

... Russia without any prejudice recognizes the self-rule and independence of the State of Lithuania with all the juridical consequences ... and for all times renounces with good will all the sovereignty rights of Russia, which it has had in regard to the Lithuanian nation or territory.

Peace Treaty with Russia  
Moscow, July 12, 1920

Lietuvos  
nacionalinė  
M. Mažvydo  
biblioteka

President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill:

1. Their countries seek no aggrandizement, territorial or other;
2. They desire to see no territorial changes that do not accord with the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned;
3. They respect the right of all peoples to choose the form of government under which they will live; and they wish to see sovereign rights and self-government restored to those who have been forcibly deprived of them.

Atlantic Charter  
August 14, 1941

# LITHUANIAN BULLETIN

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## THE FAILURE OF GERMAN MOBILIZATION IN LITHUANIA

In *The New York Times* of May 20th, the well-known expert on military affairs, H. W. Baldwin, gives a comprehensive survey of German military strength. He says, *inter alia*, that Germany underwent tremendous mobilization during the past winter. Thus, in his opinion, she may be able to muster almost one million replacements for her army this year. In addition to this formidable military strength drawn from Germany herself, according to H. W. Baldwin, the Axis satellite countries of Europe are required to contribute military power for the defence of the European fortress. In spite of the considerable losses sustained by these countries, the satellite powers are still in the position where they are able to put about fifty divisions in the field, as reinforcements to Germany's three hundred. Italy maintains about seventy-five divisions in full strength, Hungary fifteen, Bulgaria sixteen, Finland about sixteen, Croatia eight and Slovakia two.

The above picture is incomplete, in our opinion, as far as the results of mobilization are concerned, for it omits the sum of German attempts at mobilization in the occupied areas of the Ukraine, in White Ruthenia and in the Baltic States, besides neglecting to assess the strength of the various "Legions" that have been in existence for some time as, for example, those from the Netherlands, Denmark, Norway, France, Spain and so on. Moreover, it is a matter of record that, ever since last winter, the Germans have been making a serious effort to mobilize a certain section of Russian prisoners of war. The name of a former Red Army general, A. Vlasov, himself a prisoner of war, was mentioned some time ago in this connection. It would seem that General Vlasov has taken over the military organization of whatever Soviet Russian prisoners of war, now in German hands, can be made to join in this undertaking. No figures are available for the above-mentioned military forces.

In this article we propose to describe what has been happening in connection with the recent attempts at

mobilization, on the part of the German occupying forces in the Baltic States, according to reports received from a variety of sources up to the end of May. There is every reason to believe that the techniques employed by the Germans in Lithuania may be taken as an example of the German Method to be applied to occupied Europe as a whole.

The first point to be established is the number of troops that the Germans could possibly muster in the Baltic area. The answer to this does not only depend upon the figures for the population of this area but upon certain other practical considerations as well. First of all, there is the size of the peace-time army, which was only an armed nucleus, to be considered, secondly there is the trained reserve and thirdly, there is the extent to which the deportations organized by the Soviet forces during the single year of their occupation made inroads upon the former Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian armies.

If only the size of the population was to be borne in consideration, the six million people of the Baltic States could theoretically speaking, furnish a half a million front-line soldiers. In the former peacetime army, however, Lithuania had about 1,700 active officers of all ranks (and the proportionate number of soldiers), Latvia had about 1,900 officers and Estonia about 1,300. The last plan of military mobilization for Lithuania provided for five divisions in full strength, although the number of men in the trained reserve (including officers, non-commissioned officers and men) was far greater. Actually five divisions was fixed as the limit, owing to the limited supply of available equipment and arms. The same consideration stood in the way of a complete utilization of Estonian and Latvian manpower.

As for the consequences of the Soviet occupation of 1940-41, in relation to the supply of Lithuanian manpower, it may be said, on the basis of authoritative reports, that the number of officers of all ranks deported



from Lithuania comes to about three hundred. Owing to the fact that the Soviet occupation of Latvia and Estonia lasted somewhat longer, the lack of army officers in these countries must be reckoned as being proportionately greater. On the other hand, the number of deportees of both sexes from Lithuania, though numbering scores of thousands, will have practically no important effect upon the problem of manpower, from the military point of view. Hence our conclusion that Lithuania, if she were provided with an adequate supply of arms and equipment, would be capable of supplying five, and possibly six divisions in full strength. The strength of all the Baltic countries, calculated on the same basis, would come to at least ten or twelve full divisions.

