

BALTIC NEWS

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A Newsletter of the Help the Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian Peoples
Association (HELLP) - P.O. Box 272, Sandy Bay, Tas. 7005 (Australia).

Vol. I, No. 4.

June 4, 1975.

Don't miss ... Vigil for Balt deportees

From 4.0 p.m. Friday June 13, 1975 to 6.0 p.m. Saturday June 14, 1975:

Franklin Square, Hobart.

For further particulars, see back page of this issue.



"The prisoners live in primitive wooden barracks whose interiors are reminiscent of the famous scene in 'The Lower Depths' of Gorki. About 100 prisoners live in one room, on plank beds arranged in two levels....The mass of the prisoners are dressed in stinking rags and present a pitiful sight...an indescribable hell to the eyes of a European. Persons who knew Polish prisons and the German Dachau of the year 1937 remembered them in the Soviet camps as a comparative paradise."

- From a statement by Dr. Julius Margolin, Polish-born Zionist scholar, an inmate of Soviet prisons and labour camps from June, 1940 to June, 1945.

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- * Anti-Australian attacks in the Soviet press: Page 2.
- * Baltic people's plight raised in the Australian Parliament: Pages 2 & 3.
- * How Baltic migrants have helped to build Australia: Page 11.

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Anti-Australian articles are appearing in the Soviet-controlled press with increasing frequency. The Soviets are using every opportunity to criticize Australia's Labor Government and the Australian way of life.

It is obvious that the Russian people have not been told about the Australian Prime Minister's attempts to become friends with the Soviets. The newspapers circulated inside the Soviet Union have even kept quiet about Australia's recognition of the Russian rule in the Baltic States - something the ordinary people in Russia are hardly proud of.

The Soviet readers are still led to believe that the Australian-style Labor Government is a far cry from true socialism and that only a Communist Government will solve all of Australia's problems.

The following is a typical sample, taken from "Gimtasys Krastas", No.39 of 22/9/1974 (published in Russian-occupied Lithuania):

"Lately, we get frequent letters from Ieva Paparde, who lives in Australia. This Lithuanian woman's life in the capitalist world is a real battle. Her husband died some time ago. The woman is managing as best as she can by herself, but all sorts of troubles and difficulties have overwhelmed this 65-year-old...

"First of all, she suffered at the hands of her employer who forced her to give up her job and go on a pension. She had to eke out a living from her property and let half of her house to a tenant... Recently, this tenant went wild and beat up his landlady. The police were called, but, instead of protecting the woman, they even made fun of her and reminded her that the (Australian) police force does not interfere in matters of this sort.

"She writes, 'The attitude towards women is still bad in Australia. Women generally have to wage an outright battle for a more decent pay and job. Young women find it difficult to secure employment; at my age, you need a miracle!...' "

NEWS FROM AROUND AUSTRALIA

* Mr. Balys Stankunavicius is the 1975 President of the Baltic Council of Australia. The Council's address is: P.O. Box 128, Nth. Melb., 3051.

* The World Freedom League (Australian Chapter) is active & publishes a monthly newsletter (G.P.O. Box 1178, Perth, W.A. 6001). The League incorporates the World Anti-Communist League; the Asian Peoples Anti-Communist League; and the Captive Nations Association.

* In Canberra, Mr Snedden raised the Baltic question in the House of Representatives on 17/4/1975 (Question No.2238); and Senator Marriott followed up with a further question in the Australian Senate on 21/5/75 (see story on Page 3).

* Young people in Western Australia have formed the Baltic Action Group of W.A. - and are keen to hear from similar groups in other parts of Australia. All communications should be directed to the Chairman, Mr Peter Cekanauskas, 7 Newnham Street, Leederville, W.A. 6007 (phone 819778 after hours, or 248671 office hours). B.A.G. of W.A. is working in co-operation with the Baltic Committee of W.A. (Box S 1481, G.P.O., Perth, W.A. 6001).

* In Melbourne, more than 5000 took part in a march organised (on 8/5/75) by the People Against Communism Committee (P.O. Box 284, Springvale, Vic. 3171 - Mrs. Jennifer McCallum, President).

H.E.L.L.P. ACTIVITIES

Family Law Bill

H.E.L.L.P. members joined other women, to stage a demonstration in Hobart against the proposed Family Law Bill, on Monday 5th May, 1975.

Carrying placards, the protesters called on Mr John Coates, M.H.R., and informed him of their objections to the bill, especially the clause dealing with "no fault" and the irretrievable breakdown of marriage after 12 months.

The two-hour demonstration received prominent publicity on both TV channels and in the Tasmanian press.

Dual Nationality

H.E.L.L.P. Association in Hobart (Tasmania) has made a written submission to the Australian Parliamentary Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence, in connection with its inquiry on the international, legal and diplomatic aspects of the situation of Australians possessing dual or plural nationality.

Baltic Prisoners of Conscience

Since the publication of the news item "Australia's Prime Minister Unable to Help" (Baltic News, 5/4/1975, page 2), H.E.L.L.P. Association has received a number of enquiries about the Lithuanian prisoners of conscience, four of whom are known to have been recently deported from their own country to the depths of Russia.

After a careful study of this case, Senator Marriott (Tasmania) asked the following question in the Australian Senate on 21 May, 1975:

"In the light of the Prime Minister's reluctance to discuss the Baltic States issue when he was in the Soviet Union in 1974, will the Minister for Foreign Affairs, through diplomatic channels, undertake to make representations to Soviet Authorities for the release of the 5 Lithuanian prisoners of conscience - S.Zukauskas, A.Sakalauskas, V.Povilonis, I.Rudaitis and A.Mackevicius? Will the Minister also press for greater human rights in the Baltic States... and keep the Australian public informed about progress of any negotiations?"

The Minister for Foreign Affairs (Senator Willesee) was very general in his reply and did not give the undertaking requested by Sen. Marriott.

CUT HERE and MAIL TODAY- - - - -

* H.E.L.L.P. is an abbreviation for: Help the Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian Peoples, in their continuing struggle for survival and self-determination.

To: H.E.L.L.P.*ASSOCIATION,
P.O. Box 272, SANDY BAY, Tasmania, 7005.

I do not recognize Russian sovereignty over Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

I agree with the objectives of H.E.L.L.P.* Association and hereby apply for membership.

Signature _____

NAME (Mr,Mrs,Miss) _____

ADDRESS _____

Phone _____

It costs nothing to join H.E.L.L.P.- and there are no membership fees.

Action costs money. Donations always welcome.

I ENCLOSE \$ _____ Cash/Cheque.

If a receipt is required, please tick here: _____

Baltic News, 4/6/1975

- Page 4.



The aim of H.E.L.L.P. Association is to help the Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian peoples, in their continuing struggle for survival and freedom.

H.E.L.L.P. Association is non-denominational and non-Party Political. The Association's objectives are to take the necessary action:

- (1) to make all people aware of the Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian nations' continuing struggle for survival and self-determination; and
- (2) to press for a reversal of the Australian Government's recognition of Russian sovereignty over Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

START WRITING NOW!

TEDIS ZIERINS, the author of the article on the next page, has written hundreds of letters about the plight of the Baltic people, to various newspapers in U.S.A.

The article has been adapted from a collection of Zierins' best letters, which has been published in booklet form under the title If One Can Do It, Why Not You? (available from Mr. T. Zierins, Latvian Community Center, 4146 N. Elston, Chicago, Ill. 60618. U.S.A.).

To all members and supporters:

START WRITING NOW!

You probably don't realize, how much you can do in the free world's struggle against the atheistic Communism. Years ago, I believed that there was nothing I could do. I was just a blue collar worker and my English was very poor. Politics? -- not for me!

Then, an event in November, 1957 changed my attitude. I discovered that I could do a lot! The Russians had just launched their first sputniks; a dog was aboard one of them. Protests started pouring into the United Nations. The British National Canine Defence League asked people throughout the world to observe one minute of silence daily, on behalf of the suffering little dog.

