artillery Day. Senior Lieutenant Doroshin is being prosecuted.

Many servicemen from other units were also drunk that day.

As a result of these shortcomings, during a dance on 20 November at 7:00 p.m at the Skrunda Peat Factory Club, servicemen from units 43690, 7458, and 16767 fought amongst themselves, resulting in minor injuries to some servicemen (Senior Sergeant Maksimov, Private Lyakhov, Private Borodavko).

The same evening at the Skrunda Culture Centre after the end of the performance at about 1 a.m., a brawl broke out between servicemen of units 7458 and 42110. In this brawl, bodily injuries were inflicted on soldiers Starostin, Kozhel, Klyemanski, Khokhlov, and Sergeant Major Ryabtsev from unit 42110, as well as on soldiers Kosdapov, Biryukov and Junior Sergeant Smirnov from unit 7458.

That same evening, during the dance at the Culture Centre, members of the drama group drank on stage, inviting accordionist,

citizen Pulkstenis, to leave the dancers in the hall without a musician. This provoked an argument which escalated into a brawl between the military and the persons who had organised the on-stage drinking. In this scuffle, injuries were inflicted on citizens Rauds and Štrocs.

It should also be noted that, contrary to the prohibition of the Township party committee, the performance in the Culture Centre that evening was unlawfully organised by the drama group of the Skrunda volunteer fire brigade on the initiative of the brigade chief.

In addition, there have been incidents of thefts from local residents by individual members of the military, for example:

On 24 April 1949, three watches were stolen from watchmaker Šmeirings by military personnel of unit 73885. The watches were returned to the victims and the perpetrators were prosecuted.

Serviceman Goloshchapov from unit 7458 stole a bicycle from a fighter battalion fighter. The bicycle was returned to the victim and Goloshchapov is being prosecuted.

At the beginning of November of this year, Private Lyakhov of unit 16767, entered the canteen while drunk, approached a table where civilians were sitting, took a glass of vodka from the table, and drank it. Lyakhov is being prosecuted.

Investigations into the case of the brawl with servicemen on 20 November of this year, as well as other cases, are ongoing.

Brocēni

On November 12 of this year, the Latvian C(b)P CC received information from Comrade Petrov, Secretary of the Party Organisation of the Brocēni Building Materials Factory, about intolerable hooligan activities of military personnel of troop unit 90729, stationed in barracks next to the Factory.

Examination and previous investigation show that comrade Petrov's report is true.

On the night of 6-7 November of this year, a group of military personnel from the aforementioned naval sub-unit staged a brawl in the club of the Brocēni Building Materials Factory where an event was being held by the team of the Factory to mark the 32nd anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution. The drunk soldier Pitovoi, pulled out a toy pistol and ran after some citizens in the club and on the street, causing panic because the citizens thought the pistol was real. In addition, soldier Pitovoi broke the door of the club. Pitovoi is arrested and being prosecuted.

On November 20 of this year, a group of military personnel of this sub-unit, while drunk in Saldus, engaged in a brawl with the locals of the town, but when military personnel of the Ministry of State Security, who were in Saldus, took measures to stop the brawl, they started a brawl with military personnel of the Ministry of State Security troops. The commander of the 90729 sub-unit who was aware of the incident concealed it from the higher command. The perpetrators were never identified and went unpunished.

On the night of 25-26 November of this year, military personnel of 90729 military sub-unit stole about 800 kg of potatoes from the Red Star kolhkoz. An investigation is underway.

From September to December of this year, soldiers of the same sub-unit - Pogrebnoy, Markov, and Podprigora - systematically engaged in the theft of honey from the kolhkoz farmers. The perpetrators have been arrested and are under investigation.

In September of this year, soldier Burnov robbed a kolhkoz farmer of two bags of bran and beat him. Soldier Burnov is being prosecuted.

In addition to the above, according to the information from the Saldus Township offices of the Ministry of State Security, members of military unit 90729 committed several other thefts, the perpetrators of which have not yet been identified; throughout 1949, they also were seen drunk in groups on the streets and in the Saldus Community Centre. They started numerous brawls among themselves, with locals, and with military officers of the Ministry of State Security, who tried to establish order. The officers of the MSS troop unit located in the city of Saldus, whose commander is the chief of the Saldus Garrison, also testify to the inappropriate behaviour and fights by military personnel of military unit 90729.

Comander, Senior Lieutenant Nefedkin and officers Trembachev and Konevets of the sub-units of the above-mentioned military unit 90729, consisting of about 150 men, are not exercising military discipline, are doing an extremely poor job of political education, and are collaborating with their subordinates. They not only fail to reprimand the hooligan acts of subordinates or bring the perpetrators to justice, but they even hide the hooligans.

Currently, only 15 people work in the Brocēni construction factory from the entire sub-unit, who, according to the director of the factory Jēgers, are not necessary. No one from this sub-unit works in the construction of the factory. All other people in this unit work in the preparation of forest materials for other construction projects carried

out by the 69th Naval-War Construction Works Administration of the 8th Navy (head of the administration comrade Shchadski).

Works Administration No 69 does not take proper care of the soldiers of the sub-unit that work in timber procurement: the soldiers do not have proper footwear, they do not receive proper food, and they do not have a uniform to wear.

Instructor, Administrative Department
of the Latvian C(b)P CC

Pumpāns⁵²

**52. Report by Captain Meķis, Head of the Liepāja
Regional Police Administration of the Ministry of State
Security of the LSSR to the Secretary of the Liepāja
Regional Committee of the Latvian CP, Desmitnieks on
crimes committed by military officers,
6 January 1953**

Strictly confidential

Latvian SSR Ministry of State Security
Ministry of State Security
Liepāja Regional Police Administration
6 January 1953

To the Secretary of the Liepāja Regional Committee of the Latvian CP
comrade Desmitnieks

The Chief of the Tukums District Police Department has repeatedly reported and sent materials to the Military Prosecutor's Office of the Riga Garrison about the misconduct committed by military personnel of the 272nd Separate Construction Battalion stationed in Tukums. For example, it was reported that on the night of 10 October 1952, 19 sheds were broken into by the military near railway station Tukums-1, but nothing was taken because the sheds were empty.

Eyewitnesses confirm that the raiders were military.

On the night of 4 October of this year, unknown military officers stole a car and attempted to rob a shop in the Aizpute Village Council building.

⁵² NAL, PA-101. f., 12. desc., 38.^a file, pp 52-56 (Original. Translation)

On 9 October of this year, the chairman of the Tukums City Executive Committee, comrade Feldmanis, had household items stolen - two suitcases and a soldier's uniform. After inspecting the scene and interviewing neighbours, it was established that the thefts were committed by military.

However, the prosecutor of the Riga Garrison, Lieutenant-Colonel comrade Mezis, did not react as we had hoped to all our inquiries, and in his letter No 01446 of 2 December 1952 he stated that our reports were unfounded and that there was no evidence of any kind.

Nothing was done to put a stop to the poor behaviour of the Tukums Garrison; as a result, military personnel from the 272nd Separate Construction Battalion committed a further series of crimes:

1. On 2 November 1952, a shop in Aizpute was robbed; the loss amounted to 13,000 roubles, and according to eyewitnesses, the theft was committed by 6-7 servicemen.
2. On 3 December 1952 in the home of citizen Ozoliņa who lived in Robežnieki, Rotkalne Village, 23 household items were stolen.
3. On 9 December 1952, four people in soldiers' uniforms robbed an old woman, Balode, who lived in Ceļmalnieki, Milzkalne Village.
4. On 14 December 1952, a shop was robbed in Lazda Village, with a loss of more than three thousand roubles. After questioning the railway staff at the scene, it was established that the theft had been committed by military servicemen.

In all cases, the Chief of Tukums Garrison was informed in due time, but no effective measures were taken to prevent the illegalities committed by the servicemen. Only because of active measures taken by the Tukums District Police Unit and operational personnel, was it established that all the above and a number of other crimes had been committed by members of the 272nd Construction Battalion:

1. Eduards Sladzevskis, son of Jānis, born 1930 in Jelgava, previously tried for theft.
2. Mikhail Sheverdov, born 1929.
3. Vasili Milnichenko, son of Ivan, born 1930.
4. Mikhail Yakovlev, son of Sergei, born 1928.
5. Pyotr Herchenko, son of Fyodor, born in 1930.
6. Alfrēds Fuksis, son of Nikolajs, born in 1931.
7. Mazurenko.

The persons listed have been denounced and arrested. Typically, this group of thieves stole and robbed in an organised manner, according to a pre-determined plan. The organiser and leader of the group was E. Sladzevskis.

However, after the arrest of these criminals, the military prosecutor did not send an investigator, but assigned the case to a military investigator who does not have sufficient investigative experience.

In view of the above, please draw the attention of the prosecutor of the Riga Garrison to the fact that timely measures should be taken (in the light of the information provided by the police bodies) to stop the criminal offences committed by the military.

Administration of the Ministry of State Security
Chief of Liepāja Regional Police Administration
Captain of National Security

Meķis⁵³

**53. Report by the Chief of Headquarters of the Baltic
Military District, Major General Tsiganov to the
Secretary of the LCP CC, J. Kalnbērziņš on crimes
committed by military officers, 30/31 March 1953**

Confidential

Baltic Military District Headquarters
30/31 March 1953
No 0102564
Riga

Central Committee of the Communist Party of Latvia
comrade J. Kalnbērziņš

In response to your report No 18-s of 13 January 1953 on the misconduct of certain military officers in Priekule District, an investigation was carried out revealing the following: attempted theft of a sheep by soldier Veselov, theft of personal belongings from civilians' flats by soldier Yerchev, setting fire to Zvele's hay by soldier Svinar, attempted theft of kolkhoz firewood by soldier Karpov, and theft of two

⁵³ NAL, PA-101. f., 16. desc., 97. file, pp 2, 3 (Certified copy. Translation)

bottles of wine from a shop in Vainode by soldier Gramotonov are now confirmed. The perpetrators have been found and severely punished.

A case of tail docking kolkhoz horses has also been confirmed, but no perpetrators have been found.

The other thefts were not confirmed.

The Regional Commander instructed the Chief of the Priekule Garrison to take urgent measures to put an end to the disturbances by garrison servicemen.

Chief of Headquarters of the Baltic Military District
Major-General

Ciganovs⁵⁴

54. Report of 4 June 1953 from Deputy Minister of the Interior of the Latvian SSR, Krastiņš to A. Drozdovs, Head of the Administrative Department of the LCP CC on crimes committed by military officers

Confidential

Head of the Administrative Department of the Central Committee of
the Communist Party of Latvia
comrade Drozdovs

On 10 May 1953, a group of 11 drunk servicemen from the 168th Separate Construction Battalion stationed in the Dundaga District of the Latvian SSR arrived at the Rinda Community Centre.

After returning from the Rinda Community Centre, the soldiers broke down the door of Rinda Church, entered it and organised drinking there, and broke and took away church belongings.

The leadership of the Dundaga District Police Unit of the Ministry of Internal Affairs reported this hooliganism to the commander of the unit, who took no measures to identify the perpetrators.

Deputy Minister of the Interior of the Latvian SSR
4 June 1953
No 22/2-993
Riga⁵⁵

Krastiņš

⁵⁴ NAL, PA-101. f., 16. desc., 97. file, p 25 (Original. Translation)

⁵⁵ NAL, PA-101.f., 16.desc., 97.file, p 52 (Original. Translation)

Marks in the document:

Following the report of the Baltic Military District Prosecutor comrade Ryabtsev, the investigation is complete and the perpetrators are brought to justice. A. Drozdovs. 20.IV 53.

55. Statement of 5 August 1953 by Senior Lieutenant Bērziņš, Chief of the Liepāja District Police Department of the LSSR MoIA to Liepiņš, Secretary of the Liepāja District Committee of the Communist Party of Latvia on crimes committed by military officers

Confidential

LSSR MoIA

Liepāja District Police Department

Police Division

5 August 1953

To the Secretary of the Liepāja District Committee of the Latvian CP

comrade Liepiņš

Statement

On the criminal behaviour of some military personnel of the Liepāja Garrison in 1953

In 1953, the following criminal offences and disciplinary offences were committed by military personnel of the Liepāja Garrison in Liepāja District:

1. On April 16 of this year, Senior Lieutenant Smolyanov and Junior Lieutenant Natalkov, members of military unit 75752 deployed in Grobiņa were seen in the street and in a public place (Grobiņa Culture Centre), wanting to take vile revenge on the station's police official, junior lieutenant Ķēde, for not legally allowing unlawful fishing; completely drunk, they staged a rampage and hooligan antics bordering on a criminal offence. They threatened the locals present at the club with a gun, beat up the police station official comrade Ķēde, and knocked out his tooth.

The same day, the Liepāja City Commandant was informed about the hooligan antics of military personnel, but no action has been taken against the perpetrators so far.

2. On May 12 of this year, unknown military personnel in a ZIS 70-48-92 stole a truck load of construction materials belonging to the Rucava Village Council. On May 16 of this year, the materials on this theft were sent to the prosecutor of the Liepāja base, but no action has been taken so far.
3. On May 15 of this year, military officers T.J. Fogelis and I.E. Eglis from military unit 98680 drunkenly staged hooligan outbursts in Kapsēde Village Council, broke the electric motor of the communications office, stopped student V.E. Ziemelis on the Grobiņa - Kapsede road and took away his passport, which was issued for five years.
4. On May 18 of this year, we found that military personnel who were in Duburi homestead (observation post) in Jūrmalciems had stolen firewood (9.7 m³) belonging to the forestry. However, after being warned, the servicemen did not return the firewood and refused to give their troop number.
5. On June 19 of this year, truck GAZ-63F5-21-82 of military unit 96172 was speeding and hit a cyclist, citizen Urbāns, who suffered serious injuries.
6. On July 14 of this year, three servicemen from military unit 42803 got drunk (abandoned their place of duty) and had a brawl with workers of the Liepāja forestry farm in a restaurant in Grobiņa. As a result, one soldier drowned in Alande River.
7. On August 2 of this year, many military personnel of military unit 702024 in Grobiņa beat up citizens Foldatis and Kudums and attacked the apartment of citizen Kudums in a bandit manner. The apartment was ransacked, and 1,410 roubles and three watches were stolen.
8. On August 4, military personnel stationed at Kapsēde felled trees without permission, removed them by F-3-30-13, and sold them to an individual.
9. In May of this year, one of the officers of the military union broke 18 windows of Geistauta Primary School while drunk.

Apart from the above-mentioned facts, there are also some cases of military personnel arbitrarily taking firewood, hay from the meadows of the kolkhozs, etc. The situation in the District is particularly bad regarding hooligan outbursts by military personnel. Fights and brawls are systematically organised in the culture centres and other public places.

Another major concern is the violation of traffic rules by military personnel.

It is difficult for police to deal with the offenders (military) because they consider themselves independent of the police and the local party and Soviet authorities. Some commanders of units and sub-units blatantly try to cover up and suppress the criminal activities of their subordinates, thus leaving the perpetrators unpunished and contributing to the increase in such crimes.

Having reported the above, we request the Party District Committee, with the help of the higher authorities, to take measures to prevent crimes by military officers.

Chief of Liepāja District Police Department, IoM, LSSR
Senior Lieutenant of Police

Bērziņš⁵⁶

56. Special report of 17 August 1953 by Deputy Minister of the Interior of the Latvian SSR, Krastiņš to I. Desmitnieks, Head of the Administrative, Commercial and Financial Bodies of the LCP CC on crimes committed by military officers

Confidential

Head of the Administrative, Commercial and Financial Bodies of the
LCP CC
comrade Desmitnieks
Special report

Recently, military personnel of the units and sub-units of the troops deployed in the Latvian SSR have been violating public order and engaging in hooliganism, theft, and other criminal offences, and such actions have drawn legitimate reproach from many public organisations and citizens.

For example:

On 7 June of this year, members of the 273rd Construction Battalion stole A.F. Ozols' bicycle from the dormitory of Jaunpils Secondary School.

