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Two groups of the members of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (U.R.A.) again arrived in Bavaria. During the night of 19-20th July one group crossed the border and a few days later the other followed. Whilst crossing Poland and Czechoslovakia they were involved in battles with the Police. The first group suffered some losses. In a battle with Czech-Bolshevik units Private Strila was killed. We are having a talk with the Commandant of this group, Dr. Skovoroda and his soldiers. Their stories confirm the information of the condition in the Ukraine, in Poland and Czechoslovakia, which we published previously. We changed the subject of conversation.

1. WHERE THE U.P.A. AND THE ORGANISATION OF UKRAINIAN NATIONALISTS (O.U.N) IS ACTIVE AT PRESENT?

It is rather difficult to point out exactly where the territory of the activity of the U.P.A. and O.U.N. is - we can only describe it, because the methods of their activity vary according to the circumstances in which they have to act. Speaking of the activities of the U.P.A. and the O.U.N., the whole system of social and political conditions in the U.S.S.R. should be borne in mind. You would think it unbelievable if I told you that U.P.A. and O.U.N. are active, for instance, in Moscow or Kazakstan, yet only recently the leaflets of the U.P.A. and O.U.N. had been distributed in Moscow, which proves that there must have been somebody to do the job. And from Kazakstan last winter we received by Soviet Post leaflets issued by the members of the O.U.N. and U.P.A. - Ukrainians once sent there by the Soviet Regime. Our friends, and natives of the land, Kazaks, have strong anti-bolshevik feelings on political and religious grounds. This shows plainly that U.P.A. and O.U.N. are active everywhere in the Soviet Union and everywhere their activity is met with support from the local population.

From that point of view it would be hardly true to say that the activity of the U.P.A. is limited to the territory where there exists active underground movement and armed resistance. The underground movement, by its mere existence, is great comfort to all the nations of the U.S.S.R. in their passive resistance. I may assure you that activity of the U.P.A. and O.U.N. is known everywhere in the U.S.S.R., and the members of this movement are residing in every town and district of the Ukraine. There they have certain duties to perform and they carry them out. In this manner the passive resistance of the population and the actual activity of members of the underground resistance movement go side by side; very often they act with mutual understanding.

In this scheme a very important role is played by well organised connection between members of the movement throughout the

country. How well it is set up could be seen from the fact that the private propagandive literature issued from time to time by the Centre of Propaganda of the U.P.A. and O.U.N. is distributed everywhere in the U.S.S.R., and so far not one member distributing it was captured by the enemy. The Bolsheviki set up special detachments of their Police to deal with this matter but so far they did not achieve any success. The propagandive literature is printed in Ukrainian and Russian languages, very often illustrated with cartoons and is welcomed by the population.

2. COULD YOU TELL US ANYTHING MORE ABOUT SO CALLED ARMED POLITICAL UNDERGROUND MOVEMENT?

In the history of the U.P.A. we can distinguish clearly two periods. In the first period which lasted until the well-known blockade in 1945/46, there existed so called "U.P.A. Republics", i.e. territories absolutely occupied by the U.P.A. West of the Iron Curtain such "Republics" were in existence until the middle of 1947. Under such circumstances, it was possible for larger groups of the U.P.A. to use even heavy arms in their operations. In the second period the H.Q. of the U.P.A. divided large groups of the Army into smaller detachments sending them to various parts of the country, usually where it was possible for them to have their stores of food, ammunition, hospitals, etc. Their task was principally political propagandive work among the population and they were to be in continuous raids. Such reorganisation of the U.P.A. was well prepared before the Blockade of 1945 and, therefore, the Blockade did not bring for the Bolsheviki the results they hoped for. After the large groups of the U.P.A. split into small detachments, the Bolsheviki's offensive hit into a vacuum.