I happened to remark to a friend of mine, "This sounds very nice, because nobody wants to be cruel to animals. But nobody has ever suggested to observe even one second of silence, on behalf of the millions of people who are suffering in Communist slave camps and prisons today. Aren't all those millions of people worth more than one dog? Somebody should write a letter to the newspapers about it".

My friend told me that, if I had a complaint, I should write myself. "Impossible", I said, "I can't write English". My friend pushed a piece of paper and a pencil in front of me and said, "There! Write in Latvian! My sister will be home soon and she will translate it for you."

Immediate Success

I had no choice but to write. His sister did the translations and, to our surprise, three out of four dailies in our city printed my letter, "Quo Vadis Free World". I wrote another letter for Christmas Day, saying that Communism knew no Christmas. That was published, too.

Encouraged, I kept writing. Within 12 months, my letters appeared in several States. Several years later, I was able to dispense with the translators' services and ventured into English myself. I am still a factory worker, but my letters appear all over the country - and Soviet publications are attacking me, because of it.

How To Write

Communists and their friends are urging their people to write letters to the press, thus promoting their cause. Why shouldn't we?

One good way to get your letter published is to express thanks for something. Another way is to comment on an editorial or another letter you have seen in the paper. But, when a newspaper publishes an editorial with a mistaken viewpoint, it is better not to attack it angrily; start your letter in a friendly way, such as "Sorry, but I cannot agree with your editorial..."

People don't like to have your ideas pushed on to them - they prefer to make up their own minds. Letters in question form, leading to logical conclusions, may be more appealing. Or, you may point out some less known facts and let the reader reach his own conclusions.

Make your point clear by comparing it with some very well-known fact. Commemorative days can be used to contrast Soviet Communism and Freedom. Everybody knows that Nazism is evil; compare Russian colonialism with Nazism and Fascism. Do not call your opponents leftists or Reds - merely quote the facts which contradict their words.

Do not allow subversive groups to impose their will upon the finest country in the world, Australia. Let's all become members of the volunteer army of little candles who keep the freedom's light aglow.

Tedis ZIERINS.

NEWS FROM THE BALTIC STATES

LATVIA

Rumours are circulating in Latvia that further purges are imminent in the top hierarchy of the Latvian Communist Party. On instructions from Moscow, all anti-Russian resistance is to be eradicated.

This resistance has become more obvious since 1972, when prominent Latvian communists appealed to the western world's communists for help against Moscow's russification policies. Mass immigration has become so evident that even local communists are beginning to revolt. In their protest, the Latvians charged Moscow with "forcible colonisation" of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia with Russians, White Ruthenians and Ukrainians, and of assigning all the leading posts in the organisational bureau to Russians.

* * * * *

LATVIAN STUDENT STILL IN GOAL.

Will the Australian students and other young people press for an early release of Gunars Rode?

This plea is contained in a hasty note which was smuggled out of Latvia recently and reached Australia last week.

University student Gunars Rode was 27, when he was arrested by Soviet secret police in his native Latvia on April 15, 1962. A woman had reported him. Rode was charged with "holding political beliefs unacceptable to the communist government" and was sentenced to 15 years imprisonment with hard labour. Although suffering from stomach ulcers, Rode is still in prison and the Moscow rulers have rejected all local pleas for mercy.

* * * *

LITHUANIA

Lithuanians in Byelorussian S.S.R.

Soviet authorities are discriminating against the Lithuanians in the Byelorussian S.S.R. Their efforts are aimed at Lithuanian schools, priests and intelligentsia as further attempts at denationalisation. The government of the U.S.S.R. is determined to "transform Lithuanians first into Byelorussians and then into Russians".

Some denationalisation measures include the arbitrary russianisation of Lithuanian surnames and place names. Lithuanian books, newspapers and magazines are neither sold nor accepted in the libraries in the Byelorussian Republic. Lithuanians active in cultural matters or engaged in youth activities have been harassed and blackmailed. Visits by student folk-dance groups and choirs from Lithuania have been severely restricted since 1972.

