

STEPAN BANDERA

Stepan BANDERA was born 1 January 1909 in Trostianec, near Stryj, Austro-Hungary, the son of a Greek Catholic Priest. He was still in high school in Stryj when he became a member of the UVO, a veterans' organization of Ukrainian nationalists from World War I days. He graduated from high school in 1928 and went on to the Polytechnic in Lvov where he studied agriculture.

BANDERA's parents were killed by the NKVD and his two brothers were murdered in Auschwitz in 1943.

In 1933 BANDERA became a member of the homeland executive committee of the OUN (Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists). He was arrested in June 1934 by the Polish police and condemned to death with two other Ukrainians for alleged complicity in the assassination of the Polish Minister of Interior, B. PIERACKY, in Warsaw. His sentence later was commuted to life imprisonment. He remained in jail until 1939 when he escaped and resumed the OUN leadership. BANDERA became chief of the greater part of the organization in the summer of 1940 when the OUN split, and on 30 June 1941, under his direction, the OUN proclaimed the restoration of an independent Ukrainian government. BANDERA was soon taken to Berlin by the Germans and imprisoned in Sachsenhausen concentration camp. He later escaped from the Germans and disappeared.

BANDERA lived in Western Germany since 1945 as head of the foreign unit of the OUN, (Zoh/OUN/B) the largest Ukrainian emigre group. He was found dead on the stairs of his Munich residence on 15 October 1959, a victim of foul play.

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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2004 2006