

*Estonia*

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ESTONIAN TRIAL

MOSCOW TASS IN ENGLISH TO EUROPE 1744 17 JAN 62 L

(TEXT) TALLINN--THE TRIAL OF FASCIST CRIMINALS WHICH BEGAN ON TUESDAY IS CONTINUING IN TARTU. DEFENDANT JAHAN JURISTE, FORMER COMMANDANT OF THE TARTU CONCENTRATION CAMP, CONFESSED THAT HE TOOK PART IN KILLING MORE THAN 12,000 PEOPLE.

THE TARTU CONCENTRATION CAMP, ESTABLISHED IN THE SUMMER OF 1941, WAS THE BIGGEST DEATH CAMP ON NAZI-OCCUPIED ESTONIAN TERRITORY. THE PRISONERS WERE SHOT IN AN ANTI-TANK DITCH FOUR KILOMETERS FROM TARTU. ASKED BY THE PROSECUTOR IF PEOPLE WERE KILLED AT HIS ORDERS AS WELL, JURISTE ANSWERED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE.

JURISTE CONFIRMED THAT LINNAS AND ERVIN VIKS ALSO TOOK A DIRECT PART IN THE MASS SHOOTING OF SOVIET CITIZENS. AT PRESENT LINNAS RESIDES IN NEW YORK AND VIKS IN SYDNEY.

TODAY THE COURT HEARD THE TESTIMONY OF WITNESSES. THE WITNESSES SAID THAT EVERYBODY SUSPECTED OF WAITING FOR THE RETURN OF SOVIET POWER WAS THROWN INTO TARTU CONCENTRATION CAMP. EXECUTIONS WERE HELD SEVERAL TIMES A DAY. AMONG THE CRIMINALS WERE "EXPERTS" IN DELIVERING THE "COUP DE GRACE" TO THOSE WHO SURVIVED THE EXECUTION, SAID WITNESS LAATS. AFTER THE VOLLEY OF THE FIRING SQUAD, "EXPERTS" LINNAS AND VIKS USED TO SHOOT THROUGH THE HEAD THOSE WHO WERE STILL ALIVE.