

# Okkupationsmuseum

August 2024 – Teil 2

# Okkupationsmuseum



# The Museum of the Occupation of Latvia

This is a story about the Latvian nation and Latvian state that it founded, fought for and built on its ancestral land as the German and Russian empires collapsed at the end of the First World War.

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This is a story of the conspiracy between Communist Soviet Union and Nazi Germany and the three occupations that dismantled the Latvian state, defiled the land, and, within half a century, brought the nation to the brink of extinction.

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This is a story about oppression, terror and violence; about defiance, resistance and heroism; but also – about helplessness, fear and betrayal.

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Above all, however, this is a story of the stamina and spiritual strength that allowed the Latvian nation to renew the Latvian state and to re-join the world community of independent countries.

# Savā zemē sava valsts

## Latvijas neatkarība

1918-1940

Īstenojot tautas grību, 1918. gada 18. novembrī Latvijas Tautas padome proklamē demokrātisku republiku. Pirmais pasaules karš ir prasījis milzīgus upurus un attstājis zemi postā.



Latvijas Neatkarības karā līdz 1920. gada augustam tauta saiedējas un turpmākojais gados izveido plaukstotū valsti, kuras pamatos ir izglītības, kultūras un saimnieciskā attīstība. Latvija pievienojas Tautu Savienībai, ievēro starptautiskās konvencijas, sīlēz sadarības un neuzbrukšanas līgumus ar kaimiņu valstīm.

Satversme noteic, ka Latvija ir vienlīdzīgas vēlēšanu tiesības vīriešiem un sievietēm. Nacionālās minoritātes piedalās valsts pārvaldē un saglabā savu kultūras autonomiju, pastāv preses, vārda, sapulču un biedrošanās brīvība. Lielāko minoritāšu krievu, ebreju, vācu un polu - kultūras un valodas izkopšana ir viens no prieķīstekumiem mierīgai līdzās pastāvēšanai, kas nodrošina valsts ekonomisko attīstību un visu iedzīvotāju labklājību.

## The Nation Creates its State

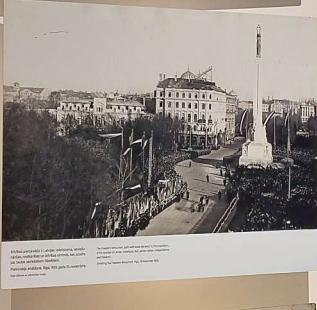
### Independent Latvia

1918-1940

On 18 November 1918 the National Council of Latvia carries out the will of the Latvian nation and declares a democratic Republic of Latvia. The First World War has taken a heavy toll on human lives and has devastated the land.

The nation consolidates during the War of Independence, which ends in August 1920, and builds a prosperous state on the pillars of education, culture, and economic growth. Latvia joins the League of Nations, adheres to international conventions, and concludes treaties of cooperation and non-aggression with its neighbours.

The Constitution guarantees universal suffrage and the rights of national minorities. They participate in governance and maintain their cultural autonomy. Freedom of the press, speech, assembly, and association is guaranteed.



**“... BRĪVĪBAS GARU NEVAR NOKAUT!”**

**LATVIJAS JAUNIEŠU CĪNA**

**PRET KOMUNISTISKO OKUPĀCIJAS REŽĪMŪ, 1940. GADI.**

**Jauniešu darbība**

- Nacionālās un patriotiskas pārliecības saglabāšana
- Pretošanās organizācijas
- Nacionālu izaugsumu izgatavošana un izplatīšana
- Ieroču vālšana
- Bēgšana
- Latvijas Republikas valsts svētku atcere

Komunistiskais okupācijas režīms veica politiskās represijas pret jauniešiem – arestēja, apsūdzēja un notiesāja pēc Krievijas PFSR Kriminālkodeksa par “dzīmtenes nodevību”, “pretpadomju organizāciju” veidošanu, “pretpadomju agitāciju un propagandu”, “izbraukšanu uz ārzemēm bez varas iestāžu atlaujas”.

