

1 told you, the units, the Russians, yes, it might be
2 one --

3 (through the interpreter) It must be one
4 of those commanders who operated in the Litene area.

5 (the witness) After the Russians were out.

6 (through the interpreter) Now, I tend to
7 remember that I had two certificates of papers to
8 be submitted, which were submitted to the
9 university, and one of them was from the police and
10 one of them was from the partisans.

11 Q. Was this, was Exhibit 10 one of the papers
12 that you had to be submitted to the university?

13 A. Yeah --

14 (through the interpreter) There would be
15 no other reason. I just, I only remember that I
16 needed two.

17 Q. Did you actively take part in guerrilla
18 activity from 29 June to 5 July, 1941 in
19 terrorizing and persuading Communists?

20 A. Terrorizing? How could you terrorize
21 Communists? I would like -- well, wait a minute,
22 it's that paper, or are you just asking questions?

23 Q. Yes.

24 (through the interpreter) If I actively
25 participated in the terrorization and persecution

1 of Communists?

2 (the witness) The answer to that question,
3 that's wrong, for one reason --

4 (through the interpreter) I'd like to say
5 that it was not the Communists, but the Russians
6 who did so much bad during their occupation of
7 Latvia.

8 Out of two million Latvians, we lost 34
9 thousand.

10 (the witness) In one year.

11 (through the interpreter) During that one
12 year.

13 Q. It says in this document that you took
14 part in guerrilla activity from 29 June to 5 July,
15 1941, in terrorizing and persuading Communists.

16 Is that true or is that false?

17 A. Written by whom?

18 Q. I don't know, I can't read the signature.

19 Can you read it?

20 A. Oh, this is a translation?

21 Q. Well, read what it says there.

22 A. Here it is, but that's wrong, of course.

23 Whoever -- what's this, Captain, I don't know, you
24 could, but --

25 (through the interpreter) It's stated

1 wrongly, didn't terrorize, persecute the Communists
2 as a party, as a political party, just like in the
3 United States, it's not been done.

4 Q. What were you actually doing during that
5 time?

6 A. (through the interpreter) Now, these were
7 self-defense units and in order to protect the
8 civilians against robberies, killings and the like
9 from the Red Army troops.

10 (the witness) Right, yeah.

11 Q. Well, you fought the Communists; right?

12 A. No.

13 Q. You didn't fight any Communists?

14 A. The Red Army, that's different, Red Army,
15 yeah, because not everyone is Communist in Russia,
16 not even today. Not all Communist. Not everybody
17 is Communist, sort of like United States, not
18 everybody is Communist or Democrat or Republican,
19 right? Not, not -- the party, fighting. Those who --

20 (through the interpreter) It's the people
21 who did bad things to the Latvian people, and in '41
22 there was 34 thousand and '49, about 80 thousand.

23 To us Latvians, it didn't matter whether
24 they were Communist, monarchies or whatever.

25 (the witness) But somebody -- because

1 particularly --

2 (through the interpreter) My duty as
3 Latvian army officer was to protect Latvian woman,
4 children and old people against killing, being --
5 I guess -- murders and rapes and the like.

6 Q. And who were you protecting these people
7 from? You were protecting them from Communists or
8 from the Red Army?

9 A. (through the interpreter) From all who
10 tried to do something bad to the Latvians.

11 (the witness) Yeah.

12 (through the interpreter) You have to
13 understand that in 1941 we lost 34 thousand people, '49,
14 about 80 thousand and percentage wise, one can
15 figure what the percentages are from a population
16 of two million.

17 Q. Now, just to review what you've told us.
18 You stated that you had to submit documents to the
19 University in Riga in order to attend school there;
20 right?

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. And in order to do that, you submitted
23 Exhibits 7, 8, 9 and 10, to the University of Riga;
24 is that right?

25 A. (through the interpreter) That's right.

1 Q. I'm sorry?

2 A. That's right.

3 Q. And you stated that you had, in fact,
4 served in the self-defense?

5 A. Right.

6 Q. In Litene, after the Soviet Army left?

7 A. Right.

8 Q. But is it true, or isn't it true that you
9 served in the Latvian Security Police, which was
10 also known as the Latvian Security Section?

11 A. That's not true.

12 Q. Even though you submitted documents saying
13 that it was true?

14 A. For purpose of getting in university. I
15 needed two documents. One I got from that
16 signature we couldn't read, the other one through
17 friends, from police.

18 Q. Have you ever heard of Sala, Spils?

19 A. Oh, yeah.

20 Q. Do you know where it's located?

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. Have you ever been there?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. Were you ever stationed there?