⁵⁶ NAL, PA-101. f., 16. desc., 97. file, pp 64-65 (Certified copy. Translation)

On 2 July of this year, military servicemen from the Priekule garrison caught fish in the kolkhoz Saulesstars' pond. Military officers responded to Baranovskis' demand to stop fishing with uncensored curses and beat him, as a result of which Baranovskis was sent for medical treatment.

On the night of 4 July of this year, foodstuffs were stolen from Gulbis, a kolkhoz farmer at the kolkhoz named after Zhdanov in Dobele District. The investigation established that the theft was committed by soldiers from the Dobele Garrison who broke into the cellar. The investigation materials have been sent to the Military Prosecutor of Dobele Garrison.

On 9 July of this year while on leave, sailors Vladimir Solannikov, son of Fyodor, of military unit 60287, Anatoly Demidov, son of Vasily, of military unit 4078, and Yuri Korolyov, son of Ivan, of military unit 40030, entered the Jelgava Sugar Factory Club while drunk and committed hooligan acts which resulted in the temporary interruption of the events.

On 12 July at 7:30 p.m, a group of military personnel from military unit 75320 started a brawl on Maskavas Street in Riga. While military patrols and police officers were clearing the disturbance, Orlov, a senior police sergeant of 9th Police Division of Riga City, was severely beaten and sent to hospital.

On 15 July of this year, a bicycle was stolen from citizen Krotovs by soldier Alexander Kochetkov from military unit 258. As a result of the search, Kochetkov was detained. The victim recognised him. The bicycle was returned.

On the night of 21 July of this year 1 km from Priekule station, three military officers attacked citizen Jānis Freimanis, threatened him with physical violence, took away his documents, and money in the amount of 250 roubles and bonds valued at 800 roubles and fled. The materials on this bandit attack have been sent to the Military Prosecutor of the Liepāja City Military Unit 24502.

On 30 July of this year, sergeant I.N. Litvin and Sergeant V.V. Krasny, started hooligan outbursts in a beer bar in Riga, Daugavgrīva Street, as a result of which citizen Tumaševskis was stabbed with a knife and taken to hospital in serious condition.

Similar findings are reported from Alūksne, Jēkabpils, Krustpils, and other cities.

Use the above report at your discretion.

Deputy Minister of the Interior of the Latvian SSR
17 August 1953
No 22/5-554
Riga⁵⁷

Krastiņš

Marks in the document:

To Comrade Drozdov. 1. Please find out what measures have been taken by the leadership of the units in connection with these and other incidents. 2. Prepare a report with an analysis of these and other cases for the Secretary of the Central Committee. 20 VII (Signature).

Statement. BMD Prosecutor B. Ryabtsev stated that in connection with all the above facts an investigation is being conducted, the results will be communicated. Document taken under control. (Signature)

**57. Special report of 31 March 1954 from I. Zujāns,
Minister of the Interior of the Latvian SSR to
J. Kalnbērziņš, Secretary of the LCP CC on hooliganism
by a group of soldiers of military unit No 571**

Confidential

To the Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of
Latvia
comrade J.E. Kalnbērziņš

Special report

for hooliganism of a group of soldiers of military unit No 571

On 22 March of this year at 1:00 a.m. in the centre of Dundaga District, Latvian SSR, an unknown soldier was arrested for hooliganism and taken to the District police.

⁵⁷ NAL, PA-101. f., 16. desc., 97. file, pp 92-93 (Original. Translation)

It was established that the detainee was a soldier from military unit No 571, V.K. Mahnin. This unit is deployed in Dundaga District.

A few minutes after Mahnin's arrival, four soldiers who had been at a party in the Culture Centre went to the District police station. Armed with soldiers' belts with metal buckles and stakes pulled out of the fence, they attacked Lieutenant Šveide, a member of the District police they met on the way, and beat him with the stakes until he lost consciousness. Upon reaching the District police unit, the soldiers tried to break into the premises with the intent of rescuing the detained Makhnin.

Comrade Griče, the assistant to the police officer on duty, locked the door, but the rampaging soldiers started breaking the outer door with the stakes. When the door was half-broken in, the assistant to the police officer on duty was forced to fire several warning shots. Only then did the attackers retreat 20 metres from the building and, having met comrade Grīnbergs who was walking towards the police unit because of the alarm, also hit him with the stakes until he lost consciousness.

When the members of the MoI District police, headed by comrade Antin, arrived because of the alarm, the rioting soldiers resisted and inflicted serious bodily injuries on comrade Skudra, the District police official, police officer Bertelsons and comrade Antin, head of the MoI District police.

The attackers were apprehended and were soldiers of the same unit No 571: N.R. Khlizin, V.K. Stesin, J.N. Filipov, and A.I. Nazarov, all of whom had abandoned their place of duty. Demobilized sailor V.F. Teib also took part in the attack and was detained.

The injuries sustained by police officials Šveide, Skudra, and Grīnbergs were so serious that all three had to be hospitalised. Comrade Antin, head of the MoI District police, suffered an arm injury.

This case is being investigated by the Military Prosecutor's Office.

Minister of the Interior of the Latvian SSR
31 March 1954
Riga⁵⁸

Zujāns

⁵⁸ NAL, PA-101. f., 17. desc., 100. file, pp 42-43 (Original. Translation)

58. Report by the Secretary of the Gaujiena District Committee of the Communist Party of Latvia to J. Kalnbērziņš, Secretary of the LCP CC on crimes committed by military officers, 16 September 1954

Confidential

Communist Party of Latvia
Gaujiena District Committee
16 September 1954

Secretary of the LCP CC
comrade J.E. Kalnbērziņš

On Saturday, 16 September of this year, a general meeting of the kolkhoz Plēsums devoted to the granting of the deed of perpetual use of land to the kolkhoz was held in the Druviena Community Centre; the event was attended by comrade Jākobsons, Chairman of the Gaujiena District Executive Committee, and comrade Līdums, Secretary of the Party District Committee of the Ranka MTS (Machine and Tractor Station) Zone.

The representatives of the District committee were present at the meeting until 12 a.m.

Sailors from military unit No 42935 (22 in total), who were harvesting at the Cesvaine District kolkhoz Lenin's Way, were getting ready to go to the Druviena club. Some of them - 7 people - set off on foot at about 9 p.m. while the rest, together with the chairman of kolkhoz Lenin's Way, Comrade Sarma, Deputy Chairman Tipāns, agronomist and foreman of the kolkhoz, and the sailor team leader, Senior Lieutenant Vasilyev, travelled by car.

Before going to the club, collective drinking was organised at the kolkhoz Lenin's Way: they had brewed beer, and vodka was purchased. So, the group in the car was drunk. The reason for the incident was that the sailors who had come to the club had gone to the home of kolkhoz farmer Gutāne in Kalnieši homestead to pick, or simply put, steal apples.

A relative of the hostess, Harijs Veidemanis, son of Pēteris, accountant of the Saulkrasti District fishermen's cooperative Zvejnieks, who visited the hostess with his wife, was at the club at the time. In the

evening, the kolkhoz farmers told Veidemanis several times that the sailors were picking apples. Veidemanis went to Kalnieši homestead, 100 metres from the club, took a hunting rifle and went out into the garden. At the time, there was one sailor in the garden. Veidemanis advised him to leave the garden. In response, the sailor lunged at Veidemanis, who defended himself by hitting the sailor on the head with the barrel of the shotgun and firing into the air. Hearing the noise of the shot, the sailors, shouting “polundra” (attack), rushed towards Kalnieši homestead, chasing Veidemanis who was hiding in the house.

The sailors broke the window of the house where Veidemanis was staying and started breaking the door. Veidemanis was then forced to jump out of the window and head towards the field. About 100 metres from the house, the sailors caught up with Veidemanis and surrounded him. He warned that he would shoot if the sailors attacked. Despite the warning, one of the sailors rushed towards him, Veidemanis defended himself by hitting one of the sailors on the head with the barrel of his shotgun and fired again into the air. At this point Veidemanis was knocked to the ground and a brutal beating began with leather straps, shotgun barrels, and kicks. The fatal blow was probably a knife stab to the right side of the chest.

Veidemanis' wife, Jautrīte, tried to protect him and covered her husband with her body, but the sailors pulled her away from the corpse and started beating her; she received a knife wound and blows to the head and back with the butt of a shotgun. It should be noted that the murdered Veidemanis had his watch removed from his wrist.