The first reports concerning a German attempt at a mobilization of the Baltic countries reached us at the beginning of last March. The people of Lithuania were aware of the fact that the Germans were forced to resort to this scheme of mobilization as a consequence of the deterioration in their military position (as has already been stated by The Lithuanian National Council, —see Lithuanian Bulletin Number 3) condemning this arbitrary act of coercion. It was already well known to Lithuanian readers in the United States that the German occupational authorities had been drawing heavily upon the population of the Baltic States for a variety of purposes, and, in particular, for the forced labor service, (whether for local use or for deportation into Germany) and for so-called "police duties." Besides this local police force, the Germans organized entire police battalions. It has been reliably confirmed that these battalions have been employed for various duties ever since 1942, behind the Eastern front, including the mopping up of Soviet guerilla forces.

Up until the end of 1942 this use of the local population was relatively limited. Up until then the Germans acted in the name of their so-called unrestricted rights to dispose of the conquered peoples as they saw fit, a right that was their due by virtue of the blood-sacrifice of the Herrenvolk. At that time, service in the German army was considered an honor and the exclusive prerogative of the German race. Since then a great many things have happened and changes have taken place.

The Germans began to realize that the Herrenvolk itself was unable to overcome the growing odds against it and that, owing to the ever-widening range of this total war, they would finally have to resort to an appeal to the manpower of the occupied countries. Thus, compelled by the very force of events, the Germans began to intensify their enslavement of the local population in practically all the occupied countries.

The drive for manpower in the Baltic countries took three forms: 1) the mobilization of a trained reserve for combat duties, 2) an intensification of the recruiting of both men and women for forced labor in Germany and

3) a so-called rationalization of local industry, whereby all "non-essential" enterprises in all the countries concerned were closed down. This last measure was aimed at releasing the maximum number of employable men and women for duties considered essential to Germany.

With regard to the mobilization of a reserve trained for combat duties, it would appear that the Germans have two ways of carrying this measure into effect,— 1) by a direct induction of the recruits into the German Wehrmacht and 2) by putting them at the disposal of the so-called SS Legions.

As is well known, the SS formations represent a kind of personal Hitler Guard in the Nazi system, an armed expression of the Nazi party and its ideology. As regards organization, there are two kinds of SS formations in Germany: front line units (Verfeugungstruppen) and police units, known as "Totenkopf" men. In both cases, the men of the SS formations are required to take their oath of fealty to the "Fuehrer" first, and only secondly to the Fatherland. Moreover, whereas the officers of the German Wehrmacht are differentiated in the usual way, according to their rank as Lieutenants, Captains, Majors, etc.; the members of the SS Legions are known according to the duties which they perform in the SS legions. Thus, the officer commanding the SS platoon is called the Scharfuehrer, the SS Battalion Commander is the Sturmbahnfuehrer, the SS Regiment Commander is the Standartenfuehrer and so on. As regards their training, arms and equipment, the SS front-line units are, in every, similar to those of the German Wehrmacht.

It has been authoritatively confirmed that the legions now undergoing organization in the Baltic States,—(the SS Legion Litauen, the SS Legion Lettland and the SS Legion Estland) consist precisely of such front-line units. The above information concerning the SS formations explains why the German-sponsored military units in the Baltic States have been given the SS labels, instead of having been called simply "Armed Forces." The Germans are obviously eager to avoid anything that might give the impression abroad of the granting of national independence or sovereignty, which would inevitably follow if national military units using the usual titles and marks of distinction were formed. In connection with this, an open conflict broke out last winter, between the German authorities and the Lithuanian recruits, who refused to take the oath to the Fuehrer. It would seem that the Germans were finally compelled to alter the wording of the oath. After the establishment of these SS legions, the former police battalions (that had been recruited from the former service men and were known throughout the Baltic States as the Schutzmannschaft Batallionen) were recalled and reorganized as part of the Legion. Individual police troops were left.

Besides this, the Germans are continuing their campaign for the enlistment of "volunteers" in the Wehrmacht throughout the Baltic States. It is quite impos-



sible, at this juncture, to advance a fair estimate for the number of men enlisted in this way.

