

1 Q. Do you remember how long you continued to
2 serve in the Fifth Infantry Regiment of Cesis?

3 A. Until the Russians came.

4 Q. That was 1940?

5 A. Russians, yeah, 1940, 1940.

6 THE INTERPRETER: Excuse me, I can't help
7 you with the dates. I'm just serving --

8 Q. He's just serving as the translator.

9 If you don't remember, say I don't
10 remember.

11 A. Yeah. It was, yeah, dates, when the
12 Russians came.

13 Can I ask a question regarding what I saw,
14 this Russia writing from '83?

15 (through the interpreter) Regarding this
16 document dated 1983, Russian -- the Russian writing,
17 where did it come from, who obtained it and why it
18 was obtained.

19 Q. I'll ask you the questions, Mr. Kalejs,
20 okay? I'm going to ask you whether things are true
21 or not and you can tell me whether they're true or
22 not, all right?

23 A. I understand you asking. Just because --

24 (through the interpreter) This makes me
25 suspicious. What interest would Americans have to



1 stay in contact with the Russians regarding me?

2 Q. Are you ready to proceed?

3 A. Yeah. One more question.

4 (through the interpreter) I understand
5 the Russians would be interested in me because --
6 to compromise me because I had quite a few dealings
7 with the Russians.

8 Q. What dealings with the Russians did you
9 have?

10 A. Because they are, after all, if nobody
11 knows, if somebody doesn't know, they are killers
12 to Latvian nation, you know.

13 (through the interpreter) A few months
14 ago the Russians shot down that airliner, so
15 everybody knows what kind of people the Russians
16 are.

17 Q. What dealings have you had with the
18 Russians?

19 A. Just simply because, you know, by my --
20 (through the interpreter) Because of my
21 profession, it was my duty to protect the Latvian
22 people, the Latvia country and to get the occupants
23 out of Latvia.

24 Q. What profession was that?

25 A. Officer.



1 Q. When are you talking about now, what time
2 period?

3 A. During the Russian occupation, of course.

4 Q. What was your job during the Russian
5 occupation?

6 A. Officer.

7 Q. I'm sorry?

8 A. Officer.

9 Q. Officer of what?

10 A. Army officer.

11 Q. I see, okay. Well, I'm going to ask you
12 questions and you can tell me the truth, okay?
13 We're here to find out the truth.

14 A. Of course. Just, you know, now --

15 (through the interpreter) I see the light.

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. (through the interpreter) Who tries to do
18 me in?

19 Q. We're interested in the truth here and
20 that's why you're here. You can tell us whatever
21 is true. Do you understand?

22 A. Yeah.

23 MR. MAUSNER: Could you mark this? What's
24 the number we're on?

25 (Government's Exhibit Number 5 was marked

1 for identification.)

2 THE INTERPRETER: Excuse me. Just one
3 thing to Mr. Kalejs. I can't assist you in any way
4 when you look at me. I can just translate what
5 you're saying, you see. Sometimes you look at me
6 as though you want me to give the answer, but I
7 can't.

8 THE WITNESS: As a translator, just as a
9 translator.

10 THE INTERPRETER: I have to be neutral and
11 translate just the way you say.

12 Q. Exhibit Number 5 is a document in the
13 German language which is two pages long. It has
14 the number 4901 on the first page.

15 I'm now handing Mr. Kalejs Exhibit 5.

16 A. Yeah, that's what I was, yeah in the --

17 Q. You served in the Latvian Legion?

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. Do you remember when you entered the
20 Latvian Legion? Was it --

21 A. (through the interpreter) The legion was
22 founded in 1943. But since I was sick since 1942
23 with the stomach ailment, ulcer, then my induction
24 was delayed until 1944.

25 Q. Do you remember when in 1944?

1 A. No.

2 Q. Was it late 1944 or early 1944?

3 A. I don't remember.

4 Q. You can't remember?

5 A. No.

6 Q. Is that your signature that appears on the
7 second page of this document?

8 A. It could be, could be.

9 Q. And you served as a lieutenant in the
10 Latvia Legion?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. You were in the Fifteenth SS Grenadier
13 battalion; right?

14 A. The numbers, I don't remember, but it was
15 a battalion, there was a battalion there.

16 Q. It was a battalion?

17 A. Yeah, somewhere in there, Germany, Russia
18 it was the Fifteenth Division.

19 (through the interpreter) Where the
20 Fifteenth Division was located in Germany, it was
21 spread out through many small villages.

22 Q. Did you serve in the Fifteenth Division?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. Do you recall where you served?