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. When were you stationed there?

2 A. Every summer, every summer from -- because
3 that was an army camps in summertime. Our regiment,
4 my regiments.

5 Q. Was this before the war or during the war?

6 A. Before the war.

7 Q. Were you ever stationed there during the
8 war?

9 A. No.

10 Q. Did you ever go there during the war?

11 A. No, no, no.

12 Q. Do you know what was at Sala, Spils during
13 the war?

14 A. Now, now.

15 (through the interpreter) After the war,
16 we read that there had been a concentration camp.

17 Q. Did you ever serve as a guard at the
18 concentration camp there?

19 A. No.

20 Q. Did you fight on the Eastern front in 1943?

21 A. '43, no. I came over '42 and I got sick
22 all time, I haven't -- not '43, '42, came back and
23 I was all the time, ulcers. No.

24 Q. So you remember that you went to the
25 Eastern front in 1942?

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. Right?

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. But you don't recall, or you don't think
5 that you went there in '43?

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. How many times did you go to the Eastern
8 front?

9 A. It was only time.

10 Q. One time?

11 A. (through the interpreter) First I had the
12 ulcer and then --

13 (the witness) Several times I was there.

14 Q. Do you remember the years that you were
15 there? One, you told us was in 1942?

16 A. '42, but '43, I was, no -- not '43.

17 Q. Did you ever take part in the battle at
18 Lake Jasnu?

19 A. Where is that?

20 Q. Do you want to pronounce that?

21 A. (through the interpreter) Where is that?

22 Q. I'm not sure exactly where it is.

23 A. I don't know, because, you know, where we
24 were --

25 (through the interpreter) We never stayed



1 in one place, but we were always in a movement.

2 Q. You don't recall ever being around Lake
3 Jasnu?

4 A. I don't know such name.

5 Q. Did you know a person named Teodors
6 Detlavs?

7 A. Detlavs, last name would be Detlavs, I
8 know Detlavs we had in --

9 (through the interpreter) Detlavs was in
10 a Latvian war academy, an officer.

11 Q. Do you remember his first name?

12 A. That's too many years.

13 Q. Was it Karlis?

14 A. Detlavs, that was his first name, first
15 name was Detlavs.

16 Q. I'm sorry.

17 A. First name was Detlavs --

18 Q. Oh, his first name was Detlavs.

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. You don't know anyone with the last name
21 Detlavs?

22 A. No.

23 Q. Did you know anyone by the name Hvastakovs?

24 Do you want to pronounce that?

25 A. It's a Russian name.

1 Q. Nikolai Hvastakovs?

2 A. No.

3 Q. Alexander Hvastakovs?

4 A. No. Who are those people? May I ask, who
5 are those people? That means they know me?

6 Q. Some of them may know you, yes.

7 Did you know a person named Boleslavs
8 Bogdanovs?

9 A. Russian, Latvian? Russian, of course I
10 don't know. No, I don't know.

11 Q. You never knew anyone named Boleslavs
12 Bogdanovs?

13 A. No.

14 Q. Did you know a person named Upenieks?

15 A. No.

16 (through the interpreter) There was an
17 Upelnieks who was shot by the Germans who was a
18 member of the Kurelite Group.

19 Q. But you don't know anyone named Upenieks?

20 A. No.

21 Q. Did you know any Corporal Blanks?

22 A. Huh-uh. Blanks, we had -- I thought we
23 had a reporter, a well known reporter, well known
24 Latvian.

25 (through the interpreter) Journalist, a

1 Journalist name.

2 (the witness) Ernest, Ernest first name?

3 Q. Ernest, okay.

4 A. Is it the name?

5 Q. I don't know.

6 A. Just last name?

7 A well known reporter, you know.

8 Q. Did he serve in the police during the war?

9 A. Who, me? Or --

10 Q. Him.

11 A. No, that's all I know. Well known in

12 Latvia as a journalist,.

13 Q. Do you know what he did during the war?

14 A. No, I didn't know at all.

15 Q. Do you know a person named Nikolajs

16 Ozolins?

17 A. You know Ozolins, that's like Smith in

18 United States.

19 Q. Oh, is it?

20 A. Exactly.

21 Q. How about a Nikolajs Ozolins?

22 A. Nikolajs, too much.

23 Q. That's also a common name?

24 A. You have to know -- yeah, you know it's

25 Russian first name like Alex and Nikolajs. Ozolins

1 is more like Smith.

2 Q. Some of these people, I think, served in
3 the Araj's command, so it's possible maybe one of
4 these persons was a friend of yours who could have
5 gotten some kind of documents, and, you know, if
6 any name rings a bell, I'd like you to tell me.