The Catholic Church is going through an especially trying period: Most of the Catholic churches in Byelorussia were closed in the post-war period by crude administrative procedures: most of them were transformed into warehouses. The fate of all these is associated with a dramatic history which could serve as a grave accusation of a crime against humanity, not to mention the most crude violation of the rights of freedom of conscience which are solemnly guaranteed by the U.S.S.R. Constitution.

(Continued on the next Page).

(Continued from Page 6:)

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As old priests keep dying out, the number of parishes without priests increases. Priests from Lithuania are not allowed to work in Byelorussia. Thus once the present priests have died out, there will be no new ones. Ultimately, a church without a leader will stop functioning because there will be nobody to keep up the spirit of the faithful.

This is a cruel contemporary truth, despite the Soviet Union's claim to be the most progressive state in the world, fighting for the rights of peoples and the liberation of nations. Neither during the tsarist regime, nor during Polish occupation were the Lithuanians in Byelorussia persecuted as harshly for their nationality as under the Soviet government.

* * * * *

The Deformation of Creative Spirit

Mrs. M. Jurasas, writer, essayist and literary critic worked for twelve years in Vilnius. She describes the "captive mind" in Lithuania:

"I know what a complicated and unique school a writer completes until he gets used to stuffing his free-thinking spirit into a bottle, like some genie, and allowing it only occasionally to stick out its head through a net of intricate metaphors. Of course, that does not apply to all who write, because some have found their vocation in beating drums, singing odes or pseudo-modernist lines about the greatness and beauty of man under socialism.

We sometimes tend to believe the charitable intentions of the Lithuanian authorities to water the withering tree of our culture. And we frequently forget the price that is exacted and what lime-polluted water is poisoning the roots of that tree. Books are published in huge numbers, clogging the brain with waste paper, and one is overjoyed in fishing out one or two pages of genuine literature from this flood."

On the other hand the State instructs:

"Not even for a moment can we forget the current sharp ideological struggle. Armed with Marxist-Leninist ideology, class consciousness and firm knowledge, we face our duty: to rebuke any phenomena of a hostile ideology and to unmask its essence".

