

THIS WAR AND THE LITHUANIAN NATION

During a five-year period, ancient, peace-loving Lithuania—on the Baltic shores—has suffered through three military occupations. Lying between Russia and Germany, it became the innocent victim of the struggles between these two countries in the present war.

Half a million people lost their homes, hundreds of thousands have lost their lives as the battle zig-zagged on Lithuanian soil.

Lithuania—A Main Battlefield

In 1940, Soviet Russia strengthened her position against Germany by establishing military bases in Lithuania. In 1941, when war broke out between Russia and Germany, Lithuania became a battlefield. Lithuanian cities, villages and communication centers were completely demolished. As the Russian armies retreated, the entire country suffered from the "scorched earth" policy used by the Russians to impede the progress of the Nazis as Soviet forces withdrew from Lithuania.

Under Nazi Oppression

For over three years Nazi military occupation brought untold hardships to the Lithuanian people. They became virtually slaves. All available food supplies and other necessities were systematically confiscated. With medical supplies exhausted, industries destroyed and the barest necessities for human existence lacking, life became so unbearable that thousands of the suffering population fled to neighboring countries.

About 200,000 Lithuanian youth (between the ages of 15-30) were drafted for forced labor and sent to industrial sections throughout Germany. All those who revolted against such mobilization were either executed or sent to concentration camps.

A Battleground For The Third Time

With the great allied offensive of 1944, Lithuanian soil again became a main battlefield for Soviet and Nazi forces. During the progress of this recent warfare, the inhabitants of Lithuania's ancient capital, Vilnius, suffered tremendous hardships and the civilian population was depleted from 210,000 to 140,000.

Urgently Needed Relief

During the earlier period of this war, relief funds for Lithuanian war sufferers have been contributed by such organizations as the American Red Cross, American Catholic Bishops' Relief, Lithuanian Priests Committee of America and other charitable agencies. But, with the number of refugees increasing and distress and suffering spreading throughout Lithuania, Lithuanian Americans—who number a million of our population—organized one central relief agency to cope with the urgent situation.

This new central agency—The United Lithuanian Relief Fund of America, Inc. (19 W. 44th St., New York 18, N. Y.) is a member agency of the National War Fund.

Aid The Homeless Sufferers

Funds are used by the Committee to send immediate relief to Lithuanian refugees in Sweden, France, Switzerland, Spain, Portugal, Italy and South American countries. As soon as communications between the United States and Lithuania can be established, the Committee will undertake the shipment of clothing and other urgently needed supplies to relieve the suffering and distress of the population within Lithuania.

BALTIC STATES COMMISSION URGED BY RACIAL GROUPS AT CONFERENCE

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES

San Francisco, May 12.—United organizations of Americans of Lithuanian, Latvian and Estonian descent asked today that an inter-allied control commission, with "real participation" by the United States and Great Britain, be set up in the Baltic States "to fulfill the promises of the Yalta declaration." They voiced "dissatisfaction" of "the Soviet Union's conduct" at the conference.

These organizations, whose spokesman at a press conference was William F. Laukaitis, former chief judge of the Baltimore traffic court, are interpreting the Yalta declaration on liberated Europe as applying to the Baltic countries. It pledged Britain, Russia and the United States to aid the people in "any European liberated State or former Axis satellite State in Europe," where in their judgment conditions required, to form representative national interim governments and facilitate the holding of free elections where necessary.

A memorandum dated April 19 and submitted to the United Nations secretariat, stated that when the interim government had been formed "free elections" should be held "after removal of the Soviet occupational troops and after the return of those citizens who had been forcibly

mobilized, imprisoned or deported by the occupying powers (Germany and Russia)."

"Unfettered Elections" Stressed

"It is the hope of the Baltic peoples," said Mr. Laukaitis, "to have free and unfettered elections after the removal of Soviet secret police and Red Army troops."

The memorandum, from which he said, no reaction had come to the Baltic-American organizations from Secretary Stettinius or other officials, defined the immediate task of the proposed interallied control commission as the restoration of "freedom of speech, assembly and press."