7 A. Of course, I understand.

8 Q. Radions Zasters.

9 A. (through the interpreter) As an army
10 officer, I remember the names of officers, but
11 sergeants and others?

12 (the witness) Of course civilists, and
13 other friends I have, but if you're talking, I
14 assume --

15 (through the interpreter) I assume that
16 you're talking about the war time?

17 Q. Well, if you remember them from before the
18 war --

19 A. Oh, yeah, but --

20 Q. -- also tell me.

21 A. Because before war, I was officer too, so --

22 (through the interpreter) Well, every
23 year new recruits were called up, and they changed
24 every year.

25 (the witness) So, names, unless there is

1 some very good angel or devil you know, that maybe
2 some name that you somehow remember. But just the
3 normal people, you are talking more than 40 years.
4 If I would knew --

5 (through the interpreter) If I knew that
6 I had to sit here today, I would have thought about
7 it, but now it's like something from the clear blue
8 sky.

9 Q. Janis Jiezins?

10 A. No.

11 Q. Lieutenant Dzelz Kalejs.

12 A. (through the interpreter) I know a Dzelz
13 Kalns.

14 Q. Voldemars Gravitis?

15 A. Don't think so. They're all some kind of
16 culprits, or what, are you looking after or what is
17 it?

18 Q. Possibly.

19 You don't known a person named Voldemars
20 Gravitis?

21 A. No.

22 Q. Arturs Abols?

23 A. Is it a Captain? I know a Captain.

24 Q. He may be.

25 A. But, I don't remember his first name. You

1 don't have no more, just names, you have, not birth
2 dates or nothing? He was, before war he was in our
3 type brigade, type brigade, yeah.

4 Q. You remember someone named Abols, or was
5 it Arturs Abols?

6 A. But not first name.

7 Q. You don't know the first name?

8 A. No. He was Captain.

9 Q. Do you know, during the war whether he
10 served in the security camps?

11 A. After war, I met him in Germany.

12 Q. Security Police? He was in Germany after
13 the war?

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. Do you know whether he served in the
16 Security Police during the war?

17 I'm sorry?

18 A. How would I know? You know, I don't know.

19 Q. Alberts Kalnins?

20 A. Oh, yeah, that I know.

21 Q. You know him?

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. How do you know him?

24 A. Before war we sailed in the same regiment.
25 Now he live in United States and I went to his home.



1 Q. Oh, he lives in the United States?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Where does he live, do you know?

4 A. Where?

5 Q. Yes.

6 A. Same place where I live.

7 Q. He lives in this area here?

8 A. No, now, he's passed away.

9 Q. Oh, he died?

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. When did he die?

12 A. '42 -- '82.

13 Q. 1982?

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. Do you know what he did during the war?

16 A. He studied medicine, because soon after
17 war he was already doctor.

18 Q. He studied medicine during the war?

19 A. Yeah. Before, yeah, we served in the army,
20 the same regiment, and after war soon he was doctor.

21 Q. Do you know a person named Laukers?

22 A. That name comes to me. That was what the
23 Latvian news, after war he was --

24 (through the interpreter) Well, after the
25 war, there was a Colonel Kripens, who had to be

1 turned over to the Russians, and then also, I
2 believe Laukers was turned over, yeah, was actually
3 turned over to the Russians.

4 (the witness) Yeah, that's it.

5 (through the interpreter) But, he injured
6 himself. The chief, after the war, it was a big
7 thing, the Colonel Kripens, he stabbed himself with
8 a knife near the heart, and thus, he wasn't turned
9 over to the Russians.

10 Q. He wasn't turned over?

11 A. He wasn't, no. Colonel Kripens.

12 Q. Do you know why Laukers was turned over to
13 the Russians?

14 A. No.

15 Q. Was he in the Arajs command?

16 A. No idea, no idea.

17 Q. Did you know a person named Harijs Liepins?

18 A. Liepins, again is pretty common, common
19 name.

20 (through the interpreter) Common name.

21 (the witness) No idea.

22 Q. Now, you told us earlier about the time in
23 1942 when General Stahlecker was killed?

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. At that time, do you remember where it was

1 that General Stahlecker was killed?

2 A. Yeah, it was near, it was --

3 (through the interpreter) Well, it was at
4 that time when the German Army had quite a few
5 casualties suffered because of a big snow.

6 (the witness) Terrible cold, terrible
7 cold. Forty degrees Celsius.

