

Okkupationsmuseum

August 2024 – Teil 2

Okkupationsmuseum



MUSEE DE L'OCCUPATION DE LA LETTONIE МУЗЕЙ ОККУПАЦИИ ЛАТВИИ LATVIJAS OKUPACIJOS MUZIEJUS LETTISCHES OKKUPATIONSMUSEUM MUSEO DE LA OCUPACIÓN DE LETONIA
AN MIENITYSMUSEO MUSEO DELL'OCCUPAZIONE DELLA LETTONIA OKUPACIJS MUSEET I LATVIA LĀTI OKUPATSIOONIMUUSEUM LATVIJAS OKUPACIJAS MUZEJ MUSEU
LATVIJAS OKUPACIJOS MUZIEJUS LETTISCHES OKKUPATIONSMUSEUM MUSEO DE LA OCUPACIÓN DE LETONIA МУЗЕЙ ОККУПАЦІЇ ЛАТВІЇ LETTLANDS OKUPATIONS MUSEUM

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.

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.

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

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 gribu, 1918. gada 18. novembrī Latvijas Tautas padome proklamē demokrātisku republiku. Pirmais pasaules karš ir prasījis milzīgus upurus un atstājis zemi postā.

Latvijas Neatkarības karā līdz 1920. gada augustam tauta saliedējas un turpmākajos gados izveido plaukstošu valsti, kuras pamatos ir izglītības, kultūras un saimnieciskā attīstība. Latvija pievienojas Tautu Savienībai, ievēro starptautiskās konvencijas, slēdz sadarbības un neuzbrukšanas līgumus ar kaimiņu valstīm.

Satversme noteic, ka Latvijā 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 priekšnoteikumiem mierīgai līdzās pastāvēšanai, kas nodrošina valsts ekonomisko attīstību un visu iedzīvotāju labklājību.

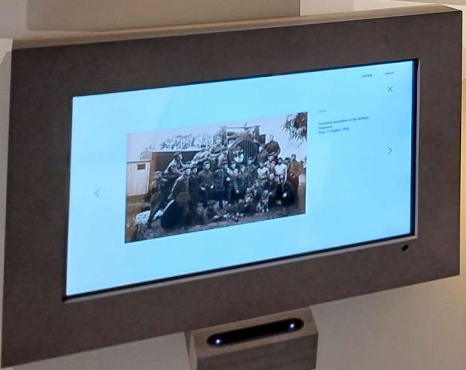
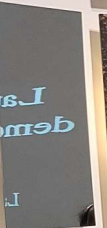
The Nation Creates its State

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 ČĪŅA PRET KOMUNISTISKO OKUPĀCIJAS REŽĪMU, 1940. GADI.

Jauniešu darbība

Nacionālas un patriotiskas pārliecības saglabāšana
Pretošanās organizācijas
Nacionālu uzsaukumu izgatavošana un izplatīšana
Ieroču vākšana
Bēgšana
Latvijas Republikas valsts svētku atcere

Komunistiskais okupācijas režīms veica politiskās represijas pret jauniešiem – arestēja, apsūdzēja un notiesāja pēc Krievijas PSR Kriminālkodeksa par "dzimtenes nodevību", "pretpadomju organizāciju" veidošanu, "pretpadomju aģitāciju un propagandu", "izbraukšanu uz ārzemēm bez varas iestāžu atļaujas".

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

* Dati ir aptuveni, informācija tiks precizēta.
Data are approximate, information will be clarified.

"... 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 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 Bopuks 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 16 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 Pūriņš
(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 Pūriņš 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 Pūriņš in the Riga Central Prison, 1951.

★ He was again arrested in October 1949. On 20 January 1951, the Special Meeting of the USSR Ministry of State Security sentenced him to *exile* in Siberia.

He was allowed to return to Latvia in June 1954.

"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.

"Altogether our group had 18 persons. We held a few meetings. As 18 November [1945] approached we decided that we will take a [Latvian national] flag to the Brethren Cemetery of Valka. The boys had prepared the flag. The four of us – Gaida Lābsvirs, I, Vidars Andersons, Ilgvars Broks went to the cemetery towards evening when it was dark. We brought the flag and also placed a lingonberry wreath. We were elated and happy, that we had done it."