	1940-1941	1944-1949	*
Arrestēti   Arrested	203	763	
Vecums/Age	13 gadi 14-17 gadi 18-21 / 22 gadi	4 36 167	301 458
Notiesāti   Convicted	195	679	

\* Dati ir aptuveni, informācija viss pēcēta.

**“... THEY CAN'T KILL THE SPIRIT OF FREEDOM!”**

**YOUTHS OF LATVIA STRUGGLE  
AGAINST THE COMMUNIST OCCUPATION REGIME, 1940s**

**Youth activities**

- Maintenance of national and patriotic beliefs
- Resistance organizations
- Making and distributing national proclamations
- Collecting weapons
- Escape
- Remembrance of the Proclamation Day  
of the Republic of Latvia

The communist occupation regime carried out political repression against young people – arrested, charged, and sentenced them according to Article 58<sup>1</sup> of the Criminal Code of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic about “treason to the motherland”, creating “anti-Soviet organizations”, “anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda”, “going abroad without the permission of the authorities”.

Worked on his farm  
**Antons Ludboržs**  
(1929)

 Member of the national organisation **Latgale Hawks**.

*In what kind of activities did you take part? What did you do, did you rip off the flags?*

No, no, no, we didn't think about ripping off flags. We had proclamations, handwritten newspapers, which we distributed in the area, which the Russians called "bandit area", starting from Rogovka to Stompaka swamp. They were trying to scare us, take our weapons. They were not partisans, they were saboteurs. They were thrown in here, they were well supplied, but our partisans needed to do it all on their own. We were the ones who helped them collect stuff which was left from the war.

The last deportations were in 1949. Yes, those on the 25th of March. We were already partially exposed, but when they came to take people away, they didn't drive into our area. Jānis Gleizds, took these photos and worked as a secretary. Firstly, he stole the lists. Secondly, the road from Rogovka to Ruskule village was covered with machine guns. We covered from this side, and the partisans were further on. The KGB (Ministry of State Security) didn't drive in, that is, because they knew, that there would be big trouble, "bone saws" all over the place. But they did nothing. They infiltrated a fellow called Bokūks into our group and he betrayed our organization. The KGB got smarter. They didn't comb the woods, they started infiltrating traitors. That's how it was.

I didn't understand one thing, did you live in your homes, or did you have bunkers?

We all lived at home. When the arrests started, some fled to their partisans, and we were happy that they were lucky, but we got arrested. Early on the morning of 30 April 1949, they knocked on the door and pulled us out of the bed. My brother was 16, I was 18 or 17.

 Arrested at the age of 19. 

 On 26 November 1949, the Special Meeting of the USSR Ministry of State Security sentenced A. Ludboržs to 10 years of imprisonment in a Gulag camp and confiscation of property.

He was imprisoned in Gulag camp until May 1956.



# "The militiamen were chasing me"

A student at the Vocational School of Cēsis

## Roberts Puriņš

(1920–2005)

Member of the national organisation *Guards of the Fatherland*.

During the night before 18 November 1940, distributed anti-Soviet proclamations.

"On the night before 18 November, I was noticed by the militia auxiliary. They had seen me, as I came onto the street and most probably, they had tracked me and now chased me along the Riga Street, calling out: 'Stop!' Well, clearly, I still had the proclamations, some of them, I didn't know how many were left, and then I fled along the street."



The identity card from the Vocational School of Cēsis issued to student Roberts Puriņš for the school year 1939/1940.

★ Arrested at the age of 20 on 18 November 1940. ★

★ On 24 May 1941, the Special Meeting of the USSR People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs sentenced him to 5 years of imprisonment.

Based on the verdict of a commission of doctors, he was released in 1943.



Roberts Puriņš in the Riga Central Prison, 1951.

★ He was again arrested in October 1950. On 20 January 1951, the Special Meeting of the USSR Ministry of State Security sentenced him to indefinite deportation.

He was allowed to return to Latvia in June 1954.

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# "We felt like heroes"

A student at the Valka Secondary School

## Vizbulīte Radziņa

(1931–2016)

★ In November 1945 placed a home made Latvian national flag in a cemetery.

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the communists  
are in the front  
the front



Vizbulīte Radziņa in Horīk, 1954.