25 A. It was, that time, it was late '44, '45,

1 it was the end of war. So we were retreating all
2 times, from whenever we started to --

3 (through the interpreter) Then I got my
4 ulcer, my ulcer was acting up. I was put on the
5 hospital ship, and I was taken to Germany.

6 Q. Were you serving in Latvia or in Russia?

7 A. Latvia.

8 Q. In Latvia. And you were retreating during
9 that time?

10 A. Yeah, it was close to the end of war, you
11 know.

12 Q. Do you recall until when did you serve in
13 the Latvian Legion? Was it until the end of the
14 war?

15 A. Yeah, it was --

16 (through the interpreter) I wasn't active
17 in the service, but I was sick.

18 (the witness) In a hospital.

19 Q. Uh-huh. What was the unit that you served
20 in before you joined the Latvian Legion?

21 A. Uh-huh, before? Okay.

22 (through the interpreter) When the
23 Russians were thrown out, the camp where we were, I
24 received my release papers. There was confusion, I
25 went to the woods, and became established as a

1 self-defense unit.

2 Q. What city was that in?

3 A. It was in forests, but it was near Litene.

4 Q. And you helped organize this self-defense
5 in Litene?

6 A. Lots of us.

7 (through the interpreter) The ones who
8 were lucky enough to get away from the Russians.
9 I'm especially talking about the officers, because
10 not too many remained. I remember my regiment,
11 only about 17.

12 Q. The rest of the people were deported by
13 the Russians?

14 A. Or shot.

15 Q. Or shot?

16 A. Or shot.

17 Q. And this was, this self-defense was
18 organized right after the Russians left; is that
19 right?

20 A. Yeah.

21 (through the interpreter) They were still
22 retreating from the western part of Latvia. Our
23 job was to guard and protect, since they were
24 robbing and plundering.

25 Q. Litene is near Madona; is that right, it's

1 near the town Madona?

2 A. I would say, hundred kilometers.

3 Q. Is it closer to Gulbene?

4 A. Yeah, it's closer to Gulbene.

5 Q. Did you have a position or a rank in the
6 self-defense?

7 A. (through the interpreter) This wasn't
8 regular army, this was a partisan group. Everyone
9 did what they felt had to be done.

10 Q. Do you remember who the chief of this
11 self-defense was?

12 A. Yeah, yeah. The chief? Aperats.

13 Q. Colonel Aperats?

14 A. You know quite a bit.

15 Q. Is that right?

16 A. You know quite a bit.

17 Q. What did you do after you served in this
18 self-defense?

19 A. Start studying at university.

20 Q. Where was the university?

21 A. Riga. R-i-g-a.

22 Q. Did you also serve in the police while you
23 were in Riga?

24 A. (Witness shaking head)

25 Q. You never served in any kind of police

1 force in Riga?

2 A. What you call police, because later, I was
3 studying for a while and then they start organizing --
4 (through the interpreter) Start to
5 organize the police battalions. All their officers
6 suggested that they should fight. I joined a
7 special ski unit, which was my specialty.

8 (the witness) Before war.

9 Q. What was the name of the police unit that
10 you were in? Was it Security --

11 A. Yeah, organized by Germans.

12 Q. Was it Security Police?

13 A. No, Security? No. I can't tell, because
14 that was organized by Germans and I don't remember
15 the location in Riga. The boss was a German --

16 (through the interpreter) The chief was a
17 German general.

18 Q. What was his name?

19 A. Stahlecker. I think it was his name.

20 (through the interpreter) I remember,
21 because he accompanied us in the campaign against
22 the Russians, and the Russian resistance was much
23 stronger than expected.

24 Although the rest of us were on skis, and
25 he was just slightly behind us, but he was killed,

1 apparently by a grenade, and there were also some
2 German units not too far away.

3 As a general, he shouldn't have been there
4 because there was only one company involved, but he
5 apparently wanted to get some sort of medal or
6 award. That's the reason --

7 (the witness) He was there, yeah.

8 Q. Did this take place in the Pskov area, in
9 the area of Pskov?

10 A. No.

11 Q. Where was that?

12 A. When we went out, actually we were --

13 (through the interpreter) Actually, we
14 were scheduled to go to a place called Cholm.