The sailors then returned to the club.

On the way, they saw the foreman of the construction brigade of kolkhoz Plēsums, who was wounded with seven knife stabs; they checked his pulse to be sure that they had killed him. Punches were also delivered to Grāvītis, a member of the District police, who tried to calm the hooligans down. The sailors entered the club and threw out the entire crowd, some people were forced to jump out of the second floor window. During the rampage, the sailors stabbed comrade Stibelis, a brigadier of kolkhoz Plēsums, and Aija Zirne, secretary of the Druviena Village Council, was wounded in the hip by a knife blade or a belt buckle. During the rampage at the club, two kolkhoz workers were robbed of their wallets containing money and documents. A telephone

pole was knocked down in front of the club, so communications were cut off. The investigating authorities have not yet been able to identify the perpetrators.

The victims were taken to Ranka Hospital within an hour, where they received the necessary medical attention.

Immediately after receiving the report, I and the Chairman of the District Executive Committee went to the scene.

On 13 September of this year, I held a meeting of the kolkhoz workers at kolkhoz Plēsums and explained this savage incident.

Arrangements were made for the funerals of the murdered, which will take place on 19 September of this year, and financial assistance was provided to the victims.

Secretary of the Gaujiena District Committee of the Latvian CP
(illegible signature)⁵⁹

**59. Report by the Chairman of the State Security
Committee of the Council of Ministers of the LSSR,
J. Vēvers to the Secretary of the LCP CC, A. Peļše on
crimes committed by military officers, 23 May 1960**

Strictly confidential

To the Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of
Latvia
comrade A.J. Peļše

Troops build a military facility in the territory of the Bārta Village in Liepāja District.

The leadership of this military unit does not exercise necessary control and does not make necessary demands, so the discipline of the soldiers-builders is very low.

This is evident from the numerous incidents of drunkenness, hooliganism, brawls, and theft from neighbouring houses.

In December 1959 during the day, drunk soldiers from the construction unit started a brawl in front of the Bārta Culture Centre where a film for children was being shown; about 25-30 people took

⁵⁹ NAL, PA-101. f., 17. desc., 100. file, pp 52-53 (Original.Translation)

part in the brawl. All this took place in the presence of children who were outside the Community Centre after the screening.

On 17 January of this year, Miķelis Zunds, son of Jēks, a worker at kolkhoz Varavīksne, returned home from work and noticed that the window of the house had been smashed and that 70 roubles and 14 kg of meat had been stolen from the room. Zunds' neighbour explained that he had seen three soldiers with bundles in their hands walking from Zunds' house towards the unit.

In February, two soldiers entered the home of Maiga Janeka, daughter of Kaups, a resident of Dīķi homestead in Bārta, and asked the landlady to give them something to drink. When she went to get water, the soldiers stole 65 roubles.

The second time, the soldiers came to the house at 11 p.m. on 27 March and started banging on the door. Fearing the consequences, Janeka did not open the door, but started shouting for people to help her. Fearing that they would be detained, the soldiers broke the windows for hooliganism and fled.

On 26 March at 2 a.m., two soldiers loudly broke into Bārta Hospital and demanded medical assistance – a change of dressing. It later turned out that no medical help was needed, but they had entered the hospital to drink vodka. Later, two more soldiers joined them. All were drunk. The soldiers did not comply with the demands of the medical staff on duty to leave the hospital. They remained in the building and started to drink the vodka they had brought with them.

A nurse, Austra Anoga, daughter of Eduards, tried to call the military unit, but one of the soldiers took the handset away and forbade her to make a call.

After a while, nurse Anoga heard a noise in the reception area. When she entered, she saw a soldier who had entered the room through a window. The other soldiers were scattered around the hospital, noisily walking in the corridors, the bathroom, and the doctors' offices and trying to break into the food storage room.

These soldiers did not leave the hospital premises until 4 a.m.

A similar case occurred on 5 April at 3 a.m., when a medical practitioner discovered a soldier in the reception area who had entered through a window. The soldier broke the glass of the outer door as he was leaving the hospital.

On 4 April of this year, two soldiers entered homestead Saknes owned by Miķelis Dobolis, son of Klāvs, born in 1898, in Bārta and

demanded 50 roubles from the owner. When Dobolis refused to give the money, they started threatening him with deportation to Siberia.

Then one of them wrote a document and asked Dobolis to sign it. The terrified Dobolis signed the document and was told that a car would come at 10 p.m. and take him to prison for one year.

When the soldiers demanded 50 roubles a second time, Dobolis complied with this demand; having received the money, the soldiers tore up the paper in Dobolis's presence and left.

On April 5 at 3 a.m., two soldiers broke down the door and invaded homestead Gulbji in Bārta where Stepanīda Ošis, daughter of Jānis, born in 1918, lived.

The soldiers lit a fire in the cooker, after which one of them stripped naked and behaved in a hooligan manner.

On April 19, drunken military officers showed up at Mirāni homestead in Bārta. The frightened residents hid on the second floor.

The soldiers approached and started to break down the door while swearing; then they fought among themselves, resulting in one of them being shot and left lying in the yard. There are also reports of the rape of a 15-year-old girl. She is currently in Priekule City Hospital. As a result, the Military Prosecutor's Office has opened a criminal case and an investigation is underway.

The Military Prosecutor's Office is also investigating the robbery and grievous bodily harm suffered on May 9 by A. Znatēns, a resident of Grobiņa.

These facts, showing abnormal behaviour by soldiers, are rightly causing outrage among the local population; there have also been cases of kolkhoz workers refusing to go to work because they are afraid to leave their homes unattended.

State Security Committee
under the Council of Ministers of the Latvian SSR
Chair
23 May 1960⁶⁰

Vēvers

Marks in the document:
comrad F.F. Sokurenko. Report on the measures taken. A. Peļše.
30.V.60.

⁶⁰ NAL, PA-101. f., 23. desc., 14. file, pp 16, 17 (Original. Translation)

60. Report by the Secretary of the Liepāja District Committee of the LCP, A. Straume of 18 January 1961 to Colonel General I. Gusakovsky, Commander of the Troops of the Baltic Military District, and copy to M. Gribkov, Secretary of the LCP CC on crimes committed by military officers

Confidential

Communist Party of Latvia
Liepāja District Committee

Commander of the Troops of the Baltic Military District, Colonel
General

I.I. Gusakovsky

Copy: Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Latvia
M.P. Gribkov

In the final days of 1960, the Party District Committee received several complaints from the working people of Vaiņode Workers' Village that specific military construction workers (Lieutenant-Colonel Migachev was the commander) were violating public order and committing thefts.

The District Committee has reported the abnormal situation to the commander of the military unit. On 30 December 1960, he was summoned for a discussion at the District Party Committee. Comrade Migachev assured them that all measures would be taken to strengthen discipline in the units.

Based on the reports of the Executive Committee of the District Council of Workers' Deputies, the police department, and the District prosecutor's office, it can be said that the situation has not changed. This is evidenced by the many events that occurred on 1 January 1961.

On 1 January 1961, at 4:15 p.m., a group of 7 soldiers entered the apartment of citizen Jānis Kadiķis, son of Miķelis, living at 26 Brīvības Street, and started beating people, broke the telephone, and took foodstuffs from the table. The police and a military patrol were called to the scene. Together with a group of officers, a military seafarer came and, in the presence of the officers, started beating the owner of the apartment, citizen J. Kadiķis.

On 1 January 1961, at 4.30 p.m., citizen K.J. Sokolovskis and his children returned from a party to their home on Avotu Street. Four

soldiers ran out of the courtyard on Teātra Street and for no reason beat him with belt buckles, hitting him on the head and face.

On 1 January 1961, construction unit soldiers beat up several villagers for no reason - B.P. Lapiņš, A.E. Grīslis, B. Eberis, Z. Ukstiņš were seriously injured.

The residents of Vaiņode Workers' Village are extremely outraged by the behaviour of the military. These disturbing facts are misinterpreted by some backward people and cast a shadow on the Soviet army.

The Liepāja District Party Committee asks that urgent measures be taken to eliminate the situation.

Secretary of the LCP Liepāja District Committee

A. Straume⁶¹

**61. Statement of 21 January 1961 from Police Colonel
Grigoriev, Chief of the Latvian SSR Police
Administration to F.F. Sokurenko, head of the
Administrative, Commercial and Financial Bodies of
the LCP CC on crimes committed by military officers**

Confidential

head of the Administrative, Commercial and Financial Bodies of the
LCP CC

comrade F.F. Sokurenko

Statement

(on crimes committed by military officers in Riga and some parts of the
Latvian SSR)

Between 1960 and 1961, the following crimes were committed
by members of the military:

...

On the night of 15 January 1960, Faim Aimaletdinov, son of
Nosaul, born in 1939, a military serviceman from the military unit
stationed in Marciens, Krustpils District, raped a 15-year-old 8th grade
pupil A. ... J. ... in Pļaviņas.

The investigation was carried out by the Daugavpils Military
Prosecutor's Office.

⁶¹ NAL, PA-101. f., 24. desc., 96. file, pp 5-6 (Original. Translation)

On 2 January 1960, military servicemen from the military unit stationed in Mārciena, Krustpils District, i.e., Yuri Ponomaryov, son of Nikolai, born in 1938, Alexey Afanasiev, son of Nikiforov, born in 1938, and Anatoly Karga, son of Adam, born in 1937, stole various items from Lasmanis and Kļaviņa, residents of Saviena Village, Krustpils District.

The investigation was carried out by the Military Prosecutor's Office of Daugavpils Garrison.

On the night of 3 June 1960, a supernumerary officer of military unit No 32913, Soldier Vladimir Sinitsyn, born in 1935, son of Aleksei, stole an accordion from the Mežāre Village Council Club, Krustpils District.

The investigation was carried out by the Military Prosecutor's Office of the Daugavpils Garrison.

On 20 November 1960, Rancāns and Lazarenko, drunk servicemen from military unit No 01332, and Vasiliauskas, soldier from military unit No 01351 started a brawl with locals at the Bērze café in Dobele.

The materials were sent to the Riga Garrison Prosecutor's Office for investigation.

Chief of the Latvian SSR MoI Police Administration
Police Colonel
21 January 1961⁶²

Grigorjevs.

**62. Report of 13 February 1961 from Vinogradovs,
Secretary of the Ludza District Committee of the LCP to
F. Sokurenko, Head of the Department of
Administrative, Commercial and Financial Bodies of
the LCP CC on crimes committed by military officers**

Communist Party of Latvia
Ludza District Committee

Ludza, 50 Stalina Street
13 February 1961

Head of the Department of Administrative, Commercial and Financial
Bodies of the LCP CC
comrade F.F. Sokurenko

⁶² NAL, PA-101. f., 24. desc., 96. file, pp 14, 16 (Original. Translation)

A detachment of the USSR Ministry of Defence is stationed in the Sebezhs District of Pskov region. The commander of this unit is Major Selin. From October 1960 to the present day, military personnel from this unit have been appearing in villages in the Ludza District of the Latvian SSR, engaging in lawlessness and marauding. In November and December 1960, military personnel regularly came to sovkhos Zilupe, both individually and in groups of 5-9 people, and sold various items to the residents: uniforms, footwear. With the money, they bought alcoholic beverages and cologne (which they drank instead of vodka) and drunkenly rioted, harassed girls - workers from sovkhos Zilupe, persecuted milkers, and behaved like hooligans.

In December 1960, two military personnel from this unit were stationed for 2-3 days in the territory of the 4th District of sovkhos Zilupe, sleeping in the farm milkers' room. They opened milk cans and drank milk, rudely responded to instructions about the unlawfulness of such actions. They accused women of stealing milk without reason.

On 26 January 1961, 6 military servicemen abandoned the courtyard of the office of the 4th District of sovkhos Zilupe (Pasiēna Village, Grišina Village) in car GAZ-96LC74-19 and drove in the direction of Zilupe. However, they were forced to leave the car on the road because the engine overheated (there was no water in the radiator) and because comrade Cvetkov, senior lieutenant in charge of the precinct, was following them. The servicemen fled.

The Ludza District Committee of the Latvian SSR is requested to inform the USSR Ministry of Defence of disturbances caused by military personnel from the troops stationed in Sebezhs District. In order that measures may be taken to prevent such disturbances, necessary discipline must be introduced in the troops.

Secretary of the Ludza District Committee
of the Latvian CP

Vinogradovs⁶³

⁶³ NAL, PA-101. f., 24. desc., 96. file, pp 25, 26 (Original. Translation)

**63. Report of the Minister of the Interior
of the Latvian SSR, I. Zujāns to the LCP Central
Committee on the crimes of military officers,
11 September 1961**

Confidential

Central Committee of the Communist Party of Latvia

In 1961, the frequency of criminal offences and serious breaches of public order committed by members of military units and sub-units stationed in the Republic increased.

On 13 July 1961, Dobele District police received a report from Brigadier Ulmanis of kolkhoz Stars that a soldier had been detained and tied up.

Upon visiting the site, it was found that the workers of the Stars collective farm were leaving milk in the reservoir overnight. The soldiers had been stealing milk from the reservoir for a whole month. This has been reported to the Commandant of the Dobele Garrison. As the milk continued to disappear, the kolkhoz farmers, 8 people, set up an ambush at the reservoir.

On the night of July 13, an attempt to steal milk took place. The kolkhoz farmers detained and tied up Gennady Komissarov, son of Fyodor, soldier from troop No 23460, and fired a shotgun blast after two fleeing soldiers. As a result, a soldier from the same unit, Yevgeny Krylov, son of Vasily, was slightly wounded.

On 6 August of this year, a group of soldiers raped mentally ill T. ..., born in 1934, in the Invalid Centre in Augstkalne Village, Dobele District. The soldiers entered the building through a window.

It is established that the following workers from military unit 77080 took part in the gang rape: Normurat Bulatov, born in 1941, Mustafakul Baimatov, born in 1941, Normurat Zhabarov, born in 1941, and Subhamali Sultanov, born in 1939.

The criminal case has been handed over to the Military Prosecutor of the Riga Garrison for further investigation.

Complaints are regularly received from residents of Augstkalne Village, Dobele District that workers from the above-mentioned

military unit behave like hooligans and commit other violations of the law. This has been reported to the management of the military unit, but no action has been taken.

On May 26 of this year at a Pioneer gathering in Ausma Village, Jelgava District, soldiers from military unit 01484, Vladislav Spridzans, son of Kazimir, and Mikhail Kazagashin, son of Anatoly, arrived drunk, behaved rudely, and talked obscenities. After being reprimanded by the teachers, the soldiers did not stop their hooliganism and started hitting the teachers and went on a rampage. The teachers and students tied up the soldiers, Spridzans and Kazagashin, and handed them over to the leadership of the military unit.

The materials were sent to the military prosecutor of the Baltic Military District for investigation.

The Chief of the Jelgava City Police Department reported that the residents of Eleja Village, Jelgava District were outraged by the behaviour of some members of military units 01484 and 42186 deployed in Eleja Village. The servicemen from these units walk around the village, surround houses at night while drunk, behave indecently, commit hooligan acts, steal honey from apiaries, beat women, and steal vehicles and horses.

On July 6 of this year at around 9:00 p.m., four drunken soldiers beat up citizen Dambergs and tried to beat up citizen Kokalis at a cafe in Eleja Village. When the police arrived, military personnel, including soldier Viktors Seņins, son of Vladislavs, from military unit 42186, tried to beat them up and insulted them with rude words.

The case was reported to the commander of the unit.

On 12 May 1961, various belongings and money was stolen from the apartment of Olga Kučerjajeva, resident of Mežvidi, Vainode Village, Liepāja District.

It was established that the thefts were committed by soldiers from military unit 63240 - Nikolai Shurigin, son of Vasily, born in 1940, and Pyotr Anson, son of Nikolai, born in 1940.

The criminal case was handed over to the Liepāja Garrison Prosecutor for further investigation.

On the night of June 24 of this year, a soldier from military unit 18282, Anatoli Babushkin, born in 1940, son of Mikhail, member of the All-Union Leninist Communist Youth League, entered the Community Centre while on patrol in Ance Village, Ventspils District where he was

drinking with the locals. On 25 June at about 5 a.m., Babushkin entered Dzirnava's homestead in Ance Village where citizen Milda Maļinovska lived and at the time was in a barn. Taking advantage of her absence, Babushkin tried to rape her ten-year-old daughter.