Special mention must be made of the battalions of "Lithuanian engineers." It appears that these units were created recently for the special task of building fortifications on the Eastern front. The earliest mention of these units can be found in the March 24th issue of the "Kauener Zeitung", as follows:

"Battalions of Lithuanian engineers are now being organized under the Supreme Commander of the 'Sicherungsgebiet Litauen' Major General Just. The first volunteers have already reported, including former officers in the Lithuanian army. The battalions of Lithuanian engineers will be subordinated to the German Wehrmacht exclusively. The members wear German field-grey, with a special badge.

The duty of the battalions will be the construction of defences throughout the area behind the front lines. Officers and other ranks will be Lithuanians between the ages of 20 and 45 exclusively; the paymasters will be Germans. Wages, board, etc., are similar to those of the 'Hilfswilligen' enrolled in the German Wehrmacht."

Having briefly covered the question of the exploitation of Lithuanian manpower, it should now be interesting to turn to a consideration of German procedure in dealing with the people of the Baltic States from the political point of view. As a result of the authoritarian character of Nazi doctrine, German procedure seems to be applied with more or less uniformity to every occupied country. Although our particular concern here is with Lithuania, the following remarks are equally applicable to the situation in other countries as well, in respect of the German efforts to achieve their aims by persuasion.

The principal German weapon in this campaign was, without doubt, the weapon of propaganda, and the principal theme in their propaganda was their use of the bogey of the possible return of the Bolshevik Army and their daily reminder of the nightmarish aspects of the Soviet occupation of 1940-1941.

Besides this, the Germans have been making great use of every article written in English which deals with the idea of compensating Soviet Russia at the expense of its neighbors, wherever they may be. It seems that particular emphasis was laid upon the widely-quoted article by Sir Stafford Cripps in the March 9th (1942) issue of *Life Magazine* entitled "The Twenty Russian Questions" as well as the equally well-known statement by the former U. S. ambassador to Russia, Joseph E. Davies, in the March 29th (1943) issue of the same magazine, called "The Soviets and the Post-War World." It must be clearly understood that every statement which contradicts or repudiates the principles of the Atlantic Charter is immediately seized and capitalized by the German propaganda machine for its own practical purposes, in order to undermine the political prestige of

the democracies and the belief of the people of the occupied countries in their bona-fide intentions. German propaganda is particularly eager to make use of any tendency to substitute "strategic policies" for the principles of the Atlantic Charter. Unfortunately, 1943 was particularly rich in examples of this tendency. Owing partly to this, the German propaganda machine seized upon the opportunity of raising the bogey of Communism in connection with the political future of the Baltic States. Thus, in a proclamation last February, on the occasion of the founding of the SS Legions, Reich Commissioner Lohse said: "Victory (German, of course) will save the lives of you and your children, your property, your culture and the future of your peoples and your homeland . . ." In another proclamation, Lithuanians to be mobilized for military purposes were told that ". . . after victory the people of Lithuania will be grateful that you did not hesitate today." Still another proclamation speaks of fighting "for the protection of Lithuania" and so on.

Curiously enough, in calling attention to the present struggle, the Lithuanian underground press states that the end of the war with the confusions and troubles that it must inevitably bring, is already in sight. With this in mind, the Lithuanians are called upon to close their ranks and to arm themselves by any means whatsoever, while waiting for their hour to strike. These resolutions, emanating from a variety of groups and movements, are obviously inspired by a single unifying idea: the remembrance of the struggle for independence in 1918 to 1919.

After having rid themselves of the German occupying forces twenty-five years ago, the Baltic peoples rose up again, in the same way, against the advancing armies of the Soviets and, after that, against another German invasion under Von de Goltz and Eberhard in 1919. The Lithuanian National Council referred to this period when, in its declaration of March 30th, 1943, concerning the attempted mobilization in Lithuania, it stated that no restoration of private property would succeed in effacing the natural rights of the Lithuanian people to their own land. The Lithuanians will be ready to prove this with weapons in their hands, when their hour strikes.