15 However, Cholm had been surrounded by the Russians,
16 and for that reason we didn't get there.

17 Q. Where was it that Stahlecker was killed?

18 A. That was Veliki Luki, or Novo Sokolniki.

19 Q. Novo Sokolniki?

20 Is that near Saniki, the village of Saniki?

21 A. (through the interpreter) These places
22 were close together.

23 At that time Veliki Luki was in the
24 Russian hands and Novo Sololniki was in German
25 hands.

1 Q. Do you remember what year this was?

2 A. The winter. It was '41, '42.

3 Q. 1942?

4 A. Uh-huh.

5 Q. Was it the winter?

6 A. It was winter.

7 Q. At the end of '42 or the beginning of '42?

8 A. The beginning.

9 Q. The beginning of 1942?

10 A. Because we went out on skis.

11 Q. Prior to the time that this battalion went
12 out of Riga, were you living in Riga?

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. So you were living in Riga from a time
15 after the Germans came in until sometime in the
16 beginning of 1942?

17 A. Yeah, or -- no, no, no.

18 (through the interpreter) During the
19 Russian time, Latvian Army was disbursed and at
20 that time I was in Kurland.

21 Q. You were in Litene, right, when the
22 Germans came in, Litene?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. When the Germans came in?

25 A. Yeah, then we were -- again Russians, you



1 know, start --

2 (through the interpreter) Started to
3 retreat. Litene is in Vidzeme.

4 Q. When was it that you got to Riga?

5 A. After what, what time you talking?

6 Q. Well, you said you were going to school in
7 Riga. You were going to the university there?

8 A. Yeah, yeah.

9 (through the interpreter) At the time
10 when the self-defense units were abolished, the
11 Germans didn't permit them and even some of those
12 people from units were taken to POW camps.

13 Q. Then you went to Riga?

14 A. (Witness nods)

15 Q. When was that, was that about August of
16 1941?

17 A. Before, in fall.

18 Q. Before August?

19 A. In fall, fall or winter.

20 Q. Fall of 1941.

21 Okay, and so you were in Riga from the
22 fall of 1941 until the beginning of 1942?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. Like September, October, November,
25 December 1941. In January 1942 you were in Riga?



1 A. Yeah.

2 (through the interpreter) I remember that
3 I managed to study for one semester.

4 Q. While you were studying in Riga, were you
5 also serving as a policeman?

6 A. Huh-uh.

7 Q. You weren't in the police at all?

8 A. Organized --

9 (through the interpreter) The officers
10 thought that permission would be granted to
11 organize Latvian Army.

12 MR. MAUSNER: Would you mark this Exhibit
13 6?

14
15 (Government's Exhibit Number 6 was marked for
16 Identification.)

17
18 Q. All right. Exhibit 6 is a one-page
19 document in the Latvian language. It contains a
20 photograph in the upper left-hand corner. I'm now
21 handing Mr. Kalejs Exhibit 6.

22 Is that your picture that appears on
23 Exhibit 6?

24 A. Could be.

25 Q. Do you remember when it was taken?

1 A. No.

2 Q. Do you know what kind of uniform you're
3 wearing in that picture?

4 A. That looks Latvian, yeah, it's Latvian.

5 Q. It's what, a Latvian army uniform?

6 A. Yeah. It's certainly not German. It
7 could be Russian, too, or Latvian. It's not German
8 because Germans have a different --

9 Q. Well, did you ever wear a Russian uniform?

10 A. Of course. The Russians -- I tried to
11 explain to you.

12 Q. During the period that the Russian were in --

13 A. Occupation.

14 Q. Then you were also in the army.

15 A. (through the interpreter) Automatically
16 Latvian Army was incorporated in the Red Army.

17 Q. And during that time you wore a different
18 uniform than you would have worn before?

19 A. (witness nods)

20 Q. Is that your signature that appears over
21 here?

22 A. Like I said, now I have different
23 signature. It was over forty years ago. Could be,
24 could be not, so I wouldn't swear.

25 Q. How about the handwriting on this document?

1 Does that look like your handwriting?

2 A. I wouldn't swear, I don't know, don't
3 remember, at that time.

4 (through the interpreter) Well, that was
5 forty years ago. I was a young and healthy man and
6 now I have all kinds of ailments.

7 Q. Do you remember writing this document?

8 A. Not -- I don't remember myself, but I
9 know I was studying -- I changed faculties.

10 Q. What I'm trying to determine is if you
11 wrote this and you signed it.

12 Can you tell me whether you wrote this and
13 you signed it? It says that you wanted to transfer
14 from the school of Engineering to the Economics
15 Department?