The mother ran back hearing the girl's screams, and only then did Babushkin escape.

Babushkin was arrested and handed over to the military commandant of Ventspils.

The criminal case was transferred to the military prosecutor of the Liepāja Garrison.

On June 25 of this year, motorcycle IŽ-56 belonging to the Bauska District Executive Committee was stolen from kolkhoz Lamberte in Bauska District. On the night of June 26, two soldiers with the stolen motorcycle were arrested by police. They were soldiers Vladimir Nemtsov, son of Andrei, and Viktor Brovko, son of Anatoly, both from military unit 44697.

They had damaged the stolen motorbike.

The soldiers were handed over to the Riga Garrison Military Command.

A large number of offences are committed by military personnel from military units 36912 and 01588 deployed in Alūksne District. Soldiers of these units located in Alūksne, Ape and other localities behave rudely, systematically disturb public order, use foul language, scandalise and harass women, commit criminal offences, steal foodstuffs, honey, milk from the local population, and steal firewood from the forest and sell it and use the money to drink.

For example, on 21 June of this year, soldiers threatened Lankovskis, a worker, with a dagger and took a horse belonging to the forestry company and its entire harness. The horse was driven until the cart broke.

In June of this year, soldiers stole 9 m³ of firewood from Laicene Forestry in a car bearing the registration number JU-2-88-03.

On the night of 23 July of this year, 3 horses were stolen from the pastures of the kolkhoz Alsviķi.

On the night of 20 August of this year, horses belonging to the 15th Road Operation Authority were stolen from homestead Liepkalns. As a result of searches, the horses were found in the vicinity of the troops.

On 27 July, 8,5 cubic metres of firewood were stolen from Laicene Forestry in a military vehicle ZIS-150, registration number JU-2-87-98.

On the evening of 5 August of this year, a group of soldiers arrived in Ape in a ZIS car, registration number JU-2-68-70, and while drunk, including the driver, they drove through the town, violated traffic rules, and collided with a passing bus Riga-Leningrad, which was damaged. When the police tried to detain the offender, the driver of the military vehicle, he and the other soldiers physically resisted.

The Alūksne District Party Committee considered the question of misconduct by military personnel of military units and instructed the troop command to take necessary measures. However, military personnel continue to violate order and commit crimes. The citizens are outraged by the behaviour of the troops.

The educational work of the contract staff in military units is insufficient. In the first half of 1961 alone, 35 contract workers from various military units were convicted in Riga under the Decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Latvian SSR of 30 December 1956 On Responsibility for Petty Hooliganism:

Of the 35 local people on trial, 7 work in 61808 military unit, 5 in 52245 military unit, 4 in 29245 military unit.

I have reported the above to the Commander of the Troops of the Baltic Military District, Colonel-General Comrade I. Gusakovskiy and asked him to take measures to stop criminal activities and breaches of public order by military personnel.

Minister of the Interior of the Latvian SSR
11 September 1961⁶⁴

Zujāns

Remarks in document:

The report of the Ministry of Interior was discussed at the meeting of the War Council on 27.1.62. Comrade A.J. Pelše took part in the work of the War Council, the certificate of the Political Administration of the BMD (23.1.62 No 873-s) was delivered to comrade A.J. Pelše. 30.1.62 (Signature).

⁶⁴ NAL, PA-101. f., 24. desc., 96. file, pp 98-103 (Original. Translation)

**64. Report by the Secretary of Gulbene District
Committee of the Communist Party of Latvia,
A. Ančupāns to the Secretary of the Central Committee
of the Communist Party of Latvia, A. Peļše on crimes
committed by military officers, 12 June 1962**

Confidential

Gulbene District Committee of the Communist Party of Latvia
12 June 1962
to the Secretary of the Central Committee of the Latvian CP
comrade A. Peļše

The Gulbene District Committee of the Latvian CP informs you that despite several warnings from the District Committee of the Party, troops from the construction units stationed in the District do not take the necessary measures to ensure discipline and order among the servicemen.

This had already been reported to both the Baltic and Leningrad Military Districts (copy of letter enclosed). The visiting representatives were informed in detail of the shenanigans taking place and were concerned that dangerous crimes could be committed if the necessary measures were not taken. But even after this, there has been no change and no improvement in the behaviour of the military. On 17 May of this year, a heinous crime was committed - Private Dumbadze and his accomplice Tiradze (Piradze - J.R.) raped a 15-year-old schoolgirl. The perpetrators were detained and handed over to military investigation authorities for prosecution. However, strange as it may seem, according to the report of the Secretary of the Party Committee, the accomplice in the crime, Tiradze (Piradze - J.R.), has already been released and the main perpetrator is supposed to be given a light sentence. Such rumours are spreading and raise doubts about the impartiality of the investigation.

To prevent similar crimes and to ensure discipline and order, the criminal, Dumbadze, is to be subject to the maximum penalty under the decree; the accomplice to the crime, Tiradze (Piradze – J.R.), is also to be held responsible.

I ask you to intervene in this case.

Secretary of Gulbene DC of the Latvian CP

Ančupāns⁶⁵

⁶⁵ NAL, PA-101. f., 25. desc., 89. file, pp 5, 6 (Original. Translation)

Remarks in document:

To Comrade Gusakovsky. I ask you to take personal note of this case and to take the necessary measures. A. Peļše.

65. Submission of 9 July 1962 from Belitsky, Secretary of the Party Committee of Troop 73614 to Secretary of the Gulbene District Committee of the Latvian Communist Party, A. Ančupāns concerning the punishment of workers Dumbadze and Piradze from Military Unit 32087

Secretary of Gulbene DC of the Latvian CP
comrade A.P. Ančupāns

Gulbene

On 17 May 1962, Dumbadze, a conscripted worker from military unit 32087, committed a heinous crime - he raped an underage girl, a Galgauska school student, who was going home. With him that day was Piradze, a conscripted worker from the same unit, who chased another girl, a schoolgirl, who managed to escape.

The case of crimes committed by Dumbadze and Piradze has been transferred to the Riga Garrison Prosecutor's Office. The investigation is now complete.

Worker Dumbadze is being held in Riga until the tribunal, but worker Piradze has been released without any punishment, even though he had intended to commit the same crime by chasing after the schoolgirl.

I have received information that Dumbadze's relatives were in Galgauska Village visiting the victim's relatives to smooth over the crime. They intend to persuade the victim's relatives that Dumbadze will marry the victim.

The District Military Commissioner (at Dumbadze's place of residence) has sent a letter to the Unit Commander stating that Dumbadze's relatives agree that their son, who committed the crime, marry the victim.

All this activity is aimed at covering up the crime of worker Dumbadze.

According to incomplete information, based on conversations with the investigator leading the investigation into Dumbadze's case, the perpetrator will receive 8 to 12 years in prison for the crime.

To prevent similar crimes and to strengthen military discipline, I consider it expedient and necessary to impose the maximum penalty on Dumbadze and imprisonment for Piradze.

I ask you to intervene in this case.

Military unit 73614 party committee
secretary

Belitsky. 9 June 1962⁶⁶

**66. Report by the Secretary of the Alūksne District
Committee of the Communist Party of Latvia, Suvorov
to the Secretary of the Central Committee of the
Communist Party of Latvia, A. Peļše on crimes
committed by military officers, 7 August 1962**

Confidential

Alūksne District Committee of the Communist Party of Latvia

7 August 1962

Secretary of Latvian CP CC
comrade A.J. Peļše

The Alūksne District Committee of the Communist Party of Latvia informs the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Latvia of the facts about the inappropriate behaviour of several military personnel stationed in the territory of the District.

In the last seven months alone there have been cases of hooliganism in Ape, Strautiņi in Alsviķi Village and in Zeltiņi Village and threats to lash out at local residents.

There are five known cases of theft or attempted theft of state-owned firewood and hay. Military personnel stole milk and cream cans from local residents and from the farm of the sovkhos Alsviķi.