Although they rely heavily upon their well-tried and now highly elaborated system of blackmail, the Germans have been trying still another method of persuasion. This is the so-called "Reprivatisierung," i.e., the restoration of properties expropriated by the Soviets in 1940-41 to their rightful owners. This fact was reiterated and made much of in every German proclamation and in every enactment of a German law. A particular dose of ballyhoo was ladled out at the beginning of the drive for mobilization. This inspired the Berlin correspondent of the Stockholm "Tidningen" paper to remark, on January 28th, upon the restoration of the confidence of the people of the Baltic countries resulting



from the reintroduction of private property and adds: "... it goes without saying that those who fail to report for war duties in the Baltic countries will forfeit the right to claim the return of their former property." In other article on February 26th, dealing with the mobilization of all forces for the struggle against Bolshevism in Germany and the Axis countries, the Berlin correspondent of "Dagsposten" in Stockholm refers to the Baltic countries. He states that they are expected to contribute towards final victory by mobilizing all their available resources. This is obvious, *inter alia*, from the decree reintroducing private property in the Baltic countries. The decree stipulates that full consideration must be paid to war needs and this means, according to official circles in Berlin, that the reintroduction of private ownership has been made conditional upon their participation in the struggle.

There is an absolute unanimity of impression with regard to this point in the reports emanating from various informed observers of Baltic affairs at that time. This only lasted for some time, however. Several weeks later, the correspondent of the Swedish paper "Nya Dagligt Allehanda" wrote, on March 6th: "... the inhabitants of the three Baltic countries have now discovered, to their disappointment, that Hitler's promise of the reintroduction of private ownership was only made in order to serve the purpose of completely mobilizing their countries for the German war machine. ..."

In order to complete this survey of German procedure, two final points must be made in connection with the German system of blackmail. Systematic use is made both of food-ration books and the "divide-and-conquer" policy. Reluctance in acceding to the demands of German "Verordnung" often results in the prospect of losing one's food-ration book, i.e., the right to eat. This is particularly tragic when townsfolk are concerned.

As for the "divide-and-conquer" policy, this is used, not only in relation to the population of a single occupied country, so that some weakling can be found to act as a collaborationist, but also in relation to two or three countries, so that they are put into a position where they are competing against each other, as was the case with Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, where each country was set up as an example to the other. A particular effort has been made to fan the flames of the animosity between Poles and Lithuanians and to develop a feeling of contempt for the Jews. In this connection, it should be noted that, out of a more or less prosperous population of 250,000 Jews in Lithuania, some 50,000 human wrecks remain.

The people of the Baltic countries are learning more and more of what the German occupation really means, at their own expense. As might be expected, the reaction against it is growing daily. More and more people are becoming active in the underground movement. The following appeared in an article called "Opposition to Mobilization," in the German-published

"Kauener Zeitung" in its issue of last March 20th:

"We learn from the military authorities that recruiting of Lithuanian 'Hilfswillige' (men ready to help) for service with the German Wehrmacht is continuing. **Obstruction on the part of irresponsible Lithuanian intellectuals** can in no way divert the German Wehrmacht from mobilizing all forces against Bolshevism. All manly 'Hilfswillige' who responded to the Wehrmacht's call will enjoy the following privileges: First, equal rights with members of the German Wehrmacht; second, prompt restitution of the rights of ownership; third, recognition of the completion of labor service duty through service as 'Hilfswillige' in the German Wehrmacht. Today the commander of the Sicherheitsgebiet of Lithuania, Major General Just, is giving a send-off to the first group of Lithuanian 'Hilfswillige' who joined the Wehrmacht. This send-off will be an injunction to all those who have hitherto failed to respond to do so now. It is not permissible for irresolute and malicious elements to escape with impunity in this total war. They are again invited to follow the good examples of Estonians, Latvians and the exemplary behavior of the Lithuanians who are today leaving for the front."

Some days later, on April 1st, the Swedish paper "Nya Dagligt Allehanda" gave the following picture of the situation in Lithuania, under the heading: "General Resistance":

"It is reported from Kaunas that guerilla warfare has broken out in Lithuania, after the public execution of 40 village aldermen. Open rebellion has spread far and wide, the cause being an incident in the Vilna district which, owing to compulsory recruiting for the Wehrmacht, brought the existing tension to a boiling point. About a fortnight ago, a German district leader named Wulff summoned the aldermen of the communities in his district to a meeting, and reprimanded them for not having delivered their agricultural "quotas." The meeting ended with the execution of 40 out of the 200 attending the meeting, in order 'to set an example.'

"The news spread like wildfire all over Lithuania. Farmers left their homes, fled to forest and started guerilla warfare against the German authorities. Hundreds of students from Vilna and Kaunas joined the partisans, with the result that the universities in these towns are practically empty."

"Active and passive resistance against the German occupying authorities reached such dimensions that the Commissioner General, von Renteln, was forced to take special measures. All Lithuanian communities were ordered to send representatives to a "Congress" to be held in Kaunas for the purpose of settling the relations between the occupying authorities and the population. A number of prominent Lithuanians, among them General Rastikis and the Metropolitan (head of the Lithuanian church) were ordered to attend the 'Congress! The idea evidently was, to inform the eventual decision of



the 'Congress' with greater prestige. It is rumored that von Renteln has dissolved the Lithuanian 'General Council', the quasi autonomous, self-government set up by the Germans. It is assumed that this measure, too, was carried out in connection with the summoning of the 'Congress.'"

"Meanwhile recruiting of 'volunteers for the Lithuanian Legion' progresses slowly. According to reliable sources, only 8,000 men have registered so far; after the Vilna incident the registration ceased almost entirely. It is rumored that the Legion will not be employed within Lithuania or near her frontiers, but presumably on the Ukrainian front."

There is little doubt that the situation depicted above was, in some measure, intensified by the progress of German colonization in Lithuania which has recently developed at a somewhat alarming pace.

The situation is by no means better in neighboring Latvia:

The Swedish weekly "Trotz Allt" for March 26th depicts the following:

"Workmen become slaves, intellectuals are liquidated, culture is germanized, street names are nazified! When the Germans entered the Baltic countries they were cheered by many as 'Liberators,' for the Russians had not made themselves popular. At first the German courted the Baltic people, promising them national freedom, but Rosenberg's decree soon disappointed them. Owing to physical and moral pressure Latvian discontent grew to loathing."

"The patriotic intellectuals, in particular, have been consistently persecuted; there have been cases of their sudden disappearance. The Gestapo is silent. The Latvian police has no say whatever, for the Gestapo wields autocratic power. Many politicians have disappeared, also members of the Social-Democratic or Agrarian Parties, and officers who have not placed themselves at the disposal of the Germans. In Latvia the last president of the bank, Adolf Klive, former leader of the Agrarian Party, was recently arrested. Patriotic students were mercilessly persecuted, and large numbers have been mobilized for loading and unloading railway goods trucks. Eight thousand boys and girls have been forcibly enrolled for Labor Service in Germany."

"The Quislings are favored. Each so-called General Directorate has a German informer delegated by the General Commissioner. The Germans declared that the former Latvian school system was unsuitable for it is said to have left some traces of its liberal democratic creators. Latvian history has been banished from the syllabus of Riga University."

"News of heavy casualties among the Latvian 'volunteers' cause uneasiness among the Latvians. Every Latvian man in the age groups liable to military service who has not joined the police must fill in one of two forms, one for 'voluntary' reporting for military service, and

another stating the reasons for his not doing so; the latter form thus becomes a ticket for a concentration camp. Latvian 'volunteers' have been used on the eastern front as shock troops and were often killed to the last man, which is also advantageous for the Germans, for it disposes of antagonistic Latvian elements."

As for the situation prevailing in Estonia, we have the opinion of the Swedish Professor, Wiezelgren, mainly from the economic point of view who, as early as last February 23rd, wrote as follows in the daily "Dagens Nyheter":

"The jubilation at the moment of 'liberation' has now yielded, for various reasons, chiefly economic, to disappointment under German rule. The change in the Estonian attitude is not only noticeable among relatively prosperous farmers, but also among the wealthier urban population and even among the working classes, and this," he said, "was due to the loss of confidence that conditions would improve under the German regime, after the hardships experienced under the preceding regime."

"According to the information afforded by the Estonian quisling autonomous government itself, Estonian exports under the German occupation up until May 15th, 1942, have been twenty-six times as great as its imports. After the abolition of the customs frontier on this date, the Germans were able to export freely and without any registration whatever and as much as they chose. The fixing of the rate of exchange at ten pfennig to one rouble was one of the methods of German exploitation. The soldiers returning from the front with looted roubles were able to live luxuriously in Estonia and, in order to avoid inconveniencing these German soldiers, the rationing of food for them, before the establishment of the autonomous government, was postponed. All kinds of privileges enjoyed by the Germans irritated the Estonians. German food rations are bigger than the Estonians', and meat served in restaurants to Germans any day was only served to Estonians three times a week at most. All sorts of privileges in trade and industry are reserved for the Germans."