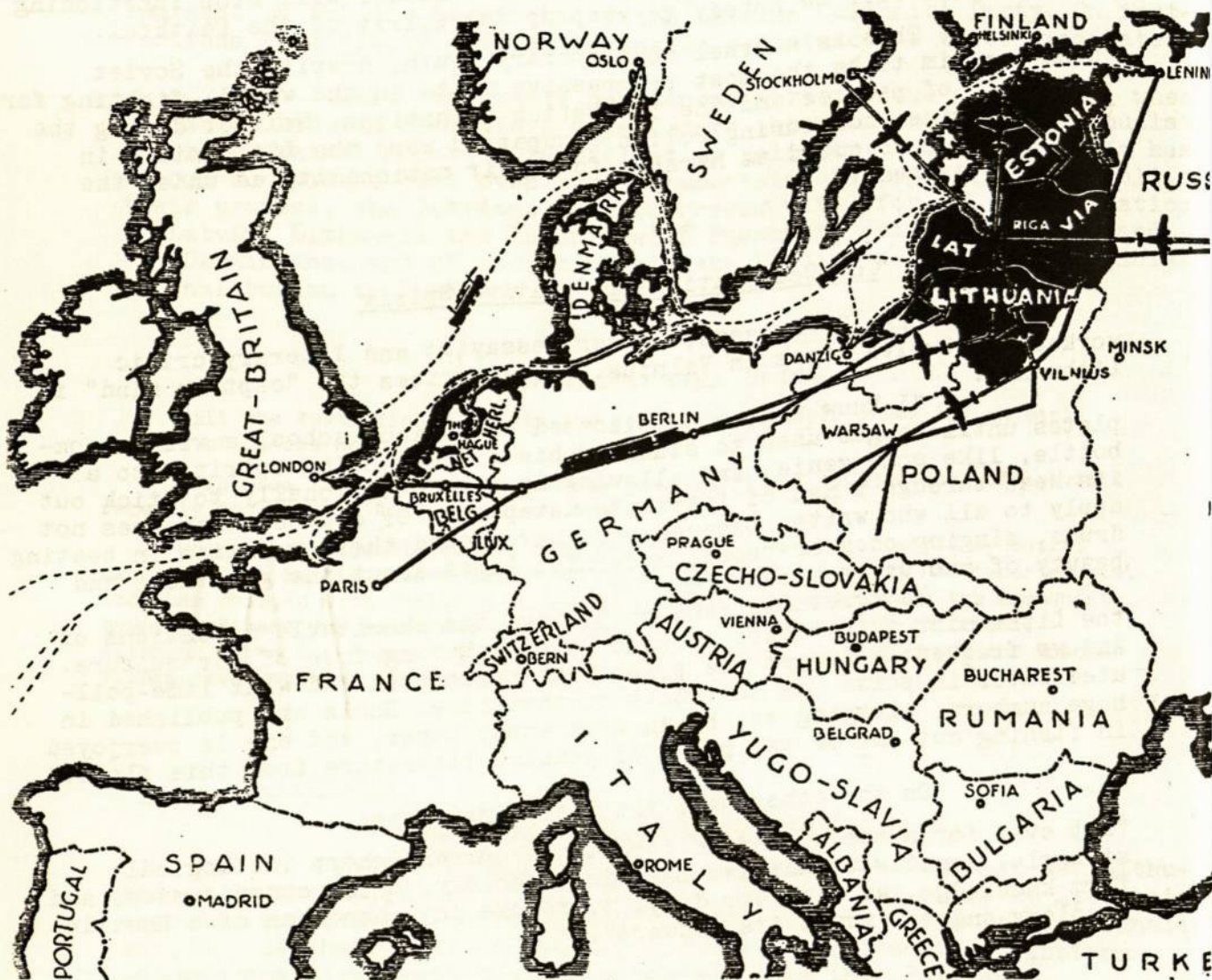
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BALTIC NEWS

This newsletter is produced mainly for distribution to members of the Help the Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian Peoples Association (HELLP). We are pleased to supply copies to non-members, while stocks last; but, if the present demand for Baltic News continues, stocks are not likely to last very long. Issues Nos.1, 2 and 3 are already out of print.

If you are not yet a member and want to be sure of receiving future issues of the Baltic News, will you join HELLP now? HELLP Association is non-denominational and non-Party Political; its objectives are set out on Page 4 of this issue. To join, simply clip out the coupon at the bottom of Page 3 and post to HELLP, P.O. Box 272, Sandy Bay, 7005; or, if the coupon is already detached, write to this address, giving your name, postal address, phone no. and occupation.

There is no joining fee and no membership subscription. However, donations are always welcome - because HELLP activities do cost money.



This was the map of Europe in 1938 - before Soviet Russia and Nazi Germany conspired to conquer other nations. The three Baltic States (Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania) were amongst the early victims - and are still under the Russian domination today.

" I am proud to speak for Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, whose people are in a terrible darkness stained by the blood of thousands. We stand before them and salute them. May they hear these words of encouragement from this fair and free city."

- The Most Rev Dr. G. YOUNG,
the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Hobart,
18/11/1974.

Historical Notes (1)

THE BALTIC STATES: SOME BASIC FACTS.

"We have never recognized the 1941 frontiers of Russia... They were acquired by acts of aggression and shameful collusion with Hitler. The transfer of the people of the Baltic States to Soviet Russia against their will would be contrary to all the principles for which we are fighting this war and would dishonour our cause... The deadly comb ran back and forth, and back again, through Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. There were no doubts, however, where the right lay. The Baltic States should be sovereign independent peoples."

WINSTON S. CHURCHILL (1942).

Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania are three small countries in Northern Europe. The area of each is similar to that of Tasmania. Total population is about 6½ million.

Estonians, Latvians and Lithuanians are among the oldest nations in Europe. They have lived on the east coast of the Baltic Sea since well before the birth of Christ. Because of their geographical location, they are known collectively as "the Balts". The three countries are often referred to as "the Baltic States".