The District Party Committee considers its duty to make it known that the behaviour of many officers and soldiers is excessively

⁶⁶ NAL, PA-101. f., 25. desc., 89. file, p 7 (Original. Translation)

familiar and lacks discipline. Drunkenness is rampant in the military, but this demon has not yet been combated.

The secretaries of the District Committee have met frequently with some of the officers and personnel. However, cases of misbehaviour by soldiers and officers can still be observed today.

The following measures have been taken by the unit commanders: replacement of the commander of the main unit deployed in the District, appointment of a garrison chief, establishment of a commandant's office.

The District Party Committee considers that, although there are difficulties with the deployment of personnel, especially officers, a fighting spirit and military discipline must be at the level prescribed by regulations.

Marauding, theiving, drinking, unlawful abandonment of duty posts, excessive familiarity, etc. must be prevented.

At our request, representatives of both the Leningrad and the Baltic Military District Commanders have already visited the area twice. This is all good. However, the facts show that educational work in the units must be done much better.

The following crimes have recently been committed by military personnel in our District:

On 26 January 1962, two soldiers (as it turned out later, Anoshkin and Stepanov), assigned to the unit commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel B. Shvets, behaved rowdily in Ape while drunk. During their detention, they strongly resisted police officers, comrades Alksnis and Šulcs. With the help of the locals, however, they were taken to the police commissioner's office. In the office, Anoshkin and Stepanov swore obscenities, made various anti-Soviet fabrications, and tried to intimidate the police officers by saying that they would kill them; they broke a table and a chair in the police station.

On the next day, January 27, a group of soldiers led by a Sergeant Major arrived in Ape in a JU-2-85 car, ostensibly for patrol. These patrols established order in Ape and tried to find out the addresses of the police officers in retaliation for the detention of Anoshkin and Stepanov.

On 16 February, soldiers stationed near Rezaki homestead in Zeltiņi Village took 8 m³ of state firewood from Alsviķi Forestry.

On March 24 in the already mentioned Rezaki homestead, two drunken soldiers broke the door of Priede's apartment, entered the

apartment, threw out everything, and took a floor brush and 500 g of washing powder and left. On May 21, two soldiers took two horses from Rezaka Village, sovkhos Alsviķi. The horses were later found near the troops.

On May 23, soldiers entered homestead Grencioni, Strautiņi Village during the absence of the owner and took only alcoholic beverages.

On May 25, soldiers took some chicken eggs from the barn of citizen Veidiņš in Klimki homestead in the Alsviķi Village.

On the night of June 2, Anna Ābolkalna, a citizen living in Dzeņi homestead, saw a military car with a smudged number plate being driven away from the 103rd quarter by soldiers under the command of an officer and carrying 8 m³ of state firewood.

On the night of June 4, soldiers stole 20 eggs, 1 kg of butter, 2,5 litres of cream, and 3 litres of milk from homestead Bišulāči in Alsviķi Village.

On the night of June 5, two 12-litre milk cans were stolen from the same house from citizen Bušs. According to a complaint from Ilga Kraševska, milker at the Alsviķi sovkhos, soldiers living in Silakni homestead in Alsviķi Village stole one can of milk from her.

On 7 June in the forest (Section 124), two soldiers and a senior lieutenant, who called himself Grigoriev but was in fact senior lieutenant Baryshko, took state firewood without permission in a car Š-9-34-47. They were detained by workers of the forestry farm, and the firewood was confiscated. On June 14 in Section 131, military servicemen took 10 m³ of firewood.

On the night from June 19 to 20, two soldiers (as it later turned out - Lunin and Rudenko) tried to steal the car of the 12th People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs, which was being driven by driver Kārlis Leitis. When Leitis and the new chairman of the Zeltiņi kolkhoz, komosol comrade Ivanov, came out into the yard to prevent the theft of the car, the soldiers attacked them with pocketknives and fled.

On the night from June 20 to 21, 5 m³ of firewood was taken from Section 140 of Alsviķi Village.

On 21 June, 7 m³ of firewood was stolen from the home of Edgars Roziņš, a forester living in Jaunsgads homestead in Zeltiņi Village. On June 19, this forester had seen the car Š-6-15-22 when soldiers were trying to steal firewood in Section 95.

Augsuts Karlsons and Gustavs Siļerovs from Zeltiņi Village reported that one of them had a milk can stolen by soldiers, the other had a beehive destroyed and a frame with honey stolen.

In the same Village, citizens Anna Galviņa, Vilma Politere, and Upmaliete often had their milk cans stolen by soldiers.

On June 21, at homestead Bišulāči in Alsviķi Village, soldiers stole butter and a can of cream.

On the night from June 22 to 23, according to forester Māris Kondrāts, soldiers removed 13 m³ of state firewood from Section 140.

On July 25 at 10:30 p.m., a group of soldiers broke into the 2nd shop in Strautiņi and demanded vodka. Unable to enter the shop, they smashed the windows of the mechanic workshops of sovkhos Alsviķi. When the manager of the shop warned them from the second floor that the hooliganism had to stop, they threw a stone through the window. When the residents fired a shotgun into the air, the soldiers, swearing and acting like hooligans, walked away in the direction of Silakni homestead, warning that they would return. At one in the night, they returned and tried to break into the shop and the shop manager's flat. When they were not let in, the soldiers started whistling, acting like hooligans and swearing. Only when military vehicles began to drive on the road did they leave, acting like hooligans and tipping over clover haystacks.

In the Zeltiņi Community Centre, a group of fourteen drunken soldiers, led by Lieutenant Engineer Filatenko, disturbed public order. The commander of the troop unit, B. Krepkih, and his officers were forced to throw the rampaging soldiers into a car and take them to the unit. This behaviour of military officers spoiled the evening and the mood of the locals.

The Party District Committee considers that such behaviour by soldiers is not normal. Such facts have a bad influence on the mood of the population and form nationalistic views. This, in turn, makes the work of Party organisations in educating the workers of the District somewhat more difficult.

If such follies are not prevented in the units, various criminals, hooligans, and nationalists will use it for their own purposes to undermine the authority of the troops and poison the sentiment of the people of the District.

At the fifth plenary meeting of the District party committee on July 19 where the results of republican party activity were summed up,

the chief of the police department, comrade Muižnieks, secretary of the party primary organisation of Zeltiņi kolkhoz, comrade Harts, and the first deputy chairman of the District executive committee, comrade Linoliņš, spoke on the above facts.

The District Party Committee is doing its best to eliminate the abnormal phenomena as soon as possible. This is facilitated by the contacts of the Latvian CP DC with the unit commanders and by the understanding and assistance of the regional commander, comrade Gusakovsky.

Secretary of the Alūksne District Committee, Latvian CP Suvorovs⁶⁷

Remarks in document:

To introduce the secretaries.

Member Sokurenko. Please take the necessary measures.

Report the results to the CC Secretariat. (Signature). 11 VIII 62.

67. Appeal by the Council of People's Deputies of Cēsis to stop military aviation flights over Cēsis

Republic of Latvia
Supreme Soviet
Baltic Military District
Commander-in-Chief

No 08
Latvia SSR City of Cēsis
Council of People's Deputies
18. 07. 90

Appeal

10. 07. 90.

Cēsis, 5th session of the 20th convocation

For more than a year, the Soviet military air force has been flying directly over the town of Cēsis, day and night, at very low altitudes.

There is no doubt that the noise caused by the jet engines is very disturbing, but the greatest concern is the feeling of insecurity, and it is frightening to imagine what would happen if one of these aircraft were to crash into the city due to a malfunction.

⁶⁷ NAL, PA-101. f., 25. desc., 89. file, p 18-22 (Original. Translation)

We therefore call for immediate action to stop the Soviet military aircraft from flying over the town of Cēsis.

Chairman of the Council of People's Deputies of Cēsis I. Timermanis⁶⁸

Remarks in document:

Hon. T. Jundzis. Please find enclosed for consideration materials on the activities of the army in Latvia. A. Gorbunovs. 25.07.90.