"Apart from economic reasons, patriotic, psychological and cultural factors begin to come into play, increasing the discontent among the local population, compulsory service in the Estonian 'Legion', mobilization of labor for service in the Russian territory behind the front lines, and a drastic reduction in the number of civil servants are to be completed before April 1st, 1943,—when 'surplus' elements will be sent to Germany to work, etc. This is bound to reduce the already depleted male population in Estonia still further."

"Despite all this, Estonians are said to be alarmed at the German reverses on the Russian front." The article closed with an expression of good wishes on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the day on which they regained their independence.



All available reports show that German plans, insofar as they relate to the "voluntary" recruiting of SS Legions in the Baltic States have failed miserably.

This impression was confirmed as early as the beginning of May by a report released by the Office of War Information, stating that all four proposals for settlement with Germany offered to the Lithuanians as a reward for agreeing to enlist in the SS Legions were rejected by the Lithuanian representatives. We learn that one of these proposals was a promise of the immediate establishment of national autonomy with a political representative in Berlin. **We take the responsibility of affirming once more, in this connection, that our countrymen will refuse any offer which will fall short of complete independence.** We are also certain that the same feeling and determination prevails among our Baltic friends, the Latvians and Estonians. To sum up, it would appear that the Germans have already abandoned their attempt to recruit the Legion by "peaceful means." No propaganda, no persuasion, no "Reprivatisierung," no promise of any kind of advantages, alternating with threats, can compel the Baltic peoples to deviate from their determination to pursue the patriotic policy that is in accordance with the best traditions of their past. From the Swedish "Aftontidningen," dated April 10th, we learn that:

"The total mobilization of the resources of the Baltic States has reached its peak; **unbelievably drastic measures have been passed, plainly showing that the threat to introduce more effective measures was not a mere rhetorical whim.** All those who henceforth fail to report, muster, or in any way sabotage total mobilization, **will be court-martialled.** As the so-called 'voluntary' recruiting of Legionnaires is failing to produce the desired results the authorities have now resorted to forced mobilization. So far the annual classes of 1919 to 1924 have received individual mobilization orders, and the public announcements issued state that the annual classes subject to mobilization must appear, at fixed dates, at the mustering places. The younger annual classes will also be called up and fifteen-year-old boys must be kept ready and may not be absent from their homes without special authorization for longer than twenty-four hours."

"Aftontidningen" asserts that this mobilization of the Baltic States constitutes unmisakable evidence of the young peoples' reactions. Mobilization is reported to be proceeding slowly; officers and non-commissioned officers continue to fail to report in spite of threats, promises and drastic measures. Cases of people openly abusing the "Legions" were registered; farmers would rather go to prison than surrender their agricultural "quotas" and the *Revaler Zeitung* recently reported that there was underground sabotage within industry and within the administrative apparatus of the occupying authorities: "Estonians simulate indisposition and illness, remain at home and do not go to work even when they have no suitable excuse. Presentation of official

proofs of illness, etc., have now been demanded."

As recently as May 30th, it was confirmed from London that the Nazi authorities have definitely dropped their plan for the creation of a so-called "Lithuanian Army of Liberation" as the result of popular reaction to this scheme. This can only refer to the SS Legions. From now on, the method to be preferred above any other by the Germans will be that of pure compulsion. But this is also evidence of increasing popular resistance. There is no doubt that our countrymen in the underground movement will make good use of this particular contingency. It must be remembered that the rebirth of our freedom and independence of 1918 was preceded by the overthrow of German rule. History may repeat itself.

However, if the Lithuanian people are to be moved to resolute action against their present rulers, as they were in 1918-1919, they must be reassured as to what they can expect from their Russian neighbor and must be convinced that fundamental national interests will not be violated. In other words, they are waiting for the fulfillment of the principles expressed in the Atlantic Charter.

### CONSCRIPTION IN LITHUANIA

Vilna, April 4, 1943. All men of the 1919 to 1924 classes, resident in the Kaunas district, are summoned for mustering. Those already in possession of documents issued by the Lithuanian Mustering Committee are excepted. Those who fail to register will have to face imprisonment or penal servitude in hard labor camps, unless severer penalties are stipulated by the law.

### BALTIC STATES LOOK TO ALLIES FOR LIBERATION

#### Their Status May Be On Davies' Agenda in Moscow Parley

By the Associated Press

Stockholm, May 21.—Independence-minded leaders of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia are looking to Britain and the United States for help in extricating themselves both from German control and the fear of Russia, according to refugees arriving here.

