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since 1933. - After the Bolsheviks have been driven out of Latvia, K arrived there as a Sonderführer. - a rank in Allgemeine SS - Major

ad 2 : K was a SS Sturmbannführer but he did not like to wear his uniform. It was told that his relations with the SD were bad. K was active at the Reichskommissar and Generalkommissar as the chief of the Political Section; his duty was to control the (Latvian) societies and organizations. At the same time he was active at:

1/ SS Amt 6 (RSHA) and 2/ the counter-intelligence of the Army (Abwehr-stelle), which had the group number # 202 (?).

ad 3 : K has not founded the counter-intelligence group "Lidumnieks" but should have been informed about this. This group was established, later liquidated mainly by Maj. (Sturmbannführer ?) PECHAU, at its beginning also by KRAUSS.

ad 6 : There were three brothers KRAUSE - all three were in the SS and Baltic Germans. Otto KRAUSE, a major, worked at the SS Amt 6 but Lorenz KRAUSE and the third brother were with some unit of the armed forces. It is

unknown whether the last two were active at the intelligence service too.

* Otto KRAUSS (AKA: Oto KRAUS), born 22 Feb 1906, Riga, Latvia, Resided Stetinas St., # 9, Apt. 2, Riga fm where he repatriated to Germany on 11 Dec 1939

Document B : ** Lorenz KRAUS (AKA: Lorenz KRAUSS), born 20 Jan 1909, Riga, Latvia, Res. Dzirnava St., 29, Apt. 11, Riga fm where he repatriated to Germany on 11 Nov 1939 *** possibly Hans KRAUSS, born 6 Jan 1904, Riga, Latvia

A typed copy on one sheet (both sides) of the letter by V.ZVANĪTĀJS (see card 3581),

written on 16 Dec. 1946 in Tingsryd, Sweden, and sent to Mr. A. XANDERS, presumably in Germany at that time.

In this letter V.ZVANĪTĀJS describes the happenings in Kurzeme in 1945, especially after the capitulation. Here are some excerpts:

" Our caravan of refugees departed from Ventspils on 8 May '45 at 21:03 in

17 floating objects ... the total of the passengers was 800 or more persons...

I boarded the vessel at 17:00... On 9 May, not far from Gotland, all the vessels, except one tug-boat and one boat, were captured by the Russian speedboats...

Part of us remained on "Rota"... which was escorted by the speedboats almost

to Ventspils... The night of 10 May I left my family and went to woods...

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KĀRKLIŅŠ, together with Col. ANKEVICS, M. KIERPE ** and others were brought by the speedboats to Klainēda... KĀRKLIŅŠ and Edm. PUKSIS *** were in Aug. 1945 in the prison in Riga... JUMIS and REIMANIS were in the forests, too. JUMIS **** were wounded in a battle at Zlēkas in Febr. 1946 - if this news is true. REIMANIS, possibly, still alive... GALVIŅŠ and DIDRICHS got arrested at the end of the German occupation, later released; I don't know what happened later to them. KĀMPARS, VAIVARS, KRAUTMANIS got deported to Russia; the last two were still alive in October (1945)... ZABLUDEVSKA, VANGRAVA and our (office) girls in general were still alive in October and were working courageously for our fatherland. Especially VANGRAVA # and the little Erika ARMANE. Who remained free after the mass arrests of February 1946 - is not known; at that time my family went away (to Russia)... My memories about my life as a partisan are published in the Baptist monthly "Drauga Vēstis" in America since May 1946. Its address: Marlia

*PURGAILIS¹⁴⁴ 162 Second Avenue, New York 2, N.Y.

~~AKA: Charles~~ (AKA: Charles GRUBER SUBJ 201-)

My comments on this letter:

In contains many exaggerations which were omitted here, f.i. that there were approx. 35,000 partisans in the woods and that the Russians captured 88,000 men in May 13-16, 1945 (it was impossible to estimate the true number at that time).