It is the main task of the members of the U.P.A. to act in small groups, yet to embrace with their activity the largest possible territory. Such groups, though small in number, being in continuous raids, are able to do great work among the population and are unsuppressible for the soviet Police, even if they keep all garrisons of Police force especially for the liquidation of the detachments of the U.P.A. The chief objects of such detachments are propagandive activity among the population, liquidation of strong-points of enemys' activities, freeing political prisoners and forcibly deported persons, sabotage (for instance, breaking up of state food stores and distributing the food to starving population). There are also special detachments of so-called "Avengers". They specialise in liquidating the most hateful representatives of the soviet Regime and their Collaborators. Among those executed by the "Avengers" was the Commandant of a Soviet Blockade Unit - Gen. Col. Moskalenko, with all his staff of officers in Piaziv, near Stanislawiw (Western Ukraine). The Commandant of the "Avengers" was, for some time, a former Officer of the Soviet Army - Lieutenant Taran, and his subordinates consisting mainly of former soldiers of the Soviet Forces. They were the best for the job, as they knew the language and had thorough knowledge of conditions within the enemy's camp. A prominent place among the "Avengers" is occupied by women. Only recently in one of the Ukrainian Towns a girl from Dnipropetrowsk by the name of Tamara liquidated leaders of local Police, pretending to be friendly with them previously, and appeared with them in restaurants, night-clubs, etc. Unfortunately, she was killed whilst executing her order. Organisation of Ukrainian Nationalist is the soul of the U.P.A. as it was this organisation that started the armed resistance of the Ukrainian People. The U.P.A. is based on the ideology of the O.U.N. and the leading members of the O.U.N. occupy chief positions in the structure of the U.P.A. For instance, the Commander-in-Chief of the U.P.A., General Taras Chuprynka, is deputy president of the Executive of the O.U.N.

3. HOW, AND FROM WHERE IS THE STRUGGLE OF THE U.P.A. DIRECTED?

Headquarters of larger and smaller detachments of the U.P.A., as well as central stores, hospitals, etc. are placed in underground hideouts. Where they are situated and how they are built is a top secret, of their existence and position only their inhabitants know. In such hideouts all the work of the U.P.A. is prepared, from there orders are issued, there is printed propagandive literature, there medical operations are performed. Those hideouts are built variously, according to the particular needs and circumstances, but all of them must possess three things. They must be safe, hygienic, and convenient for intended purpose. There are different and various methods of construction, and, for instance, when Bolsheviki instructed special branches of "Hide-out Finders", they accounted for at least 76 various kinds of them, just as much as they so far managed to discover. Bolsheviki very often described such hide-outs in their press, for instance, a Polish newspaper described a captured underground hospital of the U.P.A. which has all the conveniences of a modern army hospital. I shall describe one such hide-out (already known to the enemy) so that you can imagine what they look like. This particular hide-out was dug out in a hill near a river. The entrance to it from the riverside was very small, difficult to notice, but inside it consisted of six rooms, each approximately 4 ft. x 8 ft. and 3 ft. high. The rooms were connected with corridors. The walls were built with boards and covered with white paper. The hide-out was provided with full sanitation and ventilation, and it was lit by carbon lighting. Some hide-outs are lit by candles, some have day-light and some even have electric light. Cooking in this particular hide-out was done usually by night. It took three months to build this hide-out. It was not the best one, just average, as there existed many really most comfortably arranged hide-outs and many a time they aroused bewilderment among enemy if they happened to capture them. The best ones were in Chreshata and hospital in Truchaniw near Stryj (western Ukraine). This hospital was managed by a Dr. Kum, a Jew by birth and gallant soldier of the U.P.A.

4. COULD YOU TELL US HOW DID YOU SPEND THE LAST MONTHS OF YOUR RESIDENCE IN THE UKRAINE?

The Winter of 1948/49 I spent in a hide-out. We had rather a quiet time, as our hide-out was situated in a place least mastered by the Bolsheviki. In the Spring the Bolsheviki began on a large scale to deport Ukrainian population to Siberia and Kazakstan mainly from the districts of Volynia (western Ukraine). It was the second largest deportation since 1947. The population, obeying orders of the U.P.A. and O.U.N. defied the Bolsheviki's attempts and avoided deportation as much as possible.

At the same time the Bolsheviki started similar action in Poland, directed against antibolshevik Polish population, against Ukrainians residing in Poland and against deserters of the Soviet Army, of whom, it is believed, there are at least 30,000 in Poland. In that connection I was ordered to gather members of the U.P.A. residing in Poland, in various Polish towns and bring them to Bavaria. I managed to fulfill the task, although it wasn't a very easy thing to do. As you know, we lost one man in Czechoslovakia.