Allied observers in this neutral listening post have received repeated overtures seeking a definite statement of policy from Anglo-American officials on the status of the little republics which have been subject to two foreign rules in three years.

These observers said the question might be one of those on the agenda of Joseph E. Davies' trip to Moscow.

They pointed out that if Stalin would renounce Russian claims on the Baltic States, many of the 6,000,000 people there would cease collaborating with the Nazis and revolt against them.



**Stalin's Statement Cited**

Mr. Stalin's assurance April 4 that Russia desired good postwar relations with an independent Poland was viewed as the type of statement desired with regard to the Baltics.

Copies of the Atlantic Charter have been distributed widely in the area, but the majority of Balts thus far are not convinced that Russia's adherence means she has renounced her long-standing claims against them.

Two hundred years under the thumb of the Russian Empire created a deep-rooted fear among the people that was further agitated when the Red army occupied the states in June, 1940, and they were annexed to the Soviet after elections which independence leaders claim were no elections at all.

German propagandists have used this fear to obtain reluctant and limited help from the Baltic people, volunteer military legions, workers for German war industries and as an excuse for confiscation of crops.

**Freedom Promised**

The Germans also dangled before the Baltic leaders a promise that when Russia is conquered the Baltics would be given conditional independence.

The conditions are that the Nazi Fuehrer shall have sovereign rights and that Germany shall conduct the foreign affairs of the three states, although each would have its own representative in Berlin.

The refugees report that, if the states are not able to keep their boundaries intact and maintain their independent traditions, they will take up arms and try to fight for freedom.

The three countries could raise an army of 400,000 to 450,000. Baltic observers recall Vice-President Wallace's recent statement that the seeds of a new war would be sown unless there was an understanding with Russia before the end of the present one. They add that Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia provide fertile grounds for such seeds.

They stress the present dissatisfaction with the German regime and its possibilities in support of the expected Allied offensive in Europe.

## LITHUANIA SACKED IN NAZI VENGEANCE

### Academies of Medicine, Art, Science Looted, Ministers and Intellectuals Rounded Up

#### Failure to Send 'Volunteers', Long a Grievance, Finally Brings Reprisals

By **GEORGE AXELSSON**

By Telephone to The New York Times

**Stockholm, Sweden, June 4**—The full weight of German vengeance has fallen on Lithuania over that coun-

try's steadfast refusal to contribute a so-called volunteer legion to the "Nazi crusade against Bolshevism," according to advices received here today from Kaunas through private channels.

Four members of the Lithuanian General Council have been arrested, as well as practically all prominent intellectuals, including professors, physicians, lawyers and priests, it was stated.

Moreover, all universities and public libraries have been closed and Gestapo hordes sent out willfully to destroy or remove the equipment of scientific institutions and the books of national libraries.

Thus, it is believed here, to "get even" with Lithuanian intellectuals for having worked against Germany's repeated appeals this year for volunteers **ending in complete fiasco**, the Nazi occupation powers have now set about systematically to wreck the countryside, break up cultural institutions and ruthlessly persecute the educated classes.

In Vilna, for instance, it is reported, Gestapo gangs smashed up all apparatus at the Academy of Medicine. Police came down also on the Academy of Sciences, **burning manuscripts for a Lithuanian dictionary which had required forty years to compile**, as well as **smashing up 2,000 gramophone recordings of Lithuanian folk-songs.**

**33,000 Volumes Destroyed**

The Academy of Arts was also ransacked. In Kaunas, archives of the Academy of Sciences, Conservatory of Music and of the Faculty of Law were destroyed. Ten thousand volumes were stolen from the State Library and 23,000 more from the University Library, it is asserted.

The story of the particular phase of the Lithuanian resistance for which the above deeds constitute German punishment goes back to February this year when the Germans served notice on General Stasys Rastikis and Minister Kubiliunas, chairman of the National Council, that the time had come for the new Lithuanians to take an active part in Germany's war against Russia by forming a volunteer army.

The council refused, unless Lithuania's future independence were guaranteed by the Reich. Vice Governor von Renteln retorted that the German generals could not wait and added that political questions could be discussed after the war only.

The Lithuanians remained adamant, even when the Germans appealed to the Kaunas Archbishop Skvireckas to support their demands. The Archbishop replied that he would never be a party to "luring Lithuanian youth into the Nazi trap."