★ On 27–28 August 1946, the Latvian SSR People's Commissariat of Internal Troop War Tribunal sentenced her to 10 years of imprisonment.

★ On 27 August 1946, the Latvian SSR People's Commissariat of Internal Troop War Tribunal sentenced her to 10 years of imprisonment.

★ Arrested at the age of 14 in December 1945. ★

★ On 14–15 March 1946, in Riga the Latvian SSR People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs Troop War Tribunal sentenced to imprisonment for 8 years with confiscation of property.



Vizbulīte Radziņa (in the centre) in the Tomsk Colony of Juvenile Criminals in December 1949.

She was imprisoned in Irkutsk and Tomsk Regions until December 1953, and then in forced resettlement in Tomsk Region until August 1957.

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# "Was the oak tree mined?"

A student at the Litene Secondary School

## Edgars Jurjāns

(1925–2002)



In May 1945 raised a self-made  
Latvian national flag in an oak tree.

"On 15 May 1945 in Litene, a suggestion was made during general conversation to raise the Latvian red-white-red flag at some high place. Next to the Pedeže River we saw a boat. Grieta suggested that we could raise the flag in the oak tree that was on the opposite bank. 'Thought and done.' We crossed the river by boat. We brought with us a ladder and some wire. I climbed the majestic hundred years old tree and fixed the flag. During that time, Grieta fixed a warning sign to the tree: 'Mined.' On the next morning, the proudly waving red-white-red flag could be seen from the schoolhouse window. Everyone was asking, 'Who did it?' Most suspicions fell on the 'Forest brothers' [national partisans]. Thus, we escaped punishment. The flag remained there until mid-day. Then the militia, fearing to climb a 'mined' tree, tore down the flag by shooting at it."

★ E. Jurjāns, a student of the Faculty of Architecture of the State University of Latvia, was arrested at the age of 22 in April 1947. ★

★ On 13 October 1947, in Riga, the Military Tribunal of the Baltic War District sentenced E. Jurjāns to 10 years of imprisonment and for additional 3 years of restricted civil liberties.



Edgars Jurjāns at the oak tree where he raised the Latvian national flag on 15 May 1945.  
Latvian National Archives

"My S...  
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★ On 21–22 March 1946, Jurjāns was sentenced by the Military Tribunal of the Baltic War District to 10 years of imprisonment and for additional 3 years of restricted civil liberties.



Marta Jurjāns with her son Juris Jurjāns. Marta Jurjāns was arrested in 1946 and sentenced to 10 years of imprisonment and for additional 3 years of restricted civil liberties. She was imprisoned in Tashket in the Irkutsk Region and then in forced resettlement in Krasnoyarsk.



1944. gadā Heinrihs Strods (1925–2012) paslēpa kannu ar ieliktām tajā grāmatām zemē Dvietes pagasta "Strazdinu" māju mežā. Kannu periodiski pārbaudīja un vēdināja, bet tā ierakta zemē līdz 1970. gadiem.

In 1944, Heinrihs Strods (1925–2012) hid a milk can with books in the forest of the "Strazdinī" homestead of Dviete Parish. The milk can was periodically inspected and ventilated, but it remained dug into the ground until the 1970s.

25 litru piena kanna un grāmatas –  
25-liter milk can and books –  
Kārlis Ulmanis. Sabiedriskie raksti un runas : Izlase. 1935.  
Alfred Rozenberg. Tradition und Gegenwart. Minhene. 1941.

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# "The Forests of our Homeland at Alūksne"

A student at the Alūksne Secondary School

**Vija Augstkalne**

(1933)



Nationally patriotic conviction.

"Of course, I wanted to participate.

No one was happy about the arrival of the Russians.

Then we started to participate in the organization. We had to write a pledge: 'I want to participate in such and such an organization. To perform all duties assigned to me. Not to betray anyone.' I signed with an assumed name. At first, everyone gathered in our apartment once a month. The main thing that we did was to publish a magazine 'Homeland Forests' once a month. The older guys observed how the accused were led from the Alūksne prison. This was what the partisans wanted to know. Ludis Egle collected bandages and medicines. The girls knitted socks. The older guys drove to meet with the partisans. My brother worked at the post office and did not further the letters from whistleblowers about homes that support the partisans. What we knew how to do, we did. I wrote a few patriotic poems for the magazine."