"Members of this commission," it added, "should be persons whose moral prestige, in their own countries as well as abroad, is generally recognized, and the commission should have an adequate technical staff."

"Mr. Laukaitis estimated the pre-war percentage of Communists in the Baltic States at 1 or 2 per cent, but he asserted that 1,500,000 to 2,000,000 persons had been deported "or otherwise disposed of" during the war and that there had been "a constant infiltration of Communists" into the three countries.

When the memorandum was written representation of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia at the San Francisco conference was sought.

Views on "Soviet Republics"

A correspondent asked Mr. Laukaitis what would be the

WHEN WILL THE FOLD BE FREE

Lithuania hungry, torn and weak
With heart in sorrow great
For woman, child and baby born,
All slaughtered in mad hate.

Ah! times there were in days gone by
When Beauty's soft caress
With Joy and Peace entwined that land
And reigned with Happiness.

Beneath each thatched roofed, log-built
The happy families dwell [home
On Nemunas' green lowlands wide
On hill or sloping dell.

At harvest time beneath the sun
The rose cheeked girls reap hay;
And whistling youths the farming tend
Or thirst at brooks allay.

The Angelus so softly floats
From distant belfry tower,
When happy peasants' prayers ascend
At eve's reflecting hour.

Then o'er the woody hills of pine
Or mighty oak, the sky
Exchanging light for peaceful night
Brings rest; in days gone by.

When will this land regain its right
When will the folk be free?
'Tis time to liberate the lands
About the Baltic sea.

Remove your bloodstained greedy grasp,
Allow that people rise.
Let clear Lithuanian words resound
And echo without disguise.

Joseph Wiltrakis

RUSSIA'S ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH THE WORLD NOT HAMPERED BY LITHUANIA

The Soviets, in endeavoring to justify their claims to the Baltic States, use the argument that these states served as barriers in the way of Russia's economic relations with the rest of the world.

A glance at the map of the Baltic region will reveal that there are six serviceable ports on the Baltic shores which could be useful to Russia, directly or indirectly, in her economic relations with the Western world. Of these, Leningrad is under direct Russian control; Latvia has three ports (Riga, Ventspils, Liepaja); and Estonia has one (Tallinn). Only one of the six—Klaipeda (Memel)—is in Lithuania. All the ports have good railway connections with the major economic regions in Russia. Nevertheless, shipment of Russian goods through these ports prior to World War II was comparatively small. This was due mainly to the fact that Soviet Russia was a very poor market for foreign goods and negligible producer of export goods. Dr. V. Raud in his book *The Baltic States as a British Market in the Past and Future* (London) draws some very interesting comparisons between the Baltic States as markets for British goods and Soviet Russia, Poland and other Central European countries.

With the exception of Finland, the Baltic States were, per capita of population, by far the best customers for British manufactured goods amongst the nations of the middle European zone. The Baltic States bought from the

view of American Lithuanians "if the Baltic states should become members of the United Nations as Soviet republics." "That would be amazing," he responded, "in view of the often restated attitude of the United States Government recognizing Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia as independent states. It certainly would be a double cross which I believe, as an American, this country would never be capable of."

Mr. Laukaitis said he was still hopeful about the conference and added that the work in progress by the "Big Four" followed in general "the philosophy of our suggestions."

United Kingdom exactly as many British manufactured goods as the whole of Soviet Russia, with a population twenty-eight times as large. Per capita the Baltic States purchased five times more British goods than Poland, six times more than the Central European countries, and four times more than the Balkan States . . . (pp. 11-12).

In general, foreign countries transported little merchandise through Lithuania. The most favorable period for Lithuania in this respect was after 1929, when the augmented trade between Germany and Soviet Russia increased the volume of goods sent through Lithuania in transit.

Prior to World War II two rail routes were available to the USSR through Lithuania: one between the USSR and East Prussia, and the other between the USSR and the Baltic port of Klaipeda.