**Land Already Plundered**

The Germans then printed appeals of their own, which resulted in not more than 200 volunteers offering to fight for Germany—in other words, **a complete fiasco.** Then Gestapo Chief Heinrich Himmler came to Lithu-



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ania and it was after his visit that the German wave of retribution against the recalcitrant Lithuanian intelligentsia set in.

Even before that the Germans had plundered Lithuania bare of her material wealth. It is estimated that 700 industries, factories and monopolies, including the Maistas trust, plus all the banks, had been taken over by the Germans. This is apart from all estates and farms given over to German settlers. Promises of the return of property held out to Lithuanians as an inducement to join the new order have been canceled as a further penalty for resistance to the Nazi idea of a volunteer legion.

Up to the time when it was canceled, none of the landed property had been returned to its owners anyway. Only the business of some 200 minor shopkeepers and artisans had been returned to their rightful proprietors.

### Underground Lithuania Supports the Lithuanian National Council in U. S. A.

There are several underground newspapers circulating in Lithuania. The most important is "Nepriklausoma Lietuva" (Independent Lithuania), which is published with the support of all the Lithuanian political parties and expresses, in general, the political opinion of the country. Under the vigilant eyes of the Gestapo, the Lithuanian people, at the risk of their lives, are bravely continuing the struggle for the reestablishment of an independent and democratic Lithuania by publishing these underground newspapers. Through some underground channels of information they have received a report concerning the Lithuanian National Council in the United States and the members who comprise it. In the middle of May, 1943, an article from the "Independent Lithuania" reached this country expressing full approval of the Lithuanian National Council on the part of the underground movement in Lithuania. This statement from our mother country establishes a complete unity of political purpose for all the patriotic Lithuanian groups, ranging from right to left, whether in Lithuania or abroad, under the leadership of the Lithuanian National Council. We quote from the "Nepriklausoma Lietuva":

The Lithuanian National Council is composed of members of all political groups of Lithuania, having Colonel Grinius for president and Prof. Pakstas for secretary. This Council represents the whole of Lithuania. The activities of this Council will be facilitated if they are supported by the overwhelming popular opinion of the country, which must unceasingly stress the demand for independence and show that there are vital patriotic forces within Lithuania. Our internal forces must be increased and strengthened so that at the end of the war we will be able to begin the work of

reconstruction without delay and so as to create a powerful and effective state. Every minute of time to lose and every moment will be precious to us.

### Appeal for Baltic Independence

Dagens Nyheter, March 11, 1943, publishes in an open letter a passionate appeal to the public opinion of the world, made on behalf of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania by Herald Perlitz, doctor of philosophy, who was formerly professor and Pro-Rector of the University of Tartu, Francis Balodis, doctor of philosophy and honorary doctor of history, formerly professor and Dean of the philosophic faculty of Riga University, and Ignas Seinius, Lithuanian, a well known writer, all of whom are now residents in Stockholm.

In this letter they give a short outline of the events leading to their countries' political independence in 1918 and the forced incorporation in the Soviet Union in 1940. They deny, most categorically, any country's right to annex them, maintaining and insisting that they want their own right to continue as independent States after the war. They express the hope that the free world's sense of justice will not permit them to be sacrificed to imperialistic interests of other states, and insist upon the right to have the principles of the Atlantic Charter applied also to their countries.

They go on to say that they were forced to make this appeal since the international press had recently been devoting much attention to the problems of the Baltic countries in the aftermath of this war; and they refute the opinions expressed in certain circles alleging that the Estonians, Latvians and Lithuanians were willing to join the Soviet Union. The authors emphasize that, finding refuge in a free democratic neutral country, they are bound by duty to raise their voices on behalf of their unfortunate countrymen deported to Russia or doomed to silence by the German-occupying authorities.

### Swedish Support for Baltic Independence

Social Demokraten, April 25, 1943. In an open letter to the Swedish Press, prominent scientists and several members of both Chambers of the Riksdag, bishops and other outstanding personalities support the appeal to world opinion, recently made by the three well-known representatives of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, asking for support in the Baltic States' struggle for freedom and independence. The Swedish intellectuals express their full solidarity with the views pronounced and the claims asserted in that appeal and emphasize their sincere sympathy with the sufferings and hardships undergone by the unfortunate Baltic nations.

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