

# JOINT INTELLIGENCE BUREAU

## OTTAWA

### INTERVIEW REPORT

USSR (and Estonia)

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Joint Intelligence Bureau  
Department of National Defence  
OTTAWA, CANADA

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SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2006

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INTERVIEW REPORT

Country: USSR (and Estonia)

Type of Information:

- (1) Knowledgeability of source on ICBM or IRBM in ESTONIA.
- (2) Life History of Source.
- (3) Evaluation of Source.
- (4) Soviet Concentration Camps 1945 - 1956.
  - (a), (b), (c), (d) CAMPS I - V.
  - (e) restricted areas
  - (f) technical equipment after 1952
  - (g) foreign translations (general remark)
- (5) Underground Movement in Soviet Concentration Camp USLAG (Solikamsk) and beyond.
  - (a) help from the West
- (6) Way of Increasing Efficiency in Soviet Labour Camps
- (7) Loyalty of Nomadic Tribes and Underdeveloped Nationalities to the Communist Regime.
- (8) Uranium Mining
- (9) Future Contacts in ESTONIA, by Correspondence.

Date of Information Acquired by Source: November 1956.

Place of Information Acquired by Source: USSR Concentration Camps.

Date of Interview: 9/11/57

Interviewed by: [ ] (JIB)

Report No.: JIBI 922-A-62.

Date of Distribution: NOV 14 1957

No. of Pages: 8

No. of Encls.: NIL

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

Source:

Name: Berik HEINE

Date & Place of Birth: TARTU, Estonia  
September 1919.

Nationality: Estonian

Languages Spoken: German, Russian, Estonian  
(some English)

Entered Canada: Visitor's Visa, expires December 31, 1957.

Canadian Address: 72 Normandy Blvd.

Prior to Emergence Resided at: Refugee Camp Oldenburg, West Germany.

Present Occupation: Lectures on Partisan Movement in the Baltics and Concentration Camps, USSR.

Previous Interrogation: USA Authorities Oldenburg and Frankfurt a/M (several times).

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*Ottawa, Canada - 9/11/57*

1. KNOWLEDGEABILITY OF SOURCE ON ICBM or IRBM in ESTONIA:

Source was alledged to have information on guided missiles and coastal defence in Estonia. However, source did not escape from Estonia in 1956. He was deported to Soviet Russia in 1951, after having spent his last year in Estonia as a political prisoner, (mostly in the prison of Tallin). - The remaining years of internment (until 1956) were spent in USSR forced labour camps, in the Urals, - so that source could not have any knowledge of ICBM or IRBM guided missile installations being built in Baltic countries in recent years. Questionnaire submitted to interviewer as guidance did not apply.

Source stated that there was a very strong Partisan movement in Estonia between 1953 - 1954 but, unfortunately, his own activity ceased in 1950, at which time there were no visible signs of rocket installations along the Baltic coast.

Information given by source mostly concerns Forced Labour Camps in the USSR, up to 1956.

2. LIFE HISTORY:

Source was born in TARTU, Estonia on September 11th 1919.

His parents were piano-manufacturers. He attended school in TARTU and graduated from high school in 1940.

From 1936 - 1940 source participated in the "Students' Voluntary Estonian Defence League". This retarded his studies, so that he was already 20 years old when the Russians occupied TARTU (in 1940).

On the 28th of August 1940 he was arrested, with other students, for anti-Russian activities and taken to the TALLIN prison where he was kept 9 months. He was beaten and kicked about unmercifully. In April 1941, due to the fact that source's parents had gone to Germany and were considered as settlers there, they succeeded in having their son exchanged as a political prisoner and he was shipped to Germany with other German P.O.W.'s.

In August 1941 several voluntary Estonian units were formed in Germany. Source joined and fought against the Russians from 1941 - 1944. He attended an Officers' Training Course in Germany, at B.D TOELZ (August 1943 - March 1944).

There was a period when he was posted to the political Police Force in Tallin, during the German occupation of Estonia in 1942. This probably saved his life, because the Germans did not destroy their records before retreating, and source remained listed as a German national, fighting with the Germans; later on, he could claim German citizenship.

