TRANSLAPIOR OF [AESIDECAR/2's AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL STAITEMENT
Date of Preparation: 5 september 1962

## 1928-1934

I attended the Teacher's school in Yelgava (Mitau). During the six years in Yelgava Teacher's Seminary yy sport and social-political development was fixed. My father was a Latvian freedom Pighter, and in 1918 was sentenced to death by the German occupation troops. Somehow or other he was not shot and later became active in the Latvian Social Democratic movement. He was a teacher, as was my mother, who also was a choir director and very active in political life. In Yelgava I made friends who exposed me to an entirely different political philosophy. Very quickly I became a member of a youth organization "Viestura, Savieniba", which was very nationalistic and active on the international plane and fought against the social commanistic ideology. In this way as an 18-year old youth I often bad to argue with my father and often we came to political misunderstandings and disagreements. In this way I received from wy father the belief in the injustice of life and the enormous difference between richness and porerty and was always ready to fight for any injustice in life in an active fashion. Already in my youth I was happy to help everyone and never asked what I would receive for it.

## 1934

In the fall I volunteered for the Latvian Army and was admitted and became part of the 6th Riga Regiment. I became a apecialist in the ski troops and later went to reserve officer's school and as such was discharged from the Latvian Arxay in the fall of 1935. Then I became a teacher in Riga. In 1936 I entered the University. In the morning I was a teacher, in the afternoon I studied, and in sy free time I took part in track and field athletics and ski sports. In the sumner of 1936 and 1938 I was ehosen by the Latvian government and sent to Finland where I increased ay sports knowledge. In 1936 I became a member of the Latvian fraternity "selonia". My character and ny deep underatanding of the social and national problems were thereby more deeply developed. I also came into contact with the highest Latvian Pigures. In 1939 I married Tamara MATISONS. Her father owned and operated a large bakery in Riga. On June 13, 1941, my in-laws were sent to Siberia and they died there. During the first Soriet occupation I worked as a teacher in Riga and at the same time in the evening and sometimes at night as a housing administration officer. These were very difficult
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times and many of my friends vere arrested by the NKVD and murdered. Also, many of my students disappeared. Sometimes they were even arrested during cłass. Also, my uffe and I were destined for destruction, but were able to save ourselves through luck and chance. That was June 1941 and at that time wy wife, wy older son, Juris, and I fled, bid in the thick woods in a jungle like clearing until the German troops arrived and freed us.

I visited wy colleagues and school. I was summoned by the Latvian Relief Organization as a teacher and we identified the murdered Latvian patrios who had been buried in mass graves, shot by the KKVD. I reported and worked in this terrible task two or three months. It was a shocking experience to dig up uy personal friends and ny students from school. In this way from this experience I derived a bate and enmity towards everything which was Commist and Russian. A Latrian political police organization was formed and since I had many good friends in the Latvian political police, I joined it. This group sought the Latrian communists who had remained behind and flushed them out, also the Russian functionaries who had remained behind. From the beginning we only had this task since no Commuist organizations were functioning, except that the Russians after their retreat left behind intentionally certain trusted and well-qualified commanists who later began to work in every possible way in the underground. It was very difficult and dangerous work to discover these organizations and the individual leaders: Later more and more agents were sent from Russia and the majority of them were well trained agents who spoke fluent Latvian. For the most part they came tbrough the front lines, but later they were dropped by Russian airplanes. There were several different types of groups which sprang up: (1) those who returned with the wissions to reestablish communiaations with the necessary people, to observe everything, and also to report by radio to Russia. Also there were women among this group. (2) Secondiy, there were those who cane with the mission carrying out sabotage assignnents. They derailed trains, bley up bridges, promulgated false intelligence, and so on. For the most part they lived in the woods and visited the cities only to make additional contacts and get food. To this group most of the Pleeing Russian prisoners became attached. (3) The last group was the most dangerous. They came with the mission to establish black lists and to assasinate the Latvian national leaders.

Between August 1941 and the fall of 1942, I was an investigations officer and had five or six police officers who assisted me. Since I had good success in wy operations and by virtue of wy own personal 1deas had increasingly good success, in the fall of 1942 I was apsigned more people, for the most part young Latvian army officers, and my mission at the end vas only to discover armed paratroopers and saboteurs and to fight them. I was the leader of a special section which worked very closely with the German Abwehr. I received my assignments from the leader of the Latrian Political Police, that is, directly froin the Abwehr. Ky first police chief was Mr.

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LIBERTS, who at the present time is living in Australia, and ny later chief until my release in August 1943 was Mr . TEIDIMANIS, who at the present tine resides in West Germany and, so far as. I know, exists under an assumed name. There are only a few of my assistants who are alive today, since most of them died on the East Front. In September 1943, the Latrian Political Police was attached to the Clestapo and became known as the S.D. Latrian Section. Since sone of the young Latvian officers were not in agreement with this affiliation, they tried to join the Latvian division. Those who are still alive and were able to save themselves are: Captain KRUMINS in Canada; lst Lt. ABOLTINS in Sweden; lat Lt. ALKSNIS in England; two nonmilitary types in Argentina whose names I can not at the moment remember. One of my assistants who now lives in Minneapolis became a member of the Economic Section after leaving the police. His name is. KIPPERTS, who was also a member of student fraternity. So far as I know, Lt. APSENTS and Lt. JESKE ( $Y$ ) were killed in battle as were pive or six others. So far as I know, two are still in England who were filght lifeutenants. In Chile a Mr. STERRIS is atill living, who for a period of time was the leader of the investigation section and from the beginning was my immediate supervisor. Mr. STERRS was a member of the Latvian Political Police during the inedependent period of Latvia as were Mr. LIBERTS and Mr. TEIDFMANIS. I became a civilian again in August 1943 in order to take over the operation of my ratzer-in-1aw bakery business. After my release from the police force, I was viciously attacked by someone who claimed that I had helped many people to gain their freedom who had been in some way involved in Comminist activity. I was investigated for several days and nights by the Riga Gestapo, including the head-man Mr. LANGE (Big Lange) and Mr. LANGE (Little Lange). Big LaNGe was the chief of the Gestapo in Riga, and Little LaNGE was the chief of Section 4, which was responsible for fighting against the Latvian underground movement. At the end of the investigation I was allowed to keep my weapons, and in order to guarantee wy personal security I was given a certificate that I had performed a very great service forthe German army as a member of the Latvian Political Police. This certificate helped my family and myself very greatly in the future, especially it enabled us to escape from the ring around Riga and later from the ring around Koenigsberg, and in this way it enabled me to save my own life.

In July 1944 I fled with my Pamily using a horse and wagon to East Prussia, and there I worked as a machinist in the Bosch Factory in Preusische Zulav. In October, when the Russians had already occupied Tilsit, we fled to Austria to Innsbruck where I worked in a soap factory and in a margarine factory and where I worked as a sports teacher in the University after the war.

Concerning ay activity as a police officer in Latvia between 1941 and 1943, of course I could write a very thick volume and indeed it would be interesting. On occasions we allowed very dangerous young fellows to get free with the purpose of learning more, and this was very often also against

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the regulations of the German Abwehr. In other words, we won over some Latrian Commaist prisoners and had them work with us. One Russian paratrooper who today lives in Australia had really performed a great service for us, and as a result we very often know in which places the next agent group would spring up and both their true names and also the names contained In their false papers. I can state for sure that these chaps were for the most part very tough fighters, and they often fought right down to the last bullet and then used this to kill themselves. Sometimes they even sprang through windows during interrogation, and very seldom did they ever betray their comrades. To the very great amazement of the Germans, we caught on one day a section leader of the former NKVD who had simply been left behind and for two years had been making up black lists. In the year 1943 in April we found a former Russian Ostsee fleet commander who somehow had been taken prisoner, then he escaped, and later had built up a large organization which supplied the fleeing Russian prisoners with weapons and hid itself in the woods as partisan troops. At the time of his arrest in Riga he unfortunately resisted and several of my people were killed in the battle.

That the Russians after the war had wy name on the black list is no miracle, and they tried to get hold of me in Austria and France, and it was a miracle that they did not. It is also remarkable that the Riga newapaper at the time of the Olympic Games in Melbourne. wrote about me and wy success as the track coach of the chilean team (and nothing more).

1928-1934
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