Each of these nations has its own culture and a long history. Their languages belong to the unique Ungro-Finnish and Baltic groups - and are distinctly different from Russian.

Until World War II, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania were independent, self-governing republics. Russian military forces occupied them in June 1940; two months later, the three countries were incorporated into the Soviet Union.

There have been no free elections in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania since then. People are ruled by fear and constant police surveillance. Freedom of speech is prohibited. Religion is ridiculed.

In addition, the Russian rulers have introduced a plan for gradual elimination of the Baltic peoples. Families are broken up and disposed of. At the same time, Russian settlers move in and take over their homes and property. More than 500,000 Estonians, Latvians and Lithuanians have so far died in Soviet jails and concentration camps.

Official Soviet census figures confirm this genocidal trend. By 1970, the proportion of the Baltic people in their own countries had dropped to alarming levels (the pre-war percentages are shown in brackets):

	1970	1938
Estonia	68.2%	(88.0%)
Latvia	55.0%	(76.0%)
Lithuania	80.1%	(85.0%)

Further Reading:

- The Baltic States, 1940 - 1972. Stockholm: The Baltic Committee in Scandinavia, 1972. - Australian recommended price \$4.95.
 GIMBUTAS, M., The Balts. London: Thames & Hudson, 1963. - \$12.00*.
 SAVASIS, Dr. J., The War against God in Lithuania. New York: Manylands Books, Inc., 1966. - \$5.15 Aust.* (hard cover edition).

IN MEMORIAM.

- APLOCINS, H. - In memory of the Latvian artist - painter, who was deported by the Soviet Russians from his native country and died in a slave labour camp in Krasnoyarsk district (Siberia), on May 28, 1958.
- STASKEVICIUS, The Rev Jonas. - One of thousands of deported Estonians, Latvians and Lithuanians; died in Siberia, on May 31, 1955.
- SIDLAUSKAS, Jonas. - A tribute to a fearless Baltic freedom fighter and leader of the Kupreliskis (Lithuania) guerilla group; died from wounds received in battle against the Russian invaders, summer 1949. Outnumbered, but not defeated.
- GOPPERS, M. - In sad memory of the former Leader of the Boy Scout Movement in free Latvia. Shot after torture in Riga prison, on June 2, 1941.
Be Prepared!
Inserted by a Latvian survivor, Hobart (Tasmania).
- VITKUS. - Fond memories of Juozas, a colonel in the Lithuanian Freedom Army; killed in action against the Russian invaders, June 1946.
Inserted by his nephew.
- SPILVA, - In loving memory of Janis, a hard-working carpenter in once-free Latvia. Arrested on trumped-up charges and shot by the Soviets on June 3, 1941.
- "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere" (M.L. King, Jr.)
Inserted by Valda.
- VAICIULIS. - A tribute to the Very Rev Mgr Vincas Vaičiulis, who was deported from his native Lithuania, tortured in Taishet concentration camp (Siberia) until paralysed, then returned to Jieznas (Lithuania) to die, on June 6, 1960.
- RIMKEVICIUS, Stasys, S.J. - In memory of the former Jesuit provincial of Kaunas (Lithuania). Died June 8, 1955, soon after his release from the Siberian horror camps (1948-55).
- LAPSINS, Nikolajs. - An outspoken Latvian patriot. Shot by a Russian firing squad, June 13, 1941.
- PURINS. - In loving memory of Hermine and her 14-year-old boy: the wife and son of a frontier guard on the Russian-Latvian border - the first victims of the 1940 Communist invasion. Shot during the night of June 14-15, 1940, while trying to stop their family home from getting burnt down.
- OLSAUSKAS, The Rev Kazimieras. - One of many Baltic priests and ministers of religion, who gave their lives for their faith; died in Okoniov concentration camp (Siberia), on June 18, 1954.
- BOLSTEINS. - In memory of General L. Bolšteins, who shot himself on June 20, 1940, leaving a note, "My hands had helped to build Free Latvia; I cannot bear to use the same hands in its destruction".