This made him eligible for prisoner-of-war repatriation in later years - when he convinced the Russians that he was a German and they finally released him.

In August 1944 source was fighting with the Germans near TARTU; he was severely shell-shocked and in an unconscious condition, taken P.O.W. by the Russians.

Source found himself at first in an Officers' P.O.W. camp near MOSCOW. Three months later he was shipped to a special Soviet labour camp at KISELA, in the Urals. (January 1945).

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(Conditions at concentration camp KISELA will be described separately under Soviet Forced Labour Camps. See Labour Camp, No. 1).

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In March 1945 source succeeded in escaping from KISELA (Soviet forced labour camp) - where they were felling trees. However, after 1 1/2 months of wandering around and hiding - he was again caught. This time he gave a false name and said he had been a private in the German Army, making his way home. They stuck him in a vast enclosed factory area near LENINGRAD where they made handgrenade fuses. This was a large factory area, some 60 - 100 kms away along the LENINGRAD-MOSCOW road. Source could not remember any names, estimated it was only a wartime enterprise.

In January 1946 source recalled seeing huge truck convoys rolling by, day and night, loaded with all types of German goods being brought to Russia: - from household goods, kitchen utensils, toilet seats, clothing, food supplies, livestock, - to more intricate parts of varied factory machinery. It seemed that the whole of Germany was being dismantled and carted back to Russia.

In June 1946 source escaped and found his way back to Estonia. There he was treated as P.O.W. and, for a time, worked on re-building the TALLIN harbour.

He then joined the Estonian partisans and operated with them until 1950, fighting the Soviet occupation troops.

In 1950 source was, once more, arrested by the Russians. This time they sentenced him to death. However, he bluffed by maintaining that he was a German citizen (his name figured in the captured German police records at TALLIN and his parents were living in Germany).

His sentence was changed from death penalty to life-long imprisonment.

In March 1951 source was deported to KARGOPOL', in the ARHANGEL'SK Oblast'; interned in a lumber camp with some other 800-1000 men and women of all nationalities. (See Labour Camp No. 2).

Three months later source was caught hording several old bread rations, and in possession of a compass. He was accused of planning to escape. Consequently he was transferred further inland - to the Urals, near SOLIKAMSK, the All-Union Punitive camp - (25 kms into the woods) - Vsesoyuznyy Karatel'nyy Lager' (See Forced Labour Camp No. 3).

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Source stated that he saw only few aircraft in the vicinity of MOSCOW. However, in 1955 - 56 he saw "thousands" of planes, all jets, practicing their flight in the vicinity of SOLIKAMSK and around the wooded area where prisoners were felling trees. He saw Delta-winged aircraft in the MOLOTOV area. He did not notice any heavy bombers, only light ones and destroyers.

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All told, source worked in 4 different Soviet Concentration Camps in 4 years, as a lumberman (1951-52; 53; 54; 55).

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On the 17th September 1955 an amnesty was declared after Stalin's death. A lot of Russians were set free. Others had their sentence reduced. The Russians who had been fighting with the armed forces as active soldiers, were completely freed. Civilians who had been accused of collaboration with the Germans during World War II, or political deportees - got their 25 year sentences reduced to 12½ years. Conditions underwent a marked improvement. - Criminals were separated from political prisoners.

In November 1955 source was arrested for participation in a Russian underground movement within the forced labour camp USLAG itself and was brought to the SOLIKMSK prison, where he was interrogated until February 1956.

Here, again, source stressed that he was a foreigner, a German national and demanded to be repatriated. In February 1956 his "case" was suddenly broken off. That was after Mr. Adenauer had been to Moscow and demanded the return of Germans still held by the Russians.

From SOLIKMSK, source was brought via GOR'KIY, KIROV, MOSCOW to a special camp for foreign prisoners, situated 400 kms South-East of MOSCOW. This was camp POT'MA (darkness) which, at that time, was full of Germans, Poles, Belgians - people from Iran, Turkey, India, Afghanistan etc.

The voyage from SOLIKMSK lasted 1 month. In March 1956 the Russians wanted to send the inmates of the POT'MA camp out to do heavy physical labour. They went on a hunger strike. - As punishment they were confined to a special correction camp situated 6 - 7 kms from POT'MA, where they were kept over 3 months: March, April, May and part of June. When they returned, to their surprise they were sent to a better camp - POTMA II - which consisted of barracks, surrounded by wooden fences. Their food rations improved. There was no ill-treatment.

In November 1956 source was shipped to MOSCOW - to BYKOV - DACHA - an old summer home where Marshall von Paulus was imprisoned during World War II. There, source found himself together with 20 other German nationals. He met an English sailor who had defected (he heard that the British Embassy he reclaimed him since). There were also people of other nationalities present.

Finally, on the 24th of November 1956 officials from the German Embassy informed the prisoners that a special direct railway car had been arranged: MOSCOW - BERLIN, for their repatriation.

On the 26th of November 1956 source arrived in East Berlin, where the group of German repatriates came in contact with Soviet authorities for the last time.

From Berlin, source proceeded to DUISBURG - OLDENBURG Refugee Camp. This camp was run by USA authorities. Source told his story, admitting that he was an Estonian, not a German. He was brought to Frankfurt a/M 5 or 6 times for interrogation, particularly on the existing Russian underground movement in the Soviet forced labour camp USLAG (URAL-SOLIKMSK-CAMP).

Source's parents had meanwhile emigrated to Canada. Source's father died last year. His mother still lives in TORONTO.

Source came to Canada on a visitors' visa. The Baltic Community of Toronto, which is well organized, welcomed source and gave him a chance to lecture on conditions in Soviet forced labour camps. They have sponsored a lecture - tour in Canada on Partisan movement in the Baltic Provinces.

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On the 17th of November, source is scheduled to leave on a 1 month lecture tour, touring Baltic communities in the West, as far as VANCOUVER. He is due back in Toronto in the middle of December and is very worried, because his visitor's visa is expiring by the end of this year. He has handed in his application to the Department of Citizenship and Immigration last spring, asking for permission to remain in Canada. So far, he has had no news. Source wonders what will happen to him at the end of December.

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3. EVALUATION OF SOURCE: "F"

It is difficult to assess the reliability and veracity of a person who has "bluffed" himself out of a Communist death sentence (by his own admission). However - source did make the impression of being sincere and straightforward. He certainly hates the Communists enough to have repeatedly risked his life in the Estonian Partisan movement. Source said he lost all his teeth, rather than give away the names of people working with him, when beaten in the TALLIN prison.

Source sounded disappointed at the lack of interest - or enthusiasm - he encountered in the West, when he talked about following up the underground movement in Russia. Particularly since he had a definite lead-in, which he communicated to the USA authorities as soon as he reached Western Germany.

He feels that very few people have such a first-hand knowledge of what goes on in Russian concentration camps - yet he cannot seem to find the appropriate channels to use his knowledge, for the benefit of all concerned. He says the West is asleep. At the moment he suffers from a sense of frustration, not even knowing whether he can stay on this side of the ocean. He doesn't want to leave his mother alone. He would like to get married and settled. Source said that after all those horrible years in Soviet forced labour camps, he should at least be permitted to live a quiet, normal life, if his experiences can do no good to support an anti-Communist movement.

4. SOVIET CONCENTRATION CAMPS: - January 1945 - November 1956.

(a) CAMP I. - KISELA (Urals) 1945.

Spezlager' Kisela: Estimated number of internees: 800. Mixed nationalities; Russians, Poles, Latvians, Lithuanians. Most Russians were those who were handed back to the Soviet authorities by the Allies at the end of World War II. Rate of mortality was appalling. In 3 months only 270 out of the original 800 internees remained alive. The others died of exhaustion, malnutrition or typhoid fever. Numbers kept up to strength by constant new arrivals. Constant turnover.

Occupation: Coal mining.

Living conditions: Barrack hall, dug halfway into the ground.  
No sanitation.