* KĀRKLIŅŠ, Aleksandrs - the District Elder (apriņķa vecākais) of Ventspils District, Latvia during the German occupation time and V. ZVANĪTĀJS' chief in this post. In 1944/45 his wife was already as a refugee in Germany and KĀRKLIŅŠ lived together with the wife of the noted Latvian chess player, * PETROVS Vladimirs Demidovs, born 1920 in Latvia (missing since 1940/41, presumably imprisoned in Russia then). K was a close friend to ARMENTIŅŠ Aleksandrs (see card 912), thus it can be assumed that K's wife Milda, nee BĒRZIŅŠ, a lady-dentist, if still in the free world, could give valuable info about A. ARMENTIŅŠ.

** KIERPE Maksis - jurist, chief of the Latvian political police in Ventspils during the German occupation. ^{NWJ} was as partisan in the forests of Kurzeme together

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with V.ZVANĪTĀJS. The father i.l. of K.K. owned a farm in the rural community Ēdolo in Kurzeme. Though M.K.'s wife was also captured by the Soviets on 9 May '45 in her flight to Sweden, she was released and lived illegally first in Lithuania, then in Riga under an assumed name; was working as a school teacher in the fall of 1945. This was the cause why M.ZIERPE did not want to escape to Sweden in Oct. 1945. According to Vaidars ^{(= Vidvuds SVEICIS (SUBJ (KGB agent))} he was wounded and arrested by the Soviet security forces after a battle in the spring of 1946.

*** Edmunds PUKSIS - one of the leading figures of the "Pērkonkrusts" ^(SHASTINĀ) during the German occupation in Latvia, ^{WW II} was at that time director of the Department of Public Affairs, in 1943 or 1944 replaced in this post by UNAMS Zanis. ^(card 4653) In 1944/45 E.P. tried several times to escape to Sweden but failed. His wife, however, escaped from Kurzeme to Sweden already in the fall of 1944, and lived there together with the Latvian statistician, Docent Kārlis ZĪVERTS, in Stockholm; recently they got married. There is news that E.PUKSIS deceased in Siberia a couple years after the capitulation.

**** JU. IS fnu - formerly an officer of the Artillery Regiment of Kurzeme; during the German occupation Chief of Ventspils District (apriņķa priekšnieks).

VANGRAVA fnu - during the German occupation employed at the District Elder's office in Ventspils. ^{WW II} Supported the national ^{Latvian} partisans after the capitulation, especially the group of her brother Eriks VANGRAVS (was in the same group with V.ZVANĪTĀJS in Aug. '45 but later changed to another group and remained in Kurzeme). The private house of the VANGRAVS, located in the southern part of Ventspils, was used as a safe house by the partisans.

Kārlis PURGAILIS - presumably the editor-in-chief of "Drauga Vēstis". In 1946/47 V.ZVANĪTĀJS tried to convince him about the necessity of a illegal boat action from Sweden to Kurzeme; claimed once that K.P. is in a position to secure a large ~~xxxxxxx~~ amount of dollars from the Baptist organizations in USA for this purpose.

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Document C:

A mimeographed sheet with text on both sides in Latvian which contains the text of two letters from Latvia written in 1946 and 1947. Agent did not remember how he got this and who is the author or addressee of these letters. However, when visiting a couple days later Agent 907 ^{Albins BIETINSONS (SUBJ [])} it came out that these letters had been received by some members of the student fraternity "Talavia" there; in order to make the contents known to other members of "Talavia" in Germany, some of these letters were copied by mimeograph and put in circulation among them. This caused an uproar among others who protested against such procedure as dangerous for the authors of these letters. According to Agent 907, the author of the first letter could be Aleksandrs JURJĀNS and it was sent to Laimonis KUKURS in Lübeck at that time (now in Melbourne, Australia), who was his schoolmate in Riga. This letter, written on 20 Dec. 1946, were one of the first which arrived in Germany from Latvia. Later there was news that A. JURJĀNS got arrested, even liquidated due to this letter, i.e. the rumors in Germany about it. The text of this letter is rather interesting - it shows very impressively the conditions in post-war Latvia; here are some excerpts from it:

" Sveiki draugi ! (Agent 907 has a transcript of this letter which begins with "Sveiks, Erik ! - C) Ja šīm rindām izdosies izlauzties cauri dzelzs priekškaram, sapratīsiet to lielo laimi, kāda jūs pavada. Zinu, ka nav viegli svešumā, bet dzīvot pie kārtības un apstākļiem kādi ir šeit, nenovēlu nevienam... Pēc kapitulācijas Kurzemi sāka "ķemmēt" sarkanarmieši. Ķēdes ar neiedomājamu ātrumu steidzas cauri mežiem, laukiem un visām lauku sētām. To viņi izdara ar tik lielu ātrumu un tik lielām vienībām, ka retam izdodas "ierakties" kādā meža stūrī jeb kādā lauku mājas pagrabā. Visiem mežiem un krūmiem, visām mājām un pagrabiem iet cauri ķēde pēd ķēdes un savāc visu un visus... Karavīrus un darba spējīgos vīriesus aizved uz filtrācijas nometnēm... Visu Kurzemi pārklāj nometnes. Liepājas, Ventpils, Kuldīgas, Talsu un Jelgavas apkārtnes ir milzīgu nometņu vietas. Šie nelaimīgie zem klājas debess, 2 nedēļas bez pārtikas un siltuma... ež aiz dzelozstieņu žoga... Loni.

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atdala karavīrus, tad grupē aizsargus, šūcmaņus, lielākus amatvīrus. Neglābjas arī rūsteku sargi, tiltu sargi un visi tie, kas vācu laikā turējuši ierocus. Tikai nelielam skaitam šo noietņu iemītniekiem izdodas izkļūt brīvībā... Reta tā māja, kur nav kāds aizvests... Garās restoto vagonu rindas iztukāto noietnes un aizved visus šos cilvēkus uz bada zemes vergu noietnēm. Tad sāka pienākt aizvesto vēstules... Dzīves apstākļi tomēr ir labāki kā 41.gadā aizvestajiem, jo tagad ir barakas, kur dzīvot, bet toreiz aizvestie dzīvoja zem klajas debess un skuju būdās. Tagad, kad no Krievijā izsūtītajiem jau daudzi atgriezušies, daudz kas atklājas arī par "cilvēcīgo" dzīvi noietnēs. Es saku daudzi, bet domāju, ka 10 % vēl nav mājas. Mājas nāk kroplie un slimie un cik viņi visi vienādi: melni kā zeme, nopampusi, lēni valoda, lēni kustības. Runā maz... Šis trīsdāņu pavadītais laiks tomēr nav šodis: daudzus atnākušos no jauna pēc ciet, tiesā un tad viņiem vairs nav izredžu kādreiz atgriezties dzīvē. Tādēļ daudzi atgriezušies dzīventē nebrauc mājās, bet atpūšas pie pazīpām, lai pēc tam pievienotos mežos mītošajiem un lai atdarītu kaut daļu no savām ciešanām tiem, kas vēl šodien ir par šo ārprāta kārtību. - Pasts ir brīvs, un tad jau pienāk vēstules no 41.gadā aizvestajiem. Šie cilvēki ir zaudējuši visu un tādēļ pat čeka... viņus nobiedē un viņi raksta visu kā tas ir. Neraksta... tie, kas noietināti noietnēs bez tiesībām sarakstīties... Gan viena daļa dzeloņdražu noietnes tiek likvidētas, bet šo noietņu iemītnieki "labprātīgi" parakstas šai darbā uz vairākiem gadiem un, bez tam bez tiesībām atstāt darba vietu, vergo tālāk. Tas notiek tikpat labprātīgi kā mēs 99,8 % nobalsojām par mums norādītajiem deputātiem... Ja tu, draugs, sēdi pie klāta galda, no kura var piecelties paēdis, tad zini, ka mēs, rīdzinieki, neesam paēduši gandrīz nekad un nauda mums ir tikai tad, ja izdodas darbā ko nozagt un pārdot... Es esmu aktiers, tāds pat aktiers, kā visi Krievijas iedzīvotāji. Mēs spēlējam lielāko teātri pasaulē - un tās bija vēlēšanas. Katram 2 lapiņas. Uz katras lapiņas viens deputāts. Būdiņa kur pārdomāt un blankus urna, kur iemest. Ja būdiņa būtu sēdamvieta ar izgrieztu caurumu un pie sienas konstitūcija, tad būdiņas vajadzība būtu skaidra, bet šo labierīcību tur nebija un tā vēl šodien mums

