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ESTONIAN WAR CRIMES TRIAL

MOSCOW TASS IN ENGLISH TO EUROPE 1745 18 JAN 62 L

(TEXT) TALLINN--THE TRIAL OF THE FASCIST CRIMINALS YUHAN YURISTE, KARL LINNAS, AND ERWIN VIKS CONTINUES HERE.

YUHAN YURISTE WAS AN OFFICER IN THE BOURGEOIS ESTONIAN ARMY AND WAS DECORATED FOR FIGHTING AGAINST THE SOVIET POWER. ON 14 JULY 1941 HE WAS APPOINTED COMMANDANT OF THE TARTU CONCENTRATION CAMP BY THE NAZIS. FOR 16 YEARS HE HID UNDER A FALSE NAME.

ERWIN VIKS IS A PROFESSIONAL MURDERER. HE WAS DEPUTY HEAD OF THE "SPECIAL DEPARTMENT" IN THE TARTU CAMP. HE HIMSELF INTERROGATED THE PRISONERS AND PASSED OUT SENTENCES, WHICH USUALLY MEANT DEATH. FOR THESE "SERVICES" HE WAS APPOINTED HEAD OF THE POLITICAL POLICE OF THE TALLINN-HARUE PREFECTURE. ERWIN VIKS IS NOT IN COURT; HE IS HIDING OUT IN SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA.

KARL LINNAS BEGAN HIS SERVICE WITH THE NAZIS AS A DUTY OFFICER IN THE TARTU CAMP AND SOON, IN MAY 1942, BECAME ITS COMMANDANT. HE IS NOW LIVING IN NEW YORK.

WITNESSES TESTIFIED THAT WITH THE DIRECT AND ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF THE DEFENDANTS MORE THAN 200 PEOPLE WERE EXECUTED DAILY IN THE TARTU CONCENTRATION CAMP DURING THE FIRST MONTHS OF HITLER'S OCCUPATION OF ESTONIA. IN A VERY SHORT TIME 12,000 SOVIET CITIZENS WERE EXTERMINATED THERE.

THE TRIAL CONTINUES.

18 JAN 352P JB/GH

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