68. Request by the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Latvia to suspend supersonic aircraft flights over cities

No 28-03/3869-k

To Lieutenant-General V. Timchenko,
Deputy Commander of the Red Banner
Baltic Military District for Air Forces

16 August 1990

Workers of the production section of the Jūrmala production association, located in Auce Village, Dobele District, appeal to the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Latvia to stop supersonic military planes from flying over their town in the evenings and at night because the sound effect of the explosion accompanying these flights has a negative effect on people, especially on the psyche of young children. The same flights with explosion effects are carried out over the town of Gulbene and over Ogre District.

The Council of Ministers of the Republic of Latvia considers that such actions of military aviation pilots over-populated areas in the evenings and at night are not justified by any means and asks you to take appropriate measures to prevent them.

You are requested to inform the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Latvia and the Commission for Environmental Protection of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Latvia of the measures taken by 25 August 1990.

Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the
Republic of Latvia

I. Bišers⁶⁹

⁶⁸ NAL, 290. f., 11. desc., 463. file, p 10 (Original)

⁶⁹ NAL, 290. f., 11. desc., 464. file, p 9 (Original. Translation)

**69. Appeal by the Ogre District Council of People's
Deputies for the cessation of the supply of troops of
the USSR Armed Forces and the withdrawal of troops
from Latvia**

Republic of Latvia
Supreme Council

Council of People's Deputies
Ogre District, Republic of Latvia

Appeal On the attitude of the Ogre District Council of People's
Deputies
towards the status of the Armed Forces of the Ministry of Defence
of the USSR in the Republic of Latvia

Currently, the troops and their leadership deployed in the territory of the Republic of Latvia continue to ignore the state status of the Republic of Latvia, its bodies of state power and administration at all levels, as well as its legislation. The attempted coup d'état in Riga on May 15 and the conflict between the army and the people in Dobeles on September 19 show that the army has become an active reactionary counterforce to the Republic of Latvia.

The troops stationed in Ogre District are also outside the influence and control of the local authorities. At the same time, the army units use the food resources of the republic and the District, household services, medical services, available housing etc.

We consider that the maintenance of an institution which is not subject to the authority of the State is unacceptable, and we propose that the Supreme Council consider the question of the cessation of all relations, including the cessation of supplies, with all troops stationed in the Republic, and immediately address the question of the withdrawal of troops from the Republic of Latvia.

Adopted at the continuation of the September 1990 session of the Ogre District Council of People's Deputies on 27 September 1990 in Ogre.⁷⁰

⁷⁰ NAL, 290. f., 11. desc., 466. file, p 5 (Original)

70. Appeal by the Supreme Council of the Republic of Latvia to the Supreme Soviet of the USSR

On 19 August 1991, the USSR mass media circulated a statement that the Vice-President of the USSR had taken over the office of President of the USSR, a State Emergency Committee had been set up, and a state of emergency had been imposed in certain areas of the country.

In the Republic of Latvia, even though the Supreme Council, the Council of Ministers and the local governments were able to control the situation in the Republic and prevent political confrontation, a state of emergency has been illegally imposed, which has already claimed human lives and caused significant damage to the economy of the people of the Republic. The Ministry of the Interior and television and telephone centres of the Republic have been seized by military force and are inoperative.

The Supreme Council of the Republic of Latvia calls on the Supreme Soviet of the USSR to put an end to the activities of the State Emergency Committee in the territory of the Republic of Latvia and to prosecute those responsible.

Chair of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Latvia A. Gorbunovs
Secretary of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Latvia I. Daudišs

Riga, 20 August 1991⁷¹

71. Appeal by the Supreme Council of the Republic of Latvia to F. Kuzmin, Commander of the Baltic Military Districts

The Supreme Council of the Republic of Latvia finds that a state of emergency has been introduced in the Republic of Latvia without any legal basis, in violation of the laws of the USSR, in the form of the seizure of the television, radio, Ministry of the Interior and intercity

⁷¹ NAL, 290. f., 14. desc., 25. file, p 53 (Original)

telephone exchange of the Republic of Latvia and the suspension of their operations. The armed formations of the USSR block roads and bridges, unacceptably disrupting the normal functioning of the Latvian economy and the food supply for the population. There are human casualties and gross violations of human rights.

In this regard, the Supreme Council of the Republic of Latvia demands the immediate cessation of all military actions in the Republic of Latvia, the release of captured sites and people, and the unblocking of roads.

The Supreme Council of the Republic of Latvia considers that the entire responsibility for the consequences of any unlawful action rests with you.

The Supreme Council of the Republic of Latvia requests that all matters relating to the activities of the Baltic Military District and any other military formation in the territory of Latvia be dealt with in contact with the leadership of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Latvia.

Chair of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Latvia A. Gorbunovs
Secretary of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Latvia I. Daudišs

Riga, 20 August 1991⁷²

72. Decision of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Latvia on the complete withdrawal of the USSR Armed Forces from Latvia

Riga, 29 August 1991

On the basis of the Declaration of 4 May 1990 On the Restoration of Independence of the Republic of Latvia and the Constitutional Law of 21 August 1991 On the State Status of the Republic of Latvia and considering that the status of an independent state is incompatible with the presence of the armed forces of another

⁷² NAL, 290. f., 14. desc., 25. file, p 54 (Original. Translation)

state on the territory of the Republic of Latvia, assessing the presence of the armed forces of the USSR on the territory of the Republic of Latvia as one of the last remnants of the consequences of the Molotov-Ribbentrop criminal pact of 23 August 1939 in Europe, the Supreme Council of the Republic of Latvia hereby decides:

1. To demand the Soviet Union to withdraw completely from the territory of the Republic of Latvia any land, naval, air, missile, and all other military units of the USSR.
2. The terms and procedure for the withdrawal of the Armed Forces of the USSR as well as property and arms matters shall be agreed upon with the Republic of Latvia.
3. To call upon the Governments of the United States of America, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the French Republic to support the demand of the Republic of Latvia for the complete withdrawal of the Armed Forces of the USSR from the territory of the Republic of Latvia.
4. To call upon the Member States of the United Nations to support the just claim of the Republic of Latvia regarding the complete withdrawal of the Armed Forces of the USSR from the territory of the Republic of Latvia.

Chair of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Latvia A. Gorbunovs
Secretary of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Latvia I. Daudišs⁷³

In accordance with the Agreement of 30 April 1994 between Latvia and the Russian Federation, the withdrawal of Russian armed forces from Latvia was completed on 31 August 1994.¹

⁷³ *Latvijas Republikas Augstākās Padomes un Valdības Ziņotājs* [Reporter of the Supreme Council and Government of the Republic of Latvia], 12 September 1991, No 35/36 (3475-3476), p 1672

AFTERWORD

Today, Russia is still spreading lies about the good Soviet times, about the heroic Soviet army that liberated the Baltic nations and the whole world from fascism. This was especially evident every year on 9 May, “Victory Day”, when many Russian-speakers celebrate this day with pomp. However, since 24 February 2022, when Russia invaded independent Ukraine without warning or reason, the true face of this army has been revealed. Thousands of war crimes, the complete destruction of infrastructure and homes of peaceful people, the brutal murder of citizens and their children, torture ... these are crimes against humanity. The secret documents of the Soviet era, which are also found in the archives, reveal the same truth.

When historian Jānis Riekstiņš, long-time specialist of the National Archives of Latvia, proposed collection of documents marked CC (совершенно секретно - strictly confidential), the Latvian Society for Occupation Research, in close cooperation with the Cabinet of Ministers Commission (commission for determining the number of victims of the totalitarian communist occupation regime of the USSR and the locations of mass graves, collection of information on repressions and mass deportations, and calculation of the losses caused to the Latvian state and its citizens), supported the publication of this collection of documents. A similar collection of documents on crimes committed by the USSR military against the population has also been published in Lithuania.

Jānis Riekstiņš' work, as always, is scientifically sound, based on documents found in the archives. The secret documents reflect the reality of Soviet life without embellishment and show the arrogant treatment of Latvia's indigenous people and the many crimes committed by the Soviet military.

We are grateful to Jānis Riekstiņš for all his hard work. May this collection of secret documents open the eyes of those who did not know the facts about the crimes committed by the USSR military. May the truth revealed in the documents make people understand and appreciate more each day what it means to live in an independent, democratic Latvia.

Ruta Pazdere - Deputy Chairperson of the Cabinet Commission,
Chairperson of the Board of the Latvian Society for Occupation
Research