Although Lithuanian freight charges and railway rates were considerably lower than similar rates in the USSR itself, very little use was made of the Lithuanian railway facilities.

In shipping by way of Klaipeda route, the USSR made no use of the port, preferring its own port of Leningrad for goods intended for sea transportation, of the Latvian port of Riga which was more convenient than the Lithuanian Baltic harbor. Riga was more accessible than Klaipeda to the Russian hinterland, and, too, the Latvians, in addition to the standard railroad gauges of Western Europe, also maintained the wider Russian gauges thereby enabling Russian freight cars to reach Latvian ports directly without reloading. The USSR, true, sent timber logs to Klaipeda saw mills although these may be regarded rather as an item of Lithuanian import of raw materials since certain processing in the Klaipeda saw mills was necessary before final shipment to Western Europe. The yearly average of such processed shipments ranged from 60,000 to 100,000 metric tons, but even in this respect Lithuania had to compete with the Latvian ports of Riga and Liepaja.

Far from hampering the Soviet Union its foreign trade, Lithuania offered the best possible transit facilities. It is possible that after the war, with the rise of economic well-being in Russia, the transit of goods imported and exported through Lithuania will also increase. Undoubtedly Lithuania will not only retain her policy of low freight rates, but will continue to seek Russian trade and transit business for the mutual benefit of both countries.

LITHS IN THE SERVICE

NURSE WAS HONORED AT A PARTY

Miss Helen Radavich, R. N., a member of the Visiting Nurse Association of New Britain, Conn., was recently commissioned to serve in the United States Navy Nurse Corps, was honored at a party on April 17th by her VNA associates, at the home of Miss Mary Navarro, of High Street, New Britain, Conn.

Miss Radavich is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Radavich of 62 Smalley Street, New Britain, Conn. She is a graduate of "NBHS" and St. Francis Hospital School of Nursing in Hartford (Conn.) in the class of 1940. As an undergraduate nurse, she had a two-month Orientation period in Public Health Nursing with the Hartford Visiting Nurse Association, and since February, 1943, has been serving a War Emergency Capacity with the New Britain Association. She is a member of St. Andrew's Lithuanian Church; St. Francis Hospital School of Nursing Alumnae Association; American Red Cross Nursing service, and has been serving as a Senior Hostess at the New Britain Armed Forces Canteen. Also, she is a member of the Social Service Club; the Lithuanian American Amber Club; and the Bowling Championship Team of Saint Andrew's Church.

Miss Radavich has two brothers with the U. S. Armed Forces. She is the fifth Visiting Nurse from New Britain to respond to the need for nurses in connection with the war. The other Visiting Nurses who have entered the services are: Lts. Margaret Dervin, Anna Miskey and Dora Pawlikowski, United States Army Nurse Corps; and Lt. Harriett Martin, U. S. Navy Nurse Corps.

Pvt. Theodore Mikelonis, 22, Armored Infantryman, of 68 Glazen St., Worcester, Mass., was slightly wounded in Germany on March 10th, according to word received by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles K. Mikelonis. One of three brothers in the service, Pvt. Mikelonis entered the Army in March, 1943, and was at Camp Polk, La., before going overseas last May (1944). He was employed as a Machinist at the Felters Co., Millbury, Mass. Pvt. Adam Mikelonis, U. S. Army, is at Fort Knox, Ky., and Charles Mikelonis is Carpenter's Mate Third Class, with the Construction Battalion (Seabees) in the Pacific War Zone.

Pfc. Bronislaus F. Malin (Malinauskas), 27, of 13 Mason St., Hudson, Mass., was reported missing since December 23rd, and since then—was a "prisoner of war" in Germany, according to a card received by his friends, Mr. and Mrs. John Nevan, from him, with whom he lived. He entered the service in February 1943, and went overseas—last Fall.

Sgt. Charles Gechunis, who served the past 27-months in Iran, is spending a 30-day leave with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Gechunis, of 54 Welsh St., Sebastopol, Jenkins Township, Penn. He will report to Fort Dix, N. J., at the end of his leave.