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Genuine In Memoriam notices for the victims of the Baltic peoples' struggle for freedom, are published in the Baltic News, free of charge. All copy must be clearly legible and (to prevent bogus advertisements under Section 44 of the Police Offences Act 1955) must show the name and address of the person submitting copy. This name and address will be kept in confidence and will not be published, unless requested otherwise.

Baltic Contributions to Australia

EDITOR'S NOTE: Some 30,000 to 40,000 Baltic migrants came to Australia after World War II. Though comparatively small in number, these hard-working people from Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania have made a significant contribution to the arts, sciences and industries of Australia. It is sometimes overlooked that the Balts opened up a new era in Australian migration - the era of the political refugee, who valued freedom more than an extra dollar in the pay packet. In this series of articles, we would like to show, how Australia has gained - in more ways than one - from the Baltic migrants. - Readers' contributions are welcome.

1. OLEGAS TRUCHANAS (1923 - 1972):
Explorer, Conservationist, Master Photographer.

THE name of Olegas Truchanas is well known throughout many parts of the State of Tasmania. It stands for determination, steadfast purpose, the will to succeed and a breadth of vision to aim decisively for the highest possible quality of success.

How do these attributes come together in one man? Perhaps his background and the influence of his youth can provide an explanation.

"Born in Siauliai, Lithuania, in 1923, he had seen his country overrun by the Russians in 1940, the Nazis in 1941, and the Russians again in 1944... He fought the invaders as a member of the Lithuanian Resistance Movement; lived to see nearly a third of his countrymen killed or sent to concentration camps, then was angered and humiliated to find his country handed over to the USSR at the 1945 Yalta meeting between Stalin, Churchill and a dying Roosevelt. Lithuania became a Soviet State. Truchanas left it - never to return. He fled to Munich, and...gained admittance to its University to study law... About this time, he began to ski and climb in the Bavarian Alps. He also took an interest in the famous Bavarian mountain photographers, whose distinctive style was to influence him for the next twenty-five years." (p.16)*

In 1948, Truchanas came to Tasmania as a migrant and was contracted to work pushing old rusty trucks at the E.Z. Company, Risdon. During time away from work, he decided to get to know his new country. After wandering the valleys and hills adjoining Hobart, Truchanas set out to explore the mountains further afield - only to learn to his surprise that there were areas in South-West Tasmania which were virtually unexplored and unknown to Tasmanians.

During the next few years, Olegas Truchanas devoted his holidays to epic lone journeys, to exploring and learning about the beauty this wilderness held. He gradually photographed and recorded the beauty and moods of the Tasmanian mountains, lakes, tarns, forests and rivers - where in some cases no man had been before.

Truchanas combined his artistry, photographic skill, physical energy and devotion to his new country, creating lectures for the general public and youth organisations. He set out to educate Tasmanians and the coming generations of their inheritance and, in turn, of their caretaker responsibilities for their children. It was the first time in Australia that art had been used as a weapon to embarrass a government.

"Olegas Truchanas... drowned three years ago in the Gordon River he loved with such passion... In two decades this dedicated man, an unknown migrant pushing an ore truck, had become an honoured figure as explorer, cameraman, lover of nature and sturdy defender of a rich environment the heedless could think only of destroying." ** (Contributed).

* From the handsome memorial book, THE WORLD OF OLEGAS TRUCHANAS, by Max Angus (published 1975, distributed by Fullers B/shop, Hobart. \$19.50).

** From a review of the above book, in The Sydney Morning Herald, 24/5/75.

* * * COMING EVENTS * * *

Friday 13th June and Saturday 14th June, 1975:

34th ANNIVERSARY OF BALTIC DEPORTATIONS

The first wave of mass deportations from the Baltic States, to the depths of Russia started on 13th/14th June, 1941. These tragic events will be commemorated in Hobart, in three ways:

1. A 26-hour continuous vigil in Franklin Square, Hobart (at the corner of Elizabeth and Macquarie Streets) - starting at 4.p.m. on Friday 13/6/75 and continuing through to 6.p.m. on Saturday 14/6/75.
2. A torchlight march from Franklin Square to St. Mary's Cathedral, starting at 6.p.m. on Saturday 14/6/75. It is proposed to walk along the footpaths, holding battery-operated hand-torches or candles (in wind-proof containers) - all participants are asked to bring your own torches!
3. A church service for the people of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania - in St Mary's Cathedral, starting at 7.p.m. on Saturday 14/6/75.

All members and supporters are asked to participate wholeheartedly in all three functions. Ladies are asked to wear national costumes, if possible. A number of well-known public figures have been invited to make public addresses at the vigil; their speeches will probably start at approx. 5.p.m. on Friday 13/6/75.

H.E.L.L.P. Association is hoping to produce a special commemorative booklet, giving the factual background of the Baltic tragedy. Copies will be available, free of charge, at the vigil.

Saturday 19th July, 1975:

DANCE

in the Polish Hall, corner Main Rd. & Augusta Rd., New Town (Tas.)

- run by the Lithuanian Association in Hobart -

Dancing 8.30p.m. to 1.a.m. = Hot and cold supper = Good Band!

For table bookings, telephone Joe Paskevicius, Ph. 72 6360.

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Book of the Month:

THE BALTIC STATES, 1940-1972. Stockholm: The Baltic Committee in Scandinavia, 1972 (2nd Edition), 121 pp. - Recommended
Australian price, \$4.95 (+postage: 33¢ ord., 60¢ airmail).

Several books about the more recent events in the Baltic States have been criticized as being "too emotional" or lacking in objective documentation. These shortcomings have been fully overcome in The Baltic States, 1940-1972.

In a concise and easy-to-read form, the book presents documentary background and a factual survey of developments, since the Russian military takeover of the three little republics in 1940, as well as of the political events that led to the takeover itself.

Originally prepared for presentation to the European Security and Cooperation Conference in Helsinki, The Baltic States, 1940-1972 should be compulsory reading for all students of the modern European history - and for the Balts themselves. -Reviewed by: Sam Harper.

(N.B.: People who are unable to obtain this book from their favourite bookshop, may order direct from the Tasmanian representatives, HELEN PASKEVICIUS, Ph. 272, SANDY BAY, Tasmania, 7005.)



**BALTIC PEOPLE
NEED
YOUR HELP**

WHAT PRICE FREEDOM?

All candidates in the Bass By-Election have been asked:

"If elected, what steps will you take in the next 12 months to reverse the Australian Government's recognition of the Soviet Russian sovereignty over the Baltic States (Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania)?"

They have replied as follows:

Mr. P. KENT (Independent):

Recognition of Communist sovereignty over the Baltic States is a denial of the principles of democracy by which we live.

As a person who has lived under the Communist regime, I understand the desire of people to be free.

If elected, I would protest against this unjust betrayal and introduce into the Houses of Parliament the necessary documentation, required to rescind that decision.

Mr. J. MACROSTIE (Australian Labor Party):

No reply.

Mr. S. NEGUS (Independent):

I disagree with recognition. Would endeavour to reverse the decision.

Mr. K. NEWMAN (Lib.) - *Given by 'phone, subject to confirmation:*

I will raise the issue in Parliament, in the first sitting; and I will work to have this decision rescinded.

Dr. K. PETROVSKY (United Tasmania Group):

I am now making the challenge to the Federal Government and Opposition, forcing them to declare their policy on this matter...

If elected to the House of Representatives, I am prepared to bring a private member's bill before Parliament, so that all members of Parliament will be forced to vote upon it, and therefore to let the Baltic electors in their community know their real opinions on this matter.

Mr. M. Ossie STONE:

No reply.

YOUR VOTE CAN HELP

Authorized by E. Baulis, 30 Fairthorne Road, Trevallyn, 7250, on behalf of HELLIP (Help the Estonian, Latvian & Lithuanian Peoples Association).

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on 1/3 Col Street, Hobart.