Food: - 450 gram coarse bread per day - and cabbage soup.  
Epidemy of ricketts.

Working hours: 12 hours (coal mining).

(b) CAMP II. KARGOPOL', ARKHANGEL'SK Oblast' (March 1951)

Large forest area. Several lumber camps. Men and women of varied nationalities. Each camp 500 - 1,000 internees.

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Living conditions slightly better than in 1945.

During the 3 months source stayed there:

Food: consisted of 800 gram bread per day; twice a-day cabbage soup and once-a-day porridge (kasha).

Rations were cut down to 450 gram bread and once-a-day soup, if lumber quota not fulfilled.

Working Hours: 9 hours. Quota 4.5 cu.m. felled or cut wood.

(c) CAMP III. SOLIKAMSK (Urals) (1951)

Special disciplinary camp.

Conditions: - about the same.

(d) CAMP IV: USOLAG SOLIKAMSK (coordinates 59:05N - 42:17E)

Altogether 40,000 - 50,000 people interned; divided in some four or five lumbering areas. (Includes "European Camp" near KARAGANDA).

Camp inmates were well informed about what went on in other camps, because there was a constant shifting around of prisoners each month. New arrivals brought news about events outside.

Source stated that there was not a single nationality which he did not encounter in Soviet forced labour camps: Poles, Hungarians, Roumanians, Chinese, Indians, Turks, Arabs, French, Belgians, Germans, Italians, Greeks, Spaniards. ... It was interesting to see that, for instance, Greek followers of Communist leader General Markus, who had fled to Russia - had become disillusioned and too critical of the Communist Regime. As a result 50% - 60% were locked up. The same applied to several Indian professors who had come to the University of Moscow, had criticized too openly and landed in concentration camps. Red Spaniards followed the same pattern. These people had become the best anti-Communists one could wish for. Unfortunately, they were all serving a 25year sentence and that was as good as life, because very few people could withstand those conditions and most died before their time was up. There were quite a number of young Spaniards in these lumber camps who had come to Russia very "red" but had been cured. As soon as foreigners became troublesome, or critical, they were removed out of sight. Even the Chinese.

Source said that in the whole of Russia, exchange of opinion was freest in concentration camps, because people felt they had already hit the bottom. They were doomed to die anyway, so they might as well speak what they thought. He met many Russian intellectuals there. Very intelligent, far-thinking people.

CAMP V. - VORKUTALAG (Source only had hearsay knowledge of same.)

(e) Restricted Areas: - TOMSK Oblast'.

A number of political deportees, amongst them people from the Baltic Provinces, have been forcibly re-settled in Siberia, in the TOMSK region. Source visited them, equipped with false documents, during the period when he was actively engaged in Estonian Partisan warfare - before being caught by the Russians. These people live in restricted areas - mostly on State farms.

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If they go beyond their assigned boundaries, they get 8 years concentration camp. Some are permitted to correspond with relatives in the Baltics. They are deported for life - but do not suffer great hardship. Mostly, they farm.

(f) Technical Improvements in Working Conditions for Labour camp internees.

After 1953 it became noticeable that the Russians had made big strides with regard to modern technical equipment and mechanized labour.

In 1945 - 1951 - 1952 - internees had to fell trees with most primitive tools: old handsaws and blunt axes. They often had to tie a rope around each felled tree and drag it for many miles to roads, where they were picked up by horse-drawn carts.

From 1952 on, they got ultra-modern 8 kg. patent power-saws, made in Finland; working by wood-gas. There were also tractors and trucks to help hauling lumber. There were even electric "stripping machines" to cut off foliage and branches.

(g) Foreign Translations:

Source felt that it might be of interest to local authorities to know that everything published in foreign countries along technical or scientific lines was immediately translated in the Soviet Union and published in Russian within 3 months from original date of publication. Translators were amongst those treated best and most in demand.

Asked: how he knew this? Source replied that the new blood, which came into concentration camps every month, kept them well informed about what went on in the Soviet Union. They came from all walks of life and felt free to talk.

