

DRAFT:

ANDY was born 31 August 1913 in Tukums (aprinka), Latvia. Father's father wealthy land-owner in Kurzeme; had two sons, JANIS and \_\_\_\_\_, born 1866 in Kurzeme; studied at Riga Polytechnic to become a highway engineer. Employed on state railroad Riga and Tukums. Good financial condition. Met wife in Riga, the divorcee of Janis Gulbes. Born 1868 in Aluksne, Latvia; one of a family of about ten. Maiden name, ISAKS. She completed high school in Riga and established stocking factory in Riga. Married about 1911. First child born about 1912, a girl who died at birth. Mother had son by previous marriage, ALEKSANDERS GULBES, born about 1896 who studied at Moscow, Helsinki, Stockholm, completing the University at each. Was fluent in eight languages. Was a captain of infantry in the Czar's army. Was the last commandant at Pleskov; captured and killed by revolutionaries after World War I.

At time of marriage, ANDY's mother liquidated her factory in Riga, father left railroad work and went to the country in the vicinity of Tukums, where they bought a large home from the former owner (add.).

ANDY was born in this home. The farm consisted of about 400 acres and had numerous residents and field hands (add). Until the time of ANDY's father's death, it was a well-paying enterprise, devoted to general farming and also including a gypsum quarry. The family was considered as one of the most well-to-do in that area.

Mother was chairwoman of the Ladies' Auxiliary of the local church after World War I for a period of about seven years.

During World War I, father and his brother were officers in the Russian (Czarist) Transport Corps, serving in the Riga-Tukum area. Both were wounded. After World War I, when both the German and Russian armies were driven out of Latvia, the Russians attempted to effect the annexation of the New Latvian republic through means of organized bands of Russian partisans which operated quite actively in the forests of Latvia, causing ~~the~~ disorders, ~~robbery~~ robbery and murder. In order to combat this threat to the Government, the Latvians

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countered by organizing so-called "AIZSARG" units as a means of self-protection. ANDY's father headed one such unit which operated in the forests of Kurzeme, engaging in numerous battles over a period of several years; was wounded twice, and finally had his health ruined. Inasmuch as ANDY's father was the leader of these "AIZSARG" for his particular area, the house was used as a headquarters and ANDY grew up amid military-like atmosphere. His father was engaged in this activity in the years following World War I until about 1920, when the country was finally secured. His father returned to a peaceful land-owner's existence with a crippled leg and ruined health and in 1925 ~~his~~ died from pneumonia.

II. *Father was member of the board of the local bank, Red Cross, a Church leader.*

Father's Politics:

Was a member of the "ZEMNIEK SAVIENIBA", an organization of a somewhat right-wing orientation, founded by ULLMAN immediately after World War I and considered one of the largest political parties of that time. Was not, however, especially active politically. During German occupation World War I, was appointed as "PAGASTA VECAIKAIS" (village elder), roughly corresponding to a Country Manager. Following the German occupation, was elected for several terms and served as VECAIKAIS 3-4 years. He then retired from all active political life due to a variety of reasons--~~his~~ his desire to rebuild his farm properties, ailing health, and probably a feeling--real or imaginary--that the people resented him for his collaboration with the Germans. He was a firm anti-communist, tending to be somewhat oriented toward the Balt-Deutsch circles. However, in the initial growing pains of the Latvian republic, he supported the Ulman faction rather than the Balt-Deutsch Niedre (group). During this period political discussions in the home were frequent as was commonly the case in all homes at this time. After relinquishing his VECAIKAIS position, he became completely inactive politically and displayed no further interest. His mother was quite active socially, but took no firm stand on any political question and appeared to be completely disinterested.

Mother:

After father's death in 1925, the farm was liquidated and divided into various

portions which were rented out to managers. Comparatively excellent financial circumstances. She continued residing in the house and directed all her activities toward social welfare work. Was ~~was~~ active in the Red Cross and the Lutheran Church (very). She remained at this farm through the first Russian occupation, and although all land and homes were nationalized, she was not harmed or forced to leave her home. Remained at same place during German occupation without harm and also during second Russian occupation. As far as is known by ANDY, she was still living and occupying the same home in 1948.