Marine Corp. Bartholomew R. J. Wanagaitis, 26, son of Mrs. Margaret Wanagaitis, of 108 W. Market St., Scranton, Pa., was "killed in action" on Iwo Jima, Volcano Islands, on Feb. 20th, according to Official word sent to his mother, by Lt. Gen. A. A. Vandegrift, commandant of the Marine Corps. Marine Corp. Wanagaitis was a veteran of the Invasion of Rio Namur in the Marshall Islands, and was wounded at Saipan in the Marianas on July 28th, 1944. He suffered a flesh wound of the leg and was hospitalized in Hawaii for two months, before returning to combat duty.

PFC Leo Masonis is Missing

Pfc Leo P. Masonis, 25, brother of Mrs. Frank Kaminski, 420 West Shawnee Ave., Plymouth, Pa., who was attached to a mountain infantry unit, has been missing in action in Italy since April 28. He has been in the Army since December 1941, when he enlisted a few days after war was declared. PFC Masonis spent two and a half years in Panama, after which he returned to Plymouth on furlough before going to Italy a

year ago. A brother, Pvt. Anthony, is with the Army in Germany.

VIC BAYLOCK APPOINTED HIGH SCHOOL GRID COACH

Victor Baylock, of 66 Mansfield Avenue, New Britain, Conn., former High School, Syracuse University, and Pro-Football Star, was named Head Football Coach at New Britain High School at a meeting of the Board of Education on April 13th. He served as Assistant Grid Coach to Arthur Ikwowitz when he was Chief Grid Mentor for the "Red and Gold." He is an instructor of Physical Education at the Washington Junior High School. He will receive \$400.00 in addition to his teaching salary for acting as coach. At the same time, Gerald (Jud) Flood was reappointed Baseball Coach and Assistant Football Coach, and he will receive \$500.00 in addition to his teaching salary. Flood is an instructor of Industrial Arts at the Roosevelt Junior High School.

Coach-elect Baylock was a three-letterman at "New Britain Senior High School," where he starred in Football, Basketball and Baseball. He was the winner of the William F. Burns Memorial in 1933, and was the leading scorer on the 1932 football team. That was the year that Charles "Chick" Shea began his first year of Grid Mentor. Baylock's touchdown defeated Hartford Public High School 6-0, in the 1932 game.

Following his graduation from "NBUS," he was an outstanding football and basketball player at Roxbury Prep, now known as Cheshire (Conn.) Academy. Later he attended Syracuse University, where he starred in Football and Basketball for four years, one season as a Freshman and three seasons as a Varsity performer. He was Captain of Athletic Teams at all three schools. After his college days, he played Professional Football with the Hartford (Conn.) Blues, New London Diehls, and the New York Yankees, and other outstanding grid-iron clubs. During the past season, he was a member of the Landers, Frary and Clark quintet in the New Britain Industrial League. All City, and State football fans of Conn., will be looking forward for the next football season to begin, and keep their eyes on the Lithuanian Football Coach of "N. B. H. S.," as they know that he may be another "Chick" Shea, with a

Albert Navourauski, Gunners' Mate Second Class, is observing his 27th Birthday Anniversary on Okinawa where he is stationed with the Seabees. Husband of the former Amelia Matulis, of Union St., Inkerman, Jenkins Township, Penn., he entered the service in November, 1942, and has two brothers also in the Armed Forces. Pvt. William, in Belgium; and Pvt. Edward, in Philadelphia.

Pvt. Joseph J. Perosky (Petroskas), 24, of 119 Draher Ave., Waterbury, Conn., previously reported missing since Dec. 12, is a "prisoner of war" in Germany, according to a War Department announcement. An orphan, Petrosky had been brought up in St. Joseph's Orphanage and had attended St. Joseph's Parochial School.

Among survivors of the Bismarck sea which was sunk off Iwo Jima on February 21st, is E. F. Yukenavitch, Watertown Third Class, of 42 South Walnut St., Kingston, Pa. Landed at San Francisco, he was given leave.

J. R. D.

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