★ 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 center) in the Tomsk Colony of Juvenile Criminals in December 1948.

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

★



Vizbulīte Radziņa in Riga, 1954.

★ On 27–28 August 1948, the Latvian SSR People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs Troop War Tribunal sentenced her to 10 years of imprisonment, followed by restricted civil liberties for 5 years.

★ On 21 August 1948, the Latvian SSR People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs Troop War Tribunal sentenced her to 10 years of imprisonment, followed by restricted civil liberties for 5 years.

★ On 27–28 August 1948, the Latvian SSR People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs Troop War Tribunal sentenced her to 10 years of imprisonment, followed by restricted civil liberties for 5 years.

★ On 21 August 1948, the Latvian SSR People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs Troop War Tribunal sentenced her to 10 years of imprisonment, followed by restricted civil liberties for 5 years.

"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 Pededze 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.
Litene, October 1998

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★ On 21–22 March 1946, the Troop War Tribunal sentenced by restricted civil liberties



Memorial plaque with the inscription in the target at Tautas p
She was imprisoned in Tautas p
and then in forced resettlement in Mānupurā



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

In 1944, **Heinrihs Strods** (1925–2012)
hid a milk can with books in the forest of
the "Strazdiņi" 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 kannu un grāmatas –
25-liter milk can and books –
Kārlis Ulmanis. *Sabiedriskie raksti un runas*. Izlase. 1935.
Alfred Rozenberg. *Tradition und Gegenwart*. Minhe. 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 – we published 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 sacrifices

The cherished day of freedom will arrive

We love you for your giving up to death

Of everything that someday you could be

The happy day will find no reason

To give your hearts to Russia to free

(signed: Vija Augstkalne)



From the left: Erika Egle, a national partisan (name unknown),
Blanka Bērziņa, unknown, unknown, Viesvaldis Plotnieks,
and Ludis Egle. Around 1948.
Photographer: Zigmunds Augstkalns.

Arrested at the age of 16
in February 1949 together with
Zigmunds Augstkalns (1928)
Erika Egle (1931)
Ludis Egle (1927)
Imants Eglis (1931)
Lina Kļaviņa (1929)
Margrieta Kļaviņa (1931)
Aina Lācis (1929)
Viesvaldis Plotnieks (1928)
Guntars Čumars (1930)

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

Vija was incarcerated in the Riga Central Prison and in Gulag camps
of Mordovia ASLR until August 1954.

"The Forests of our Homeland at Alūksne"

A student of the Cēsis Teachers' Institute

Margrieta Kļaviņa
(1931)



Nationally patriotic conviction.

"It was September 1947, when Augstkalns Zigmunds and Egle Eriks 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 Viesvaldis Plotnieks.
The magazine also got to the partisans. That fixed our fate. Cheka agents
found our magazine in a partisan bunker."

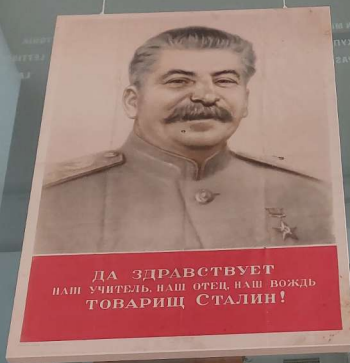


Arrested at the age of 18
in February 1949.



On 1 June 1949, the Latvian SSR Ministry of Internal Affairs Troop War Tribunal
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 arhivs – Latvijas Valsts arhivs)

"Šāva uz Staļina 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.
Poster shot by Vigo Lapukis and Artūrs Silde.
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"Šāva uz Staļina portretu"

1. Jūras amatniecības skolas skolnieks

Vigo Lapukis
(1929)

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

☆ Arestēts 16 gadu vecumā
1946. gada martā. ☆

☆ 1946. gada 25. maijā Rīgā LPSR Iekšlietu ministrijas kara spēku
kara tribunāls piesprieda brīvības atņemšanu uz 7 gadiem, bez
tiesību atņemšanas un mantas konfiskācijas.

Ieslodzījumā atradās Molotovas apgabālā līdz 1951. gada 14. augustam.

"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.

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