ANDY's Personal Politics:

Has never belonged to any political party or organization. Was 20 years old in 1934 when Ulman established his power by coup ~~in~~ d'état and outlawed all political parties. Has never taken any active part in politics. Considers Ulman's dictatorship proper and appropriate for those times. (The government was ineffective and severely weakened by political strife among approximately 100 different political parties.). Admires the democratic form of government providing the political parties are limited to the extent where an ~~effective~~ effective government is possible. Considers present-day France and Italy as horrible example of political disorganization. Is extremely anti-communist and tends to lean somewhat toward fascism. Sympathizes somewhat with the PERKONKAUSTS (Swastika League) in pre-war Latvia but only in the sense that he admires their anti-communist activity. Considers their role and aims as a political force as ridiculous.

Organizations:

Belonged to the Latvian Boy Scouts from ages 10 to 16. Belonged to the local (Tukums) Soccer League ages 14 to 19 and took an active part in intra-mural competition as well as social activities under the sponsorship of the league. In Riga at age 15 joined the LATVIGAS VOLSTS KARAGA APVIENIBA (LVKA) ~~m~~, ~~active~~ sports organization active in all ~~forms~~ of athletic ~~competition~~ competition. ANDY competed in ~~track events~~ track events, boxing, soccer, basketball and chess until the age of 17. From age 17 to 24 belonged to the Latvian Army Sport Club (ASK) in

connection with his army service. At age 24-27 belonged to the Police Sport Club (PSK) and competed in track events and target matches from 1937-1940 up to the time of the first Russian occupation. During German occupation in 1941 was member of the VEF factories Sport Club for one year.

In approximately 1935 joined the student fraternity "LIVONICA". This is an apolitical fraternal organization where membership is considered to last for life.

Was a member of the Swedish YMCA for one year in 1948. Is presently a member of YMCA in the U S. joining in 1953.

ANDY's earliest recollections go back to his life in the country at about the age of 4 during 1917 when the front between Czarist Russia and Germany extended in the near vicinity. ANDY's home was being utilized as quarters for Russian officers his mother cooking and feeding. An amiable relationship was maintained and ANDY recalls with pleasure his good treatment at their hands. He learned fluent Russian at this time through the close association that prevailed. His father was an officer in Russian Transport Corps and the family was in excellent circumstances until finally the Germans advanced their front and overran the area. The family was not harmed but most of their food and livestock were requisitioned by the Germans whom ANDY remembers unpleasantly as thieves and robbers. During this advance the family was forced to take refuge in Riga ~~to~~ *Surmala* where they remained about 6 months until the advancing front passed them again and they were then able to return to their former home. ANDY's father had managed to conceal his role as a semi-army officer under the Russians, and being ~~xxxxxx~~ somewhat oriented toward the Germans was able to exist peacefully. Returning to the farm the family found the Germans had used the house to stable their horses. This event still rankles in ANDY's memory. During this period, ANDY's father occupied the position of "VECAKAIS" under German sponsorship and the family led a comparatively uneventful and quiet life. ANDY made himself generally useful around the farm-shepherding flocks of geese and ~~xxxx~~ ducks about. ANDY had a normal and happy childhood, the most unpleasant aspect which he can recall being that beginning at age 5 until he was 9 his education was begun at home, his parents and a tutor

instructing him in all the rudiments of a primary education. Starting at about age 9, ANDY was taken out on hunting expeditions in the area and "broken in" to hunting and handling guns by his father who normally preferred to hunt out of season or illegally. ANDY followed in his father's footsteps and did considerable hunting on his own, as a rule illegally, in order to increase the "sport" and as a result at age 10 was almost apprehended by a game-warden who fired twice after ANDY in an effort to halt him.

At age 9, ANDY was enrolled in the regular primary school entering the third grade on the basis of his home education although he was 2 years under the ~~normal~~ accustomed age for this grade.

The school was situated about 3 km. from home and ANDY was able to return home each day. The school director and also chair master was PETERIS KALNINS, a bachelor who lived in the "pagast" (county) seat building. The history teacher was JURIS BIRZNIEKS, a bachelor. Natural Science and Geography were taught by KARLIS VEINBERGS, married, father of one son who completed Riga University in Natural Science. VEINBERGS was an accomplished photographer and although married engaged in a notorious affair with a local farmer's wife. In the primary grades there was a female schoolteacher, Mrs ANDERSON, who married Mrs TINTE--at that time a court stenographer--the both of them leaving the area about 1926. They moved to Riga where TINTE rose to the position of the director of the Rigas "Audum" (textile) factory, also director of the company's factory in Kaunas. During the first Russian occupation, the owner of this factory, KARLIS HIRSCH, fled to the U.S. and TINTE took over the operation of this factory. He was recognized as such by the Russians and during the Germany occupation also retained this position. He was deported to Russia in 1946.

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Attended this school at 3, 4, 5/ grades. During attendance in fifth grade, ANDY's father died and his mother was forced with the problem of maintaining the large farm with only an 11-year old as head of the household. The argument was raised by their acquaintances that ANDY should quit school and run the farm with all the neighbors helping, but his mother finally decided that it would be best for him to finish high school at least, and, if possible, also college. All the equipment and livestock were thus sold and the farm rented out in portions, the family only retaining their individual living quarters and a horse and carriage. Through the rentals received from the ~~xxxxxxx~~ farm, ANDY's mother was able to continue existing quite comfortably.

ANDY completed his primary education at this school at the age of 12½ in and May 1926. He spent the summer at home on the farm/among other things wrote up items of folklore--some 20 in number--which were sent to Prof. BERZINS at the Teachers' Institute in Riga, who was compiling a collection and had advertised for contributions in order to preserve such items from extinction.

In the fall, he went to Riga to attend the Riga City High School. While enrolled, he lived with his father's brother, JANIS, a bachelor who was chief of the State Telegraph agency and lived common-law with one of his co-workers in Pardaugava. She had a son by a previous marriage, KARLIS, about 9 years old at the time. He spent the next five years in school studying the usual array of general subjects and living with his uncle during the school semesters. The summers were spent on the farm with his mother where his entire time was occupied with repairing the buildings, fixing fences and renovating, in general. The following were teachers: Inspector fnu SPERE (now in Australia) who taught higher mathematics; teacher of languages, KURMIS (now in Sweden); mathematics, fnu LERCHS (died in Germany); art teachers, fnu MIESINIEKS (died in Latvia) and fnu PETERSONS; physical and military instruction by fnu BERNSONS; German language, Dr. ECHE (deceased); natural science, Mrs. RITINS; natural science and history, Miss BLUMENTHAL; physics, fnu BUMBIERIS; chemistry, fnu ABALTINS and fnu RACENS;

classical literature and Latvian grammar, from RAMANS. Foreign classic literature, Augusts GIEZENS. Former classmates, Longins VICS--very close friend; sister GITA; son of the director of the Riga board of education--mother and father deported in 1941. GITA died in Germany; LONGINS finished war college (LT) and eventually emigrated to the U.S.

Zigurds KAKTINS, son of the opera singer, Adolf KAKTIN, the latter now in the U.S. and still active in music. Completed primary and interim education and law school, later served as court secretary, now emigrated to the U.S. (Boston) and married. Nikolajs NONACIS, son of some prominent government official. After World War II was an UNRRA official in Germany; now in U.S.

Leonids BAHARAVS, son of a government official. Repatriated to Germany in 1939; no further knowledge. Janis VEVERS, who eventually studied agriculture, and completed it, had a very large farm in Zemgale; no further knowledge.

The school was considered to be the elite of the city and was attended by most all prominent persons' children, such as the sons of CAKSTE, KVIESIS, etc. The tuition rates were as high as 100 lats per semester. ANDY was a so-called "prefect" during his school years. This was a type of school monitor who was held responsible for and enforced all discipline in his class. ANDY was very active in sports during his school years, competing in basketball, volleyball, soccer and all track events. During his second year, he joined the "Latvian Valts Karag Sports", one of the most active athletic leagues in the city.

While in the third year class, ANDY participated in a demonstration which resulted in widespread publicity. He organized the entire student body of his high school as well as two other schools, and ~~led~~ with a force of about 1000 youths, led them on an attack on a notoriously left-wing highschool which had reached the height of provocation that day by displaying placards on its building front deriding various national and patriotic figures. The demonstration which was well covered by news photographers eventually turned into a riot and resulted in much school property being damaged and a company of mounted police was required to restore order. This incident had widespread and long-lasting reverberations and led to

investigation commission which held hearings about a year in order to fix responsibility. The only concrete results, however, were that several notoriously red teachers and students of the victimized school were expelled and the public in general was aroused to the awareness of the communist threat.