8 (through the interpreter) Well, that's
9 why, because Germans had suffered many casualties,
10 and that's why they filled in some of those
11 portions of the front lines with other troops,
12 namely, they were looking for Latvian skier troops
13 and that's why my unit was sent to the front line.

14 (the witness) Yeah, the place was many
15 villages. That was big place.

16 Q. Excuse me, go ahead.

17 A. Big place, it was north from Veliki Luki
18 area, north from Veliki Luki, north from those
19 cities, what I remember is north.

20 (through the interpreter) This was north
21 of those cities.

22 Q. Was that in Russia or in Latvia?

23 A. Russia, front line, it was front line
24 because by --

25 (through the interpreter) Yeah, that time



Sclafani Williams Court Reporters, Inc.

Registered Professional Reporters - Certified Videotape Specialists

Post Office Box 215
Lakeland, Florida 33802
Lakeland Phone: (813) 688-5000

201 E. Kennedy Blvd., Suite 921
Tampa, Florida 33602
Tampa Phone: (813) 223-7321

1 there weren't partisans there, and only later was
2 discovered, Germans discovered what partisans were
3 like and what bad people they were.

4 (the witness) Germans, yeah.

5 (through the interpreter) What bad people
6 the Germans were.

7 (the witness) What I wanted to point out,
8 by that time there was no partisans, because the
9 Russian hated the Communist system as well, what
10 else?

11 But slowly, they learned what the Germans
12 have in mind for them, and that's how that partisan
13 fighting started, but that was quite a bit later, '43
14 years.

15 Q. All right. Now, you were a company
16 commander; right?

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. And do you recall the village of Nasva?

19 A. Too many years, you know, I don't know.

20 Q. Do you recall the village of Nazimova?

21 A. (Witness shakes head). Novo Sokolniki,
22 Veliki Luki, they were the closest towns to the
23 south where I was, area where I was fighting.

24 To the north, I remember near that was Dno,
25 D-n-o, I think that's how it's spelled. D-n-o.

1 That was really a ski trip.

2 Q. Do you recall an incident where some
3 partisans had shot a German SS Squad?

4 A. There is many such. You mean shot --
5 Many times, many times.

6 Q. And do you recall incidents where as a
7 result of that type of thing a whole village was
8 destroyed?

9 A. I don't remember that time.

10 (through the interpreter) That time the
11 partisans weren't there yet. The burning down
12 started later.

13 (the witness) I'm not so sure.

14 (through the interpreter) But the
15 villages, all the roofs were thatched roofs, and
16 you fire in these buildings with ammunition.
17 That's the place of the fire and it burns down.

18 (the witness) Not only villages, but the
19 big cities, Novo Sololniki and Veliki Luki, they
20 were practically burned down.

21 Q. What were some of the names of cities that
22 were burned down?

23 A. Novo Sokolniki and Veliki Luki.

24 Q. Were those cities or villages?

25 A. Those were cities. They were practically --

1 (through the interpreter) Levelled.

2 (the witness) Yeah, leveled.

3 Q. Do you recall who did that?

4 A. Just --

5 (through the interpreter) During the
6 combat, as a result of combat. Either the Russians
7 or Germans, during the combat.

8 It's just like when the Russians retreated
9 in Riga, they burned down parts of the old city,
10 including church, just like in Viet Nam.

11 (the witness) More villages.

12 Q. Did your company take part in these
13 battles and actions?

14 A. Oh, yeah, of course that's what for we
15 were. But, if I may ask, if you're trying to point
16 out if they're just a --

17 (through the interpreter) If you're
18 trying to point out that this was done just for the
19 purpose of burning down a place, no, then it's
20 incorrect. During combat, yes.

21 Q. What happened when General Stahlecker was
22 killed?

23 A. Well, I don't know what for, okay, we
24 arranged transport, there were some --

25 (through the interpreter) He was there



1 with his staff and some other officers. Right away
2 he was taken, transported back to the base and then
3 continued with the company and clean out the
4 village.

5 Q. Do you recall the name of the village that
6 was cleaned out?

7 A. (Witness shakes head)

8 Q. And were the villagers shot in reprisal
9 for what had happened to General Stahlecker?

10 A. That was never done by Latvian troops.

11 Q. Well, was it done?

12 A. What?

13 Q. Was it done? By anybody? Was it done by
14 the Germans?

15 A. Was that particular case, you're talking,
16 or generally?

17 Q. That particular case.

18 A. No.

19 Q. An SS General was shot, and there was no
20 reprisal action taken?

21 A. Reprisal --

22 (through the interpreter) There were many --
23 the Russians said they were many people that had
24 fallen, that were killed in the war action.

25 The Red Army units that were there,