

DATE?

After graduation in May 1930 (age 17) spent the usual summer at home.

Was much more active in sports than formerly and at the same time attempted to prepare for his entrance exam to the Latvian University Agricultural faculty. The requirements were such that on the average one out of every three and a half candidates was admitted. ANDY was not able to attain a sufficiently high grade to be among the ones accepted. Having no definite plans for the future in mind, ANDY remained in Riga for a few days and among other things met his former acquaintance First Lt. Valdemar BAUMANS, who was coaching the Latvian Army basketball team, On his instigation, ANDY decided to enlist in the Army and since he had just turned 17 was able to enter service. He was assigned to the 6th Riga Infantry Regiment, machine gun company and after 6 weeks was assigned to an instructors training unit. Regimental commander was Col. KLINSONS, Battalion Commanders were at various times Lt. Col. ABELES, Lt. Col. CEPLITIS; company commander was Eapt TARTO. Second in command was 1st. Lt. BISKAPS. The training lasted 3 months.

The instructor school was commanded by Capt. BERZINS. ANDY's company was directed by 1st Lt. FREIBERGS and W. O. DORAFYEVS, a communist party member. W. O. PUCHKO was another instructor. First sargeant was BERZINS, 1st Lt. of the company was SPANDAKS; the third co. was 1st Lt. ZAMUELS the fourth co. 1st. Lt. KK KUZE. ANDY was trained as a machine gunner and graduated training school as a ~~ser~~ corporal. He returned to his Co. under Capt. TARTO, and almost immediately was sent to reserve officers training school at the Riga War College. The director was Col. KRIPANS, under him Col. BALODIS, Capt. EE E BOGOSLOVSKIS, Capt. ZABATSKIS. The training was very stringent and lasted 7 months. ANDY graduated with high honors and the rank of sargeant in late August. He then took the entrance exams to the Riga University and passed; although he was required to complete his one year service in the Army, he began attending the University as well as fulfilling his obligation with the Army, being released 17 September 1932.

He then studied agronomy and lived with his uncle JANIS as previously until

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late April 1934, when his money gave out in connection with the depression in Latvia, and he was forced to leave school. The dean was Fritzis ADAMOVICH, assistant dean Julijs AUSKAPS, head of agriculture faculty Prof. fmu VARBERGS, chemistry instructors, Alexanders LIEPINS, Bruno JIRGENSONS (now in University of Texas), Arnolds J. (South Africa), Oscars J., Dr. A. TAURINS, chemistry; physicist ~~physicist~~ Fredericks GULBES (after capitulation Baltic University director at Pinneburg); his assistant fmu SIKSNA. Minerologist Prof. Boris POPOVS. School mates were Agrinam VEVERS, KREICBERGS, Augusts KALNINS, Voldemar PUTNINS; foresters fmu SMITS, VILKS, Sipolis, ~~KREIK~~ KRUMINS, AND Miss ZEMITE, the daughter of BALDERAJAS Police chief Alberts KRAMSTEINS, and fmu KRONBERGS, agronom fmu VARNA, agrinom Karlis STAKS. Forestry Valdemars DIDRIKSONS (now in Chicago).

Due to the depression in Latvia at the time at the end of the semester, there was not enough funds available to continue the studies and there was no work readily available. ANDY met 1st Lt. Voldemar BAUMANIS at this time who urged him again to join the army ~~where~~ where he would be able to earn 100 Lats a month, a comparatively good amount for those times. There ~~was~~ were only 2 vacancies in the army at this time and ANDY while still attending college applied for admission and was admitted. Before he was able to complete his college semester he was suddenly ordered to duty and entered active service as a W.O. The officers of the regiment had not changed except ~~from~~ for Capt. TARFO who had been replaced by Capt. Janis PURINS, who studied medicine at the same time at Riga University and during German occupation was a Lt. Col. in charge of all medical officers in the Latvian Legion.

On 14 May 1934, the company was instructed to prepare for night ~~at~~ maneuvers in the woods, using live ammunition. That night when all preparations were ready the true orders ~~was~~ were revealed which were to march to Riga to support ULMANIS' coup d'etat. In connection with this, ANDY and W.O. PARUPS were given special assignments under Capt. OSINS which consisted of surrounding and immobilizing the Latvian Parliament "SAEME". The entire action was carried out successfully, without

a shot being fired and JLMANIS already president, was able to imprison or otherwise suppress all his opposition. The first summer in service was spent in guarding the parliament and other government ~~buildings~~ buildings. The following winter, while still in service, ANDY attended the university during all his free time. He attended between the winters of 1935 and 1936. During this period, he joined the corporation "LIVONICA". ANDY attended college during the evening being able to fill only 3-4 hours each night. He studied until the fall of 1936, all the while remaining in service. He learned then that it was not permissible to attend school while in the service without authorization from the highest level and inasmuch as the new semester was already started, it would be impossible to secure such authorization in time to be of any use. He found also that the strain of study and army duties were too much of a load and therefore left school Christmas ~~1935~~ 1936.

In all, he had 3 years of army service during this tour leaving May 1937. During this tour he was engaged in training recruits, two batches for 3½ months each, in the intervals between training programs he for the most part attended service schools. Completing a 4-month course in sniping and front-line patrol work. ~~AND~~ A 6-weeks' course of chemical warfare. A 4-month course in communications which took up all forms of army commo except W/T. A 4-month course in sappers school (demolition and explosives). A 6-week course of physical training, which qualified him as an instructor in the new Nils. Buk system of physical culture.

Instructors in ANDY's unit were Corp. Antans RIBAKS, Sgt. fmu SKULTE, Instructor BOLISLAVS PATALAVSKYS, first sgt. infantry weapons co., fmu ANSONS, 1st sgt. KRESLINS, 1st Lt. KVALBERGS battery commander first Lt. Eriks SPARUPS. First sgt. SOULITIS, Capt. AVOEINS, ~~1st~~ 1st Lt. fmu PAULS. Capt. of Commo co. LINDINS, 1st Lt. ZAGERS assist. Sgt. STRAUTINS.

ANDY was stationed during his service at Aiviekstes iela between Moskavas and Savarina iela. On Moskavas iela at Jana Varti (a small square)--about 1 block distance from ANDY, there was the Vidzemes Division Communications training group which trained all commo personnel and W/T men for the Latvian Army. The instructors

and officers of this division having no club of their own were in the habit of visiting ANDY's company's club and thereby ANDY became well-acquainted with almost all the personnel. Among some of these personnel were Capt. Otto KARKLINS, Sgt. ZIVERTS, 1st Lt. Oscars ZALITIS.

Having reached the highest ~~rank~~ rank possible (W.O.) he could attain without the War College education required (3 years), he decided to leave the Army to find work with a better future. There was work available in his field--in agriculture and forestry conservation. However, it was comparatively low paid. ANDY's uncle also died at this time. Having heard there were good opportunities in the city police department and comparatively good salaries, ANDY applied and entered service at the lowest rank in May 1937. ~~He~~ He worked 24 hours on, 24 off. He spent all his ^{spare} free time for the next few months in firing

for info

Capt. LUMANIS was also assigned to ANDY's company and was ~~secretly~~ secretly the officer responsible for the ~~the~~ political reliability of the men. ANDY later met him at the police training school where he was in charge of instructing in military matters, and at the same time was assigned to the General Staff in the intelligence section.

practice during the day and engaging in sports during the evening. At the city-wide Riga Police Dept's annual firing competition, the end of June, he finished first in the pistol match setting a new record and also finished first in two other courses of competition with pistol and rifle. Besides receiving the gold cup, he received several other prizes which were considered quite valuable for those times and as a result began his career as a policeman who was already widely known and well thought of throughout the department. Andy enjoyed police work greatly and even went out to help other officers on various assignments during his free time. He was well thought of by his superiors and was sent for training to the Police Academy after serving only 4 months instead of the required 12. He was trained here in all related police techniques and finished as the first in his class after 3 months. His instructors:- the school director Inspector KISELIS; lecturer ILZINS, Judges Berzins, Puscepur, Lumanis, Stiglites (head of the Political Police), Inspector Biedrins.

He returned to the routine police duties and in the spring of 1938 was assigned to controlling the registered prostitutes in Riga. As such he was comparable to a head of a vice squad and was responsible for enforcing the registration of prostitutes as well as identifying suspected prostitutes and having them declared so by the city commission. He continued this work until the fall of 1938 when the Police Officers Academy began accepting candidates (this occurred once every 3 years) and Andy was sent to this training which lasted 6 months. The instructors were the same as the Police Academy with the addition of Biehins, Dr. Kocers, Dr. Cakurs; Narcotics, Ozalins; alcohol test board, Salnais, and many specialists who lectured on various criminal and civil laws and regulations, sanitation commission and all other government departments.

Leonid Bezzins finished first of his class. Andy and Immenberg were tied for second place, classmates were Karlsons, Petersons, Kazaks, and Agruns. The class graduated in the spring of 1939. Andy intended that now that he had completed all the police traing available, he dedided to complete his college having had 3 1/2 years total education. In order to continue any further education, the regulations required that he have a certain amount of practical experience in his field (agriculture) before he could become eligible to receive further courses. Having accumulated sufficient annual leave to take employment in his specialty, he decided to spend the summer working elsewhere.

These plans were interrupted however, when Andy was suddenly informed that his prefect had promoted him to seargent and there was an opening for him at the 12th precinct. Due to the large difference in pay, Andy decided he couldn't pass up this opportunity and rejected completing his college studies in favor of his police career. (The normal tour of duty before being considered for promotion was ordinarily from 5 to 6 years). He reported for duty at his precent and was assigned to a section with no Lt. available and thereby became acting Lt. The section under his responsibility was the Ciekurkalnarajons and for a time also the Mezaparksrajon.

This was the time (summer 1939) when the Russians occupied military bases at Ventspils and Liepaja, and Hitler started repatriating to Germany, all Latvians with any German background in their ancestry. During this fall the college was moved from Riga to Jelgava and became an Academy.

In the winter a Lt. Liepkalns was assigned to Andy's section, however, Andy considered him overly unintelligent and since he was also in the habit of accepting brābes, Andy exposed this and the Lt. was discharged from the service. (After 30 years experience)

In May 1940 Andy was summoned to the Chief of Police Kiselis, Director Ansmits office and offered the position of Lt. in Latzale which Andy declined citing his lack of knowledge of Russian. He was then offered the same position in Ance or Krustpils. He chose Ance since this was near his college and also was the first place where he could gain his practical work experience in order to complete his education. The director then promised to put the promotion through the channels which would take about 2 weeks. Before the time arrived, however, on 17 June 1940 all available policemen were hurriedly summoned to the main Prefecture at Riga where they found the Russians had begun to occupy the country and tanks were already rolling through the streets. The population as a whole were indoors with only reds and sympathizers rioting and demonstrating through the streets. Though greatly outnumbered the police finally restored order and cleared the streets suffering several casualties as well as inflicting several. It was on this day that Andy first deliberately and consciously killed (he had previously killed one in connection with his police service) accounting for about 10 or better during the day.

After order was restored, the following days were spent in investigations by a special commission in order to identify the participants. Through good fortune Andy was not identified and continued as a policeman at the 12th precinct. The uniforms were abolished and only arm-bands were permitted. It was at this time that Bruno Kalmins arrived from Sweden and assumed the position of "Poliltruk" or head of political police of the Latvian Army, thereby, also assuming a certain responsibility for the political "reliability" of the police. Kalmins first assignment was to clean out the army from "fascist" elements and those nationals who couldn't be educated to be politically acceptable. Thus, the majority of the army leaders and officers were liquidated on Kalmins recommendation. At this time a civil militia or "police assistant" was

initiated, consisting for the most part of communist sympathizers and criminal elements. Kalmins' recommendation or the C P's was required to be an official of this militia. Events were tense and unsettled but Andy was able to retain his position until the fall of 1940 when he was replaced by a Russian, Kožemats (C.P. member) and ordered to turn in his gun and credentials. Kazemats assistant was Jaundze^mis, a member of B. Kalmins SSS party and was personally recommended by him for this post. (Spalans, Jāhdzems and the Grundes brothers were so active in liquidating nationalist and anti-communist elements of the Latvian population during this period that they were rewarded with being sent to MVD school in Moscow).

Prior to his discharge, Andy met his old ~~friend~~ friend Janka

After turning in all his police gear and credentials ANDY went to the Interior Ministry and requested his credentials for promotion to Lt. which had previously been ordered by the police commission. He did not report to his new assignment in ~~Alce~~, however, and merely retained the credentials for use later during the German occupation when they proved very valuable.

He remained in the same ¹⁵apartment since he decided not to flee and leave his mother behind and, feeling reasonably secure, began seeking other ~~other~~ employment. Work was very hard to find since all employers who learned of his police history were afraid to hire ANDY. He made no effort to conceal his ~~his~~ background and ^{filled out} made numerous detailed true application blanks with various prospective employees. ANDY attempted to get work in the VEF factory where his good friend and former team-mate PETERSONS was employed in the payroll section. PETERSONS also was the coach of the factory athletic club and was very anxious to secure ANDY's services for that reason as well as their former friendship. PETERSONS pleaded ANDY's case for employment all the way to the highest level within the factory and even the C.P., however, this attempt was also unsuccessful.

ANDY then went to the Ciekurkain station and began day work unloading wood. He was paid on a piece-work basis and was able to earn a large amount daily, even considering the currency "reform" recently instituted which exchanged 1 ruble for 1 ~~Lat~~ a depreciation of approximately 10 times. After about 2 weeks of work here, the manager of the station discovered who ANDY was - a former police official - and immediately ordered him to leave.

He was now out of work until he met an old acquaintance who informed him that in connection with the nationalization of all private buildings, the Russians were hiring a great number of apartment managers, each one to be responsible for 3 nationalized buildings. The pay was 400 rubles ^{per month} with no application blanks or questioning. ANDY applied and was put to work supervising

3 large apartment buildings and collecting all rentals for the state. ANDY, however, applied all money he received toward renovating the buildings and putting in various improvements, with the thought in mind that rather than give the Soviets the profits he would put them into the buildings so that in case things ever changed, the owners would reap the benefits. All went well for about 3 months until, that part of the city in which his buildings were located was ~~xx~~ assigned to a central H.Q. located in Ciekurkaln, his old ~~precinct~~ precinct. He was only able to make two ~~business~~ business calls to his new HQ before he was recognized and informed that his services were no longer required. (Jan, 1941)

At about this time there occurred many workers demonstrations wherein the workers demanded ~~the~~ death sentences for all former policemen, and it became very evident what was planned as a fate for these persons. Toward the end of Jan, all known former policemen were arrested and deported during the night. ANDY was at home this night and had not yet realized the precariousness of his position. About 2 AM while in the Apt with the lights out, someone began pounding his door. ANDY remained quiet, however, ~~he~~ still ^{not} ~~hadn't~~ recognized his danger, refusing to open the door only because ^{of} a girl in the Apt. ^{who} would have been embarrassed if found.

The next day he traveled freely about the city, not realizing what had happened. The light finally dawned however, and he hurriedly changed apartments, forged a new passport and contacted his friend JANKA whom he was able to persuade to provide ANDY with a pistol.

Although he had been discharged from his position as house manager, he still belonged to a social club he had joined during this period whose members consisted solely of government officials. (beginning of Feb. '41) One night he met another member here, hitherto unknown, who during the course of their conversation, upon learning ANDY was unemployed offered him a position in the Steinick laundry on Ventspils iela of which he was

the director. ANDY accepted and the next day went to work there with the official title of "norm" supervisor (efficiency expert) but actually engaged in all aspects of laundry labor as well. The laundry employed some 300 women and 5 men including ANDY. The second month ANDY worked here he was able to put one of his former police members (KARKLIN) to work at the laundry bringing the total to 6. The workers here were, besides the Director; ANDY; the fireman, BANKINS; electrician, SURVELIS; and a bookkeeper, name unknown.

He continued working here and in April due to his excellent work was proposed as the director of another laundry-- The Peterson-- he was forced to reject this invitation, however, claiming incompetence, since such a position would involve filling out a detailed biographic questionnaire. Toward the end of April, he made the acquaintance of a female com., Mrs KRUSMANIS, (a high rayon committee director), and she, having taken an interest in ANDY, proposed him for the Labor Inspector of the Pardaugavas rayon. He was forced to reject this also on account of the detailed PRQ required. She however, decided to appoint him to that post and despite his objections informed him one day that he was now officially the Labor Inspector. Although he was officially a gov't official, his place of employment remained the same and in connection with the coming summer tourist season in Rigas ~~there~~ ^{JURMALA} A. was able to provide himself

(APP ATTACH.) A
That night while walking the streets of Pardaugava, all streets were sealed off by the Germans, the women sent on their way and all men found were taken to Bismuiza. Finally the roundup ended with about 10,000 men placed in a clearing and guarded with machine guns. Not far off was a large, freshly dug pit and piles of freshly shot communists and Jews. The men were kept here all night and finally a troop of Germans arrived who all spoke perfect Latvian and it became evident that these must have been that group of Latvian's who had repatriated to Germany as late as Jan. 4/ They now broke the mass of people into about 10 groups for easier handling and then called upon the assembly first to throw out into the open all Jews, then all C.P. Members, this was done and a

little more than 100 men were produced. The next call was for all former policemen. ANDY held back, since it was evident the foregoing persons were about to be shot. When he saw however, that his former Chief, STIGLITIS was coming forward, as well as another policeman he recognized - FRIEDE - he also came forward. In all, the Germans wound up with 4 of them. These 4 were instructed to organize the remaining men into columns and march back to Riga carrying Latvian flags. They ~~was~~ reached as far as the ^{DAUGAVA} Danzava and then crossed in makeshift rafts and boats into Riga and dispersed. The 100 that remained were all shot and buried in the ditch. ANDY walked to his laundry and reassured his friends who didn't know what his fate had been. On the way to Riga, as ANDY and the other 3 police were marching the band, STIGLITIS offered ANDY a position with the Latvian Riga prefecture of which STIGLITIS indicated he was already slated to be the head. ANDY was undecided whether to return to his old precinct or join STIGLITIS with whom he would have had every opportunity for rapid advancement to the top. On the toss of a coin, ANDY decided he would rather return to his old 12th precinct and retrieving his uniform (July 1941), went back to work. At about this time the German SD (Political Police) were organized and an experienced leader was required to head the group, the duties of which would mainly be the liquidation of Jews and Comys, the two being synonymous in most Latvian's minds. The post was offered at first to KARLIS APINIS, a prominent member of ANDY's fraternity who, however, refused. Several other Latvian officers were approached, but unsuccessfully. ANDY was approached by a group of "Perkenkusts" - Prof SCHILDE, SHVEDE, CABULIS, OTTMANIS and examined as to his experience and urged to accept the position; when he learned of the proposed liquidation, the unit would be ^{en}gaged in, he refused. They seemed to be at a loss for candidates and questioned ANDY as to the qualifications of ARAJS who was then a former Cpl. of the Latvian Army. ANDY was well acquainted with the latter, and although he was known to have collaborated during the Russian occupation, ANDY gave his endorsement of the man. Shortly thereafter ARAJS was placed in charge of the unit and commissioned a ^{Major} ~~leader~~ of the

German SD. His unit was engaged solely in liquidating a Jews and Commies and usually appropriating all of their material possessions for their own use. In the early period 1941/42 they were made up for the most part of men who had a serious grievance against the Communist^{UNISTS} having personally suffered at their hands. Although very poorly disciplined, for the most part they were only interested in revenging their families who had been destroyed during the Russian occupation. During the latter part of 1942 ^{however} and increasingly so in the following years, ^{this} these type men left the unit to join the Legion and their places were taken by criminal types who were only interested in pillaging, raping and murder.

STIGLITIS who was head of the Latvian Police Prefecture was being gradually stripped of all power by the Germans who considered him to be overly nationalistic and ^{therefore} took away various functions of his department putting them under German control and merely leaving him with a title.

During the following months ANDY witnessed many atrocities committed by ARAJSS group and became thoroughly disgusted with the whole operation. He was even called upon from time to time to preserve order as the civil ~~and~~ police representative when this group was preparing for an action. ANDY continued in command of the precinct and was also assigned the command of the adjacent DOBELES precinct. In Jan 1943 all experienced policemen were drafted into the ranks of the German-organized Police Battalion. This was secretly done in order to establish a cadre and it was not until April 1943 that volunteers were solicited. Failing to get sufficient numbers, the Germans began drafting all men of the appropriate age. (which was ?)

The Germans gave Lt. Col. WEISS the assignment of establishing their so-called Police Battalions.

The assignments of these Police Battalions were to guard duty and anti-partisan (CIC) activity inside the USSR. They were formed originally from those persons who applied for police service and couldn't be used, and those who volunteered from within police ranks. ANDY sent all his ~~extra~~ ^{excess} applicants for duty with the police dept. to the Battalion for duty. ANDY remained in command of the 12th precinct and engaged in normal police work. Although ^{nominally} under the same director (WEISS) as the Battalions were, ANDY was not ^{actually} a part of them and had different duties. During this period ANDY was engaged in training new police recruits inasmuch as most all former police members had been liquidated.

In April 1943 ANDY was drafted into the Latvian Legion according to the law which required all officers under 30 years of age to be drafted. He was commissioned Lt. and assigned to the command of a squad of about 50 men "Otra Riga's Sarga rotas, trisais vada komandieris" (C.O. of third squad, Riga's second guards company). This was a ^{training} ~~instruction~~ company ^{also used in} and fulfilled elite guard functions. Company Commander was 1st Lt. SARMA, other squad commanders were; (1st. squad) Lt. ^{jun} BLUMBERGS; 2nd squad, W.O. ^{jun} LELINEVSKIS; 4th squad, 1st Lt. ^{jun} MAJOR, also Lt. ^{jun} ZIVETS, Lt. ^{jun} PRIEDITS. After two months of getting his squad in shape, ANDY was transferred to the faculty of the freshly created Latvian Legion war school "Legiona BOLDERAJAS KARAS SKOLA" as one of the head instructors. He instructed in all military subjects as well as delegated assignments to his squad of instructors. After 4-5 months of this activity ANDY requested and finally received an assignment to the front. ANDY arrived at the time (winter '43) the Legion was retreating before VALCHOV and falling back to Veliki Iuki. He was assigned to Co. KBIPANS regiment, to a squad of the first Co., Co. Commander Capt. LIDUMS. Inasmuch as ANDY was the only officer in the company besides the C.C., and he was partially disabled due to his ulcers, ^{the latter} ~~then~~ ANDY usually was ^{acting} the ~~actual~~ C.C.

Usual front line duty.

In April/May 1949 was injured by artillery shell receiving shrapnel wounds

in the shoulder and leg and mild concussion and was dispatched to a hospital in Germany. He got off the hospital train disregarding orders and went to the Latvian Legion Hospital in Riga. He spent 2-3 weeks here, and fully recovered, was sent to Jelganas which was a rehabilitation area also a staging area for the forming 3d Division (2 Divisions at the front). Here he was given the command of the 12th Heavy Weapons Company which at this time was only on paper and ANDY had the task of picking recruits, training and forming a company. In June 1949, before the Company was yet up to strength, the Russians broke through on the Polish frontier and ANDY was ordered to Lithuania with his company at half strength (100 men)

This front was in a state of chaos, the Germans being completely demoralized, and although ANDY's company fought some engagements, there was no organization and the Russians by-passed them and took JELGAVA in their rear. Seeing their hopeless situation and the low morale of his men (they had been informed of the German's departing atrocities in Jelgava) ANDY gathered his men and gave them three alternatives -- they could attempt to fight their way through the Russians to JELGAVA, they could attempt swimming the Lidope to join up with the German line or they simply disperse and attempt each to make his own way and evade the Russians. The vote for the latter proposed was unanimous, inasmuch as it had become obvious Latvia had begun to fall and they were reluctant to continue fighting merely to provide the Germans an opportunity for a safe withdrawal. They agreed to meet at one of two points in either Vidzeme⁶,/Kurzenie, depending on which province would be the first to fall and all went their separate ways after the provisions and documents were distributed. ANDY commandeered a motorcycle with sidecar and instructed the driver to head for Jelgava. Approaching Jelgava they found the Russians had taken the city and gone on to Tukums leaving the city very lightly secured. They had no difficulty getting through and by traveling back roads entered Riga where the Germans and Russians were fighting in the outskirts, the bridges had not yet been destroyed and the Germans being

in command of them, the two were able to drive into Riga without any serious incident. Arriving here ANDY stayed with friends (his wife and the entire hospital were she worked already having been evacuated to Germany). Changing his uniform for civil garments, ^{he} falsified his documents (having cached some blanks previously in his apartment). The Russians had Riga encircled but were showing no signs of any action. ANDY spent about a month in Riga waiting to see which way the Russians front would move. ANDY lived by expedients, doing no work of any kind, and decided to wait for the opportune time to move, when the Germans drove to Tukums and liberated the city, with ANDY following ^{ed} the advancing columns and reaching Kurzeme after caching his weapons. He went to his mother's farm and helped there and in other neighboring farms ^{with} taking in the harvest. There were many German army units moving and retreating through the area and ANDY, in about Sept. 44, left his farm and headed for North Kurzeme - Lonaste Apkorte. Here he met his former Legionnaires- about 40 out of the original 100- and began living in the woods. Other refugees, about 150 more in number, flocked to ANDY and looked to him for leadership and support. He registered all his candidates and deciding it was senseless to attempt any large scale actions inasmuch as the woods were full of various types of bands, very strong, Russian ^{partisan} bands, German-Latvian deserters, and Latvian refugees, and ^{he} concentrated mainly on providing sustenance to his men and attempting to assist their escape to Sweden or Germany, ^{He} succeeding ^{ed} in about 30 cases. Food was very scarce in the woods and several ~~members~~ members returned to the front ^{or} to those police battalions still in existence. ANDY finally remained with about 150 hangers-on and merely existed. One day while in a farm house eating he was surprised by a German Major KRAUSE who recognized ANDY at once and ^{apparently} ~~apparently~~ was well aware that he was a Legion deserter. They had an ~~incoherent~~ ~~incoherent~~ innocuous conversation and KRAUSE finally offered ANDY the position of commanding a Jagdverband (anti-partisans) unit, stating that he and his men would be provided food and

a limited amount of uniforms, the major being acquainted with the fact they were ~~all~~ already well-armed. The strength of the unit was to be 80 men and ANDY readily accepted, feeling that he would be able to at least feed his men and perhaps furnish assistance to others as well. He was appointed a Capt. of the SS and sent a weeks rations for 80 men and about a dozen uniforms ^{to} in the woods, and ^{was} informed ^{that} the same, plus a portable field kitchen would arrive the following week. When these did not arrive on time, ANDY went to Ventspils to inquire from the major as to what was wrong. Official inquiries produced only suspicious stares and finally ANDY learned that Major KRAUSE had disappeared without trace and was ~~removed~~ to have been arrested for an unknown reason. ANDY returned to his unit and after a few days the kitchen and provisions were delivered. The unit remained without orders or supplies for approximately another 2 weeks and ANDY finally disbanded the men and burned all of the uniforms (Nov 1949) All the men were dispersed and ANDY and two others (Cpl. Augusts SALINS and KLAVINS^o) all in civilian clothes- having heard that in Ventspils a Dr. Ginten^r had a large sea evacuation organized, went to see what their chances of participating were. They were unsuccessful in making contact with GINTEN^r, however, and were informed through round about channels that GINTEN^r was not accepting any former Legionnaires or any officers and decided this whole operation was political and not worth attempting to enter into. ANDY learned from some friends in Ventspils that a good friend of his - VALDEMAS^v LINDE- was on GINTEN^r's list for evacuation but had, however, escaped to Germany without anyone being aware of the fact. As was customary during these times, evacuees were considered and routed as small groups of about 10 when a leader responsible for them.

LEFT WOODS BEGINNING DEC 1949

ANDY learned that LINDES' group leader was Col. ALBERTS and falsifying his own documents arrived at the house of the former, presented himself ^{as} and LINDE and was accepted as such. During this period, the Germans were wounding up all able bodied men in Ventspils and putting them on forced labor fortifying

the city, ALBERTS decided to remove his group to the country - Edoles apkartne.

The group remained here 2 months until mid Feb. 1945. The sea-coast was jammed

with refugees among them many women and children, all of them suffering greatly from the lack of available food. Inasmuch as A. felt responsible for the group that had adhered to him and was already active in providing them with provisions, he decided to also do whatever he could for the starving refugees.

ANDY worked as a helper on a truck transporting food products from the countryside to the beaches in order to feed the hundreds of refugees who were gathered at the beaches. He spent about two months operating in the woods near the beach gathering food products and evading the German patrol actions and Latvian šogdverbands who, besides their regular duties, i.e., cleaning out the woods, were also in particular looking for him. During this time he had many narrow escapes and skirmishes with these groups, but managed to evade capture. In the latter part of Jan '45 during a house search designed to capture Dr. Gintars (he was captured but succeeded in escaping the same night) Col. ALBERTS was caught and imprisoned by the Germans who had taken an interest in suppressing the refugee traffic to Sweden. Inu Weiss the former vice-president of the Riga Dairy was staying at the house where Col ALBERTS was captured and was one of his group of evacuees. His true status was not proven and he was offered to head up and organize the destroyed Ventspils dairy. It was obvious the war was drawing to a close (Russians were at the outskirts of Berlin) and their eventual fate would either be evacuation to Sweden or the consequences of total capitulation. WEISS and ANDY reached the decision to go to Ventspils and begin this undertaking, not because they considered this course of action made any sense, but so that they would be able to legalize themselves and their trucks (the Germans refused to issue any licenses or gasoline for them and they had to operate completely black in the course of their providing food for the evacuees) and so that they would be able to get next to a source of food so that their evacuees could be fed. The driver of the truck was ROMANOFFS, with ANDY ^{as} the mechanic. Arriving at the dairy, they found it completely destroyed. They moved into a small 3 room house in the ~~country~~ courtyard and set to work repairing and fitting it out for living quarters. WEISS rounded up the necessary dairy machinery and began operating the dairy, all the machines, however, being hand-driven. In a short period the dairy became a hive of activity and ANDY was employed in the mornings delivering and picking up milk and dairy products. ~~XXXX~~ A great many

people were continually coming and going and among them of Dr. GINTERS' group who checked in at ANDY's house for supplies and instructions. In March a boat arrived for GINTEN and about 100 persons were evacuated with ANDY, transporting a portion of them to the landing area, among them being the MVD (SMERS) 1st Lt. Janis BAUSKA, "UPSALA". This proved EVENTUALLY TO BE THE LAST BOAT UNDER Dr. GINTERS' auspices. Meanwhile ANDY and ROMANOFFS sensing that Dr. GINTEN had so many other big-shots and people to worry about evacuating, decided it was senseless to hope for a successful escape by that means and began seeking independent means of escape. They located an old fisherman whose boat had been impounded by the Germans, since he was too old to fish anymore and was being held available for any able bodied fisherman to purchase. ANDY and ROMANOFFS made a deal with the old man and agreed to take him along when they escaped and went to the civil court to apply for the purchase of the ~~old~~ boat -- about 25 ft, open, 4 HP motor. GINTEN had his people in this court and the purchase was approved and registered in proper fashion without a penny being paid. The two then set about preparing the craft for the difficult voyage. Meanwhile they learned of another ship (wooden) which was sitting idle in the harbor and available but lacking any motor. They eventually located a steamroller engaged on a road rebuilding project and left on the job at night. With the help of 6 men they removed the diesel motor and transported it to the harbor in the dairy truck and placed it in the ship during the night. The ship mechanics then took over and began installing the motor but this work progressed so slowly that the ship never was able to get out of the harbor before the capitulation and by then the Germans had sealed off the entrance to the channel.

The dairy director WEISS had meanwhile made connections with the Germans through his wife and had been promised a berth on a German ship which was to leave with all high-ranking officials in the final days. Feeling that ANDY was not needed, since being a deserter was a hazard to WEISS and since with all his activity mostly directed toward preparing the boats for escape, WEISS began to

G.A. was not properly carrying out his job at the dairy for which there were innumerable other applicants,

attempt getting him out of the dairy and the quarters he had established even going so far as to threaten to denounce him if he didn't leave. A German patrol arrived suddenly one night at 5 A.M. and surrounded the dairy trapping ANDY and several refugees who were spending the night there. Quickly appraising the situation, ANDY thanked them for waking him on time, showed them documents calling for his departure on the morning train and, quickly dressing, walked out before the patrol could collect its wits. He lived in various different houses using different names and documents following this incident.

Through a chance meeting on the streets of Ventyris, he ran into his good friend and former comrade in arms Corp. Alkermis. The latter informed him that he had been assigned by the Germans as the Captain of a fairly large coastal ship, with the mission of refiltrating German parachutists and partisan units from the rear of the Russian lines in Vidzeme province. He related that they had already completed three such missions successfully. Inasmuch as the Russians had already secured Vidzeme and there were no further German ^{assets} ~~assets~~ remaining, the two reached an agreement to utilize this ship for their own and the other refugees' evacuation.

On 10 May 1945 they left the port of Ventspils and reached Gotland after 18 hours where they were interned under the auspices of the Refugee Commission of Sweden. Among some of the 57 persons aboard was ROMANOFF, ALKSMIS and Dr. GINTEN⁴⁸, Georges KLAMINS, Dr. BALODIS (female). They were interned in the refugee camp for about a month at "Katamarsweek" and were then transported to Freidheim - a camp north of Stockholm. Here they were held another 2 weeks, given physical examinations and finally given the prerogative of voluntarily accepting work. ANDY took on a job on the peat bogs at Vargön at the south end of Verner Lake. Here he worked the summers of 45, 46, 47 until 1947. During the winter of 45 he worked in the textile factory in south Sweden. - Kristjan factory.