5. HOW DOES THE SOLDIER OF THE U.P.A. SPEND A DAY IN THE HIDE-OUT?

There should be distinguished two periods. Winter period - the time of preparation for the summer activity and education, and Summer period - the time of actual activity. During the Winter the Ukrainian Insurgents remain in the hide-outs, and only very few of them are outside on special duties. Those remaining in the

hide-outs spend their time on learning. They undergo thorough political training, so that they could do good propagandive work. They are also informed of up-to-date international political situation; apart from that they are trained in military sense and special attention is drawn to the facts of partisan warfare, its offensive and defensive methods of action. Any spare time is spent on general education, book-reading etc. The libraries of the units of the U.P.A. attached to every hide-out are well provided with books on almost every educational subject, as well as pre-war Ukrainian books and publications, which now become a rarity on the ground.

A strict military routine is observed in the hide-outs. The soldiers get up usually at 7 o'clock and carry out ordinary soldiers' duties as if it were in any army barracks or camps.

In many hide-outs there are radio receivers. From the news received from abroad by air the news bulletin are compiled and printed in the hide-outs for the outside distribution. Listening to the audition from abroad we welcomed many a time performances in songs and music given by Ukrainians in Germany and Switzerland. But we were very disappointed whilst listening to the "Voice of America" and the B.B.C. At first we listened to them regularly hoping to hear the news from the best possible source. But the news from the "Voice of America" and the B.B.C. were so much pro-Russian that it would have been quite unnecessary to reproduce them. It would be easier for the population to listen to the official Soviet news and would have heard almost the same. The Bolsheviks at least broadcast their news in the Ukrainian language, while the "Voice of America" and the B.B.C. apparently only Russian and Polish languages. When, for instance, at the time of the anniversary of birth of the greatest Ukrainian poet Taras Shevchenko we could hear from Kiev recitations of his poems and his songs sung by the best Soviet choirs, the "Voice of America" told us in a few words about "the Russo-Ukrainian peasant poet" do not the people of the "Voice of America" understand that glorification of the Russian Czar Peter I. this predecessor of Stalin and one of the greatest tyrants in the world history is far from being a constructive propaganda of the ideas of the Western world intended for the freedom-loving peoples of the East?

As Ukrainians are very fond of singing, Ukrainian songs could be heard very often in hide-outs. New songs are created, and these songs, telling the story of the struggle of Ukrainian people and its fighting arm - the U.P.A., are sung everywhere in the U.S.S.R.

In the Spring everything comes to life once again. The soldiers of the U.P.A. leave their hide-outs and go about their duties in the outside world, putting into action their preparation during the winter months. The fresh appearance of the members of the U.P.A. among the population encourages it, gives to the suffering masses of the enslaved people new hopes for the sooner end of the outrageous tyrants' yoke and final liberation.

Of course, all the population of the Ukraine and other parts of the U.S.S.R. wholeheartedly support the fighting men. Without this support it would be hardly possible for the U.P.A. and the O.U.N. not only to exist, but even to act and develop; it would be impossible for the Executive of the O.U.N. to have their Conferences in the Ukraine (the last was held in June 1948), in the condition such as they are in the U.S.S.R. at present.

At the end I would like to add that the soldiers of the U.P.A. even now wear their full uniforms and the emblem of

The Ukrainian Independent State - the Trident on their caps. When they are in uniforms, they are, as a rule, fully armed. We crossed Poland and Czechoslovakia in our uniforms. Only for special duties the soldiers of the U.P.A. wear civilian clothing or uniforms of the Soviet Army or Police. Such masquerade was proved very helpful while liquidating members of the Soviet Police, the well known MHB and MVD. Here should be pointed out that not all members of the MHB and MVD are enemies of the Ukrainian people. On many occasions the Ukrainian Insurgents were actually helped in executing their tasks by the members of the Police.

The Soviet Police is no longer the "sword of the revolution". Demoralisation, widely spread in the U.S.S.R., found its way even among the stronghold of the Bolsheviki's regime - their Police. This is one more proof of the slow but certain decay of the Soviet Empire.

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