16 A. I remember, yeah.

17 Q. The school of Economics and Law?

18 A. That I remember.

19 Q. You remember that?

20 A. That I remember.

21 Q. Do you remember writing this document?

22 A. No.

23 Q. You can't recognize whether that's your
24 writing and your signature?

25 A. It could be. Do you want me to swear?

1 Q. Well, I want you to look at it and tell me
2 whether that looks like your writing.

3 A. It could be, but I won't swear, whatever
4 you want to say me here, whatever is important, if
5 that's important what you just --

6 (through the interpreter) But what was
7 important, what I do remember is that I changed
8 departments, apparently in the university.

9 Q. You'll notice on here it says that there
10 is a certificate attesting to participation in
11 action on eastern front.

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. Do you know what that's talking about?

14 A. No, because I was, you know.

15 Q. Was that the action you told us about
16 earlier with General Stahlecker?

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. All right, now, this document has some
19 stamps on here?

20 A. That, I don't know. Sicherungs?

21 Q. Do you recognize that?

22 A. No.

23 Q. It refers to the Security Commando.

24 A. Oh, uh-huh.

25 (through the interpreter) In the wartime,

1 in order to study, one had to have a certificate
2 that he is deserving, he is warranted to do so,
3 that one has been helpful in the war effort.

4 Q. And what did the Security Commando have to
5 do with that?

6 A. (through the interpreter) I don't remember
7 regarding that, but however, I remember I got some
8 signatures from that combat action, from a Colonel
9 Aperats, and the second one I got in Riga from a
10 police, through some friends of mine in order to be
11 sure that I would be accepted.

12 Q. Where these friends of yours in the
13 Security Commando?

14 A. Oh, I don't know. There was some friends,
15 officers, of course, officer -- no, officers. I do
16 not remember.

17 Q. Did you serve in the Latvian Security
18 Section?

19 A. (through the interpreter) Except that the
20 unit that was sent to the -- the ski unit that was
21 sent to combat and it's commander was a big chief,
22 general. Well, all of them are the police
23 battalions.

24 (the witness) Yeah.

25 (through the interpreter) That's it.

1 Q. Did you ever serve in the Latvian Security
2 Section which was under the commander of the
3 Security Police of Latvia in SD?

4 A. (through the interpreter) It only could
5 have been that the unit which sent me out had
6 belonged to this.

7 No, not belonged. That the general was a
8 German SS General, how was it called, police, for
9 the Ostland, White Russia.

10 (the witness) White Russia, yeah, Ostland

11 Q. Do you remember what the name of the
12 Latvian commander was?

13 A. There was no Latvian commander. I was the
14 unit organizer, C Troop.

15 Q. You were the highest officer?

16 A. Yeah, I know German language, that's the
17 reason.

18 Q. There wasn't any Latvian officer who was
19 higher than you in this police battalion?

20 A. That was the reason I was engaged because
21 I knew that their speciality which was --

22 (through the interpreter) It was winter
23 time and it snowed heavily and they needed a
24 special unit of skiers and also somebody who could
25 speak German.

1 MR. MAUSNER: Could you mark this as
2 Number 7?

3
4 (Government's Exhibit Number 7 was marked for
5 Identification.)

6
7 Q. Exhibit 7 is a one-page document in the
8 Latvian language, dated May 15, 1943. I'm now
9 handing you Exhibit 7, Mr. Kalejs.

10 A. Yeah.

11 (through the interpreter) That is in the
12 same connection. In order to study, one had to
13 have some sort of certificate from a police.

14 Q. Okay. In this document you said that you
15 were in the service of the commander of the
16 Security Police of Latvian SD in the Latvian
17 Security Section; right?

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. That's what you served in?

20 A. No, I didn't. That's all the paper has
21 got. I had to write -- I had to write in order to
22 study --

23 (through the interpreter) I had to write
24 in order to study.

25 Q. So in other words, you're telling us that

1 you were lying when you wrote this paper, or you
2 weren't telling the truth?

3 A. Right. Yeah.

4 Q. Okay. You do remember writing this paper;
5 right?

6 A. No.

7 Q. But it's your signature on that paper?

8 A. Wouldn't guarantee.

9 Q. You don't think so, or is it?

10 A. Not a hundred percent.

11 Q. Well, do you remember that you told them
12 at the time that you were serving in the service of
13 the commander of the Security Police of Latvia and
14 SD in the Latvian Security Section?

15 A. No, because I didn't, but --

16 (through the interpreter) Well, they
17 asked for some papers and so I got papers through
18 some friends.

19 Q. Well, this paper has the signature on it,
20 K. Kalejs.

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. Did you write this?

23 A. It's '43 you say? So, it's what, 41 years
24 ago. Today I'm signing differently, you know.
25 Then I was young man. Like I said, once I was was