TO THE PARTISANS

We love you for your brave and fearless battles

To keep our precious fatherland alive

We hope that after years of sacrifice

The cherished day of freedom will arrive

We love you for your young age so much

Of everything that someday you could be

For helping only one just one relative

To give your hearts, so Latvia to be free

Author: Vija Augstkalne



From the left: Ēriks Egle, a national partisan (name unknown), Māris Čakstis, Ēriks Ēriks, Vīrišķis Melniņš, and Ludis Egle. About 1948. Photographer: Zigmunds Augstkalns.



On 1 June 1949, the Latvian SSR Ministry of Internal Affairs Troop War War released Vija Augstkalne to 10 years of imprisonment and confiscation of property.

Vija was incarcerated in the Riga Central Prison and in Gulag camps of Monasteri Ačči and Angreli Tala.

# "The Forests of our Homeland at Alūksne"

A student of the Cēsis Teachers' Institute

**Margrieta Klaviņa**

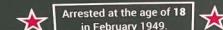
(1931)



Nationally patriotic conviction.

"It was September 1947, when Augstkalns Zigmunds and Ēriks entered this very room and said: 'We want to do something. Would you be willing to join our activities?' I was young and energetic, and said 'Yes'.

A larger group got together. We worked. Various leaflets appeared. A magazine emerged, that needed articles. The editor was Visvaldis Plotnieks. The magazine also got to the partisans. That fixed our fate. Cheka agents found our magazine in a partisan bunker."



On 1 June 1949, the Latvian SSR Ministry of Internal Affairs Troop War War sentenced her to 10 years of imprisonment and confiscation of her property.

She was imprisoned in Gulag camps until October 1954.



Vigo Lapuka un Artūra Sildes sašautais plakāts.  
Poster shot by Vigo Lapukis and Artūrs Silde.  
(Latvijas Nacionālais arhīvs – Latvijas Valsts arhīvs)

## "Šāva uz Stalīna portretu"

1. Jūras amatniecības skolas skolnieks  
**Vigo Lapukis**  
(1929)

1946. gada 24. februārī skolā kopā ar grupas meistaru

Vigo Lapuka un Artūra Sildes sašautais plakāts.  
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**Vigo Lapukis**  
(1929)

1946. gada 24. februārī skolā kopā ar grupas meistaru  
Šāva uz padomju valsts un partijas vadītāja portretu.

★ Arrested at the age of 16  
in March 1946. ★

★ On 25 May 1946, in Riga the Latvian SSR Ministry of Internal Affairs Troop War Tribunal sentenced him to 7 years of imprisonment, without deprivation of civil rights and confiscation of property. ★

He was imprisoned in the Molotov Region until 14 August 1951.

## "A shot at Stalin's portrait"

A student at the First School of Maritime Crafts  
**Vigo Lapukis**  
(1929)

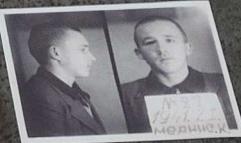
On 24 February 1946, while at school together with his group master, he shot at the portrait of the leader of the Soviet State and Party.

★ Arrested at the age of 16  
in March 1946. ★

★ On 25 May 1946, in Riga the Latvian SSR Ministry of Internal Affairs Troop War Tribunal sentenced him to 7 years of imprisonment, without deprivation of civil rights and confiscation of property. ★

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Walter Medeno restéle  
dalam Karim Suleiman. Laco 27 July 1946  
Karo an tu paters? Byar tin cada relasian  
nubers? Nostros hilang unumman neungs arjuna  
Adja istilah Kas no tene samaha nio mung  
arjuna Medeno. Nguwé dudu karo pasanganan  
daatu. Bettine n sono loka karo tigére kawé  
karo wé. Sediam ngoko aya ngajpan. Pasien  
ngoko neungs lauru non getih. Gitaro rotéle. Ya netesian  
karo tene istilah. Gitaro rotéle. Ya netesian  
Gitaro rotéle. Ya netesian

