

Washington Star

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Ukraine Chief's Death Probed

MUNICH, Germany, Oct. 18 (AP).—Stepan Bandera, Ukrainian nationalist leader whose guerrillas once battled both Soviet and Polish armies, died in a mysterious fall at his secluded Munich home yesterday.

Police said they are investigating his death, and exiled friends said he may have been assassinated.

Mr. Bandera died in an ambulance that was to take him to the hospital. Police said there were no witnesses to his fall.

The 50-year-old Bandera is said to have once headed an army of 200,000 "Banderolets" fighting for an independent Ukraine.

After Germany invaded the Soviet Union in 1941, he collaborated with the Nazis in German uniform.

Later, apparently fearing his movement would become too strong, the Nazis put him into a concentration camp. In 1944, when the Soviet army was pushing the Germans back on all fronts, Hitler ordered Mr. Bandera's release and asked him to head a Ukrainian liberation movement. His friends say he refused.

In the early postwar years, his guerrillas harassed Polish and Soviet communications. Driven to flight by strong Soviet and Polish forces, they fought their way westward across Poland and Czechoslovakia. At least 300 of them, still bearing arms, crossed into Germany in 1947.

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