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nav skaidra būdības vajadzība. - Šeit visi un visur strādā pēc plāna. Arī čekai ir plāns. Cilvēki vergu nometnēs mirst. Un tā nepārtraukti robus pilda ar jauniem apcietinātiem. Man pusotra gada laikā nav izdevies satikt neviena krieva, kas negaidītu pārvērtības. Vajadzētu no ārpuses nedaudz piogrūzt šai laupītāju būvai un viss sabruktu.

Rīga - tā aizvien vēl turas puslīdz. Nodēdzis paša, kara ministrijas ēka, jauna telefona centrāle (Audeju ielā, pretim Armijas Ekonomiskam Veikalam - O.), saldētava, elevators, lielākās dzirnavas, mīta, Romas viesnīca un pieguļošie nami līdz Valņu un Kalņu ielām, ieskaitot Švarca kafējnīcu; Centraltirgus paviljons (saldētava); Iekšrīga cietusi krietni vairāk. Pieminēklis neskarts.

20.12.46."

The second letter, written in April 1947, according to Agent 907 could be sent either by Ilmars RUFNEES (SUBJ [redacted] KOB agent or LĪNIS or RĪPA he thinks that it was sent via Göteborg, Sweden, since it contains many names which would not been mentioned in a regular letter. Agent 907 does not know who could be the addressee; in the handwritten transcript he has, however, this letter begins with; "Erik ! " but Agent 907 cannot imagine who is this Eriks (see also File # 907, Doc.# 27). The text of this letter:

" IV 47. Draugi ! Tagad no tālienies atgriezusies arī legionāri, kuriem palaimējies palikt neskartiem no bada un aukstuma. Vienīgi man nav izdevies satikt vēl nevienu virsnieku, kas būtu mājās, jo tie ir sodīti un pagaidām vergo. Ir tādas vēl neapstiprinātas ziņas, ka ~~haxxxx~~ līdz 1.1. būs mājās visi līdz 20 (gadiem) sodītie. Tie soda mēri nedaudz savādāki kā agrāk un reti kam ir zem 10 - kā te saka "červonca". Un sanākusi mājā ir diezgan kuplā skaitā. Tā mājās ir un apmetušies kair nu katrs: Janka ŠKENDERS (see File CONMO # 003, Doc.# 12); Raimonds, Gunas BRENCĒNAS vīrs; Veltas TOMAS vīrs; garais PORISTIS; EGLĀJS; ~~XXXXXX~~ Kostja RIŠKE; ĒRIKS - bankas žurka; Elgas KUGAS vīrs un brālis; Gusts; Peksis, mans rads; Jānis BOLIS u.c. (for the explanation of some of these names see File # 907, Doc.27).

Sodīti par dažādiem pārkāpumiem: R.SILGALS - 10, J.KEIPĀNS - 10 (vips pārdzīvo puslīdz), OZOLE - 10 u.c. Kritis Adža SAIGALS, PŪCE, P.ORMANIS; miris garāns

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