What amazed source was the love which Russians expressed for their own native land, even in adverse circumstances. They were afraid that if there was a foreign invasion to overthrow Communism, Russia would be divided and occupied by several foreign powers. This they dreaded above all. Even people in concentration camps kept saying: "this is bad, but it's our own." (plokho-da nashe!)

5. UNDERGROUND MOVEMENT IN SOVIET CONCENTRATION CAMP USLAG (Solikansk)

(a) Help from the West.

The membership of this Russian underground movement amongst inmates of concentration camps is supposed to have reached 70,000 in 1956. This included outside contacts.

When source was leaving, he was told that if he ever succeeded in getting back to the "free world", he should try to secure help. These people mostly want weapons, ammunition and radios.

Source maintained that the "Voice of America" was listened to very frequently - jamming could not entirely stop it from coming through. They heard U.S.A. broadcasts from O Kinawa quite clearly.

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S E C R E T

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Very interesting personality which source met at USLAG was a Russian Captain: Ivan Grigoryevich Alyoshin who headed the famous VORKUTA rebellion, which caused Soviet authorities such a headache by gaining publicity abroad. He was given 2 years solitary confinement for it; when the amnesty was proclaimed, in 1955, Alyoshin also got his sentence reduced - i.e. he was "only" serving a 25 year term in USLAG - where source met him. He participated in the underground movement.

One of the remarkable traits of the Soviet regime is that even dissatisfied Kolkhoz members can be soon serving terms in concentration camps for being too critical.

6. W.A.Y OF INCREASING EFFICIENCY IN LABOUR CAMPS.

As of 1955, the Soviet Government has shown more low cunning than brutality:

For instance: - The latest way to increase labour efficiency in concentration camps has been to promise that whosoever exceeded the allotted quota (4.5 cu.m. of timber in 9 hours) by 121% during a whole month without interruption, would get his sentence reduced by 2 weeks.

If a person overfulfilled his tree felling quota by 121% for a whole year - his term would be reduced by 2 whole years.

As a result, people work like mad, trying to reduce their sentence. Most of them can't stand the pace and die in the attempt - but meanwhile a lot of work is done for the government - and these people would have died before their 25 years were up anyway! ---

7. LOYALTY OF UNDERDEVELOPED TRIBES TO SOVIET REGIME:

The only really loyal people to the Communist Party, enthusiastic about the Communist regime, are the old nomadic tribes of the Far North and those of Asiatic origin.

These backward nationalities have really gained: - they benefited by becoming sedentary and literate. That is why, according to source, the government always calls in troops with "slanted eyes" (of Mongol origin) to subdue rebellions. These are the only loyal Communists. The Soviet regime has really done something for them.

8. URANIUM:

It is said (source only heard) that the inmates of Camp SILLIL<sup>1</sup>, near NARVA, are engaged in uranium mining. The mines are supposed to run deep under the sea in the Narva Bay.

This is a so-called "Schweigelager" (Camp of Silence). Whoever is sent there is completely cut off from the rest of the world; has no right to correspond with any of his relatives.

S E C R E T

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Source also maintains that he spoke to internees in the Soviet Union who, in person, helped build Uranium mines in Inner MONGOLIA and in the Gobi Desert. -

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7. FUTURE CONTACTS IN ESTONIA... (by correspondence)

Source expressed willingness to engage in correspondence (from Canada) with a friend in Estonia, using code and "water writing" with a view to securing information about rocket launching sites recently built by the Soviets in the Baltic. He (source) felt confident that such information could be obtained in time, through correspondence.

However, he would have to stay in Canada in order to be able to do so. Since his visitor's visa was about to expire by the end of the year - he did not know what will happen.

Source will be back in Toronto from his lecture tour out West, by the 17th of December 1957. His visa expires on the 31st December. The future appears to be most nebulous. Will he be sent back to Germany? -- What then? --

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HAINÉ, Erik

Estonian, Toronto, to be interrogated by JIB Oct 57  
(AF memo 44-0-954, 5 Sept)  
escaped Nov 56

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