

Crime of Moscow

IN



"Three-quarters of mankind must die if necessary,
to ensure the other quarter for Communism."

—LENIN.

**THE
CRIME OF MOSCOW
IN VYNNYTSIA**

Introduction

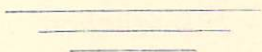
by John F. Stewart

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THE CRIME OF MOSCOW IN VYNNYTSIA

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INTRODUCTION

By JOHN F. STEWART

Chairman of the Scottish League for European Freedom

The atrocious murder by Russians of 4,000 Polish officer prisoners-of-War at Katyn has again become news, through the appointment by Congress in Washington of a Commission to investigate the crime, in spite of Western officialdom's attempt to bury the fact of it as deep as the bodies of the poor unfortunates, also in the hope of its non-resurrection.

Mass murder was not confined to the Poles, and mass murder is not a new policy invented by the Bolsheviks; it must and should be recognised that it is historically *Russian*, and that it has been Russian policy as long as Russia has existed. History records what is known of the first Russian application of Russian mass murder and genocide as a definite Russian Policy. This was in the year 1169, when Prince Andrey Bogolubsky of Suzdal attacked and sacked Kyiv, the beautiful capital of Ukraine, and the centre of a great Christian country which had long been a bastion to stem the overrunning of Christian Europe by the barbarian hordes of the East. Many of the people were murdered, while the churches and monasteries were pillaged, and priceless ikons, rare books, vestments and church bells were carried away to Muscovy.

Mass Murder on a grand scale continued, witness the drowning of 60,000 men, women and children of Novgorod by Ivan the Terrible, the drowning of 30,000 Cossacks in the Black Sea by Catherine, the "Great Wrath" or seven years' massacre of the Finns, the message by the Russian general to his master that "Not a dog barked nor a cock crew between Lake Peipus and the Baltic," and the consequent near-annihilation of the Estonian people, the massacre by Suworov of the entire population of the Praga district of Warsaw, when he sent the message to his sovereign, "Peace reigns in Warsaw." Peter I must not be forgotten; among his other contributions was the murder of the entire population, including women and children of Baturyn, the capital of the Ukrainian Hetman Ivan Mazeppa in 1708.

On the grandest scale of mass murder, however, was the Moscow-planned famine in Ukraine in 1932/33, when 5,000,000 Ukrainians died from starvation, the whole of the food having been seized by Moscow. The list could be extended indefinitely, stretching through all the years of Russian history, a fact unknown to the West, but one, I repeat, which must be known and reckoned with in any dealings with any existing or would-be *Russian* Government or authority.

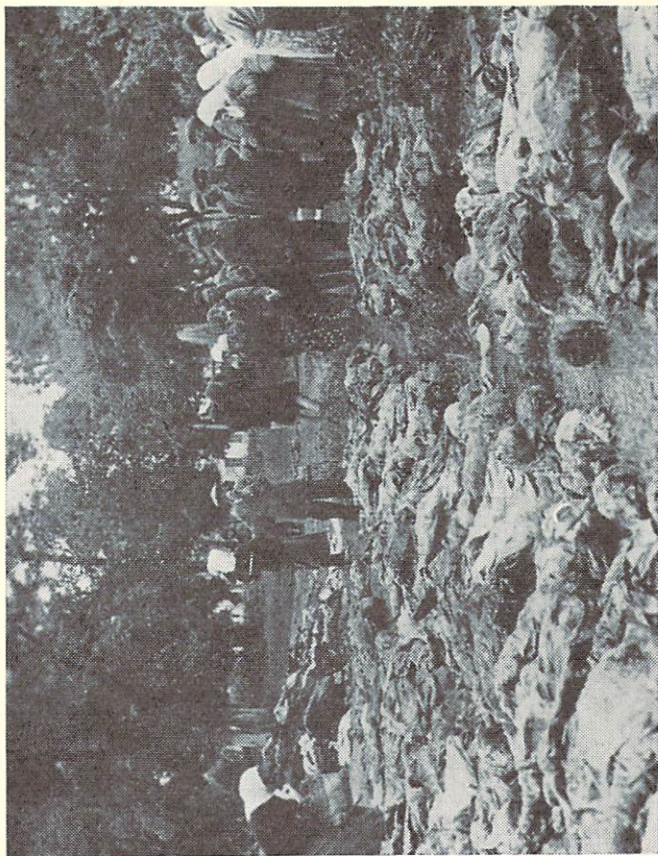
There are countless "Katyns" in all the vast territory controlled by Moscow. There are *many* in Ukraine, the largest and potentially most powerful of all the non-Russian States occupied by the Russians, and therefore the object of the greater hatred and envy on the part of Moscow. In what follows I am only going to tell the story of one—Vynnytsia—a story that needs no embellishment. The facts speak for themselves, the gradual genocide by an alien, atheist Power of a non-Russian people of 45 millions, anti-Communist, deeply religious, cultured, with a record of Christian civilisation going back to the beginning of history.

The circumstances in all these mass murders were appalling, but the added atrocity in the case of Vynnytsia almost passes belief. On the top of the mass graves, the Russians laid out a "Park of Culture and Rest," with summer theatre, dance halls, swings and other means of recreation. Small Ukrainian children played and danced above the bodies of thousands of their murdered people, while, as actually happened, the sadist executioners exulted in the spectacle!

Can human depravity and bestiality go further?



Ukrainian wives indentifying their husbands



Bodies of Exhumed Ukrainians Murdered by the Russian NKVD

THE CRIME OF MOSCOW IN VYNNYTSIA

Foreword

The Moscow Nation-murderers

"Three-quarters of mankind must die if necessary, to ensure the other quarter for Communism."—LENIN

GENOCIDE in the USSR is not a discovery of the so-called Soviet regime; it is rooted in the very depths of Muscovite history. Russian Bolsheviks use its methods in more criminal and bestial ways than formerly.

With the end of War II, the civilised world knew about the annihilation of the Volga Germans, Crimean Tatars, peoples of Northern Caucasus, Ingush, Chechen and others. These crimes were admitted to be true by the Moscow dictators themselves, excusing their actions by saying that all these nationalities were helping the Germans during the Second World War.

It is a strange statement, having in mind Moscow propaganda about "the only united family of Soviet people" and "National Freedom" of the other nationalities in the USSR.

How, then, was the sympathy of these peoples toward the Germans evoked?

Moscow imperialism has no answer for this question. The Russians are carefully hiding from the world their centuries-old policy of crime and genocide, their suppression of enslaved peoples. Among these peoples the Ukrainians, as victims of this crime, have the widest experience and the consequent right to demand from the civilised world the punishment of Moscow genocide.

In May 1950, the Foreign Commission of the American Senate finished the interrogation of the peoples enslaved by Moscow in the matter of mass murder in the USSR, with the purpose of it being recognised as an international crime. Such a resolution was forwarded to the members of UN to be dealt with by the Commission for Human Rights of United Nations. Amongst the accusers was a representative of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America. Giving all the facts of Russian genocide in Ukraine, the President of the Ukrainian Congress Committee, Prof. Dobrianskj, said:—"Twenty years we have been waiting for this opportunity to show the case of Russian genocide in Ukraine, which is so much connected with the problem of national security of America and the future of all mankind. This opportunity strengthens hope to obtain the punishment of the criminals."

In his speech Prof. Dobrianskj gave characteristic facts of the Moscow-Bolshevik methods of genocide. His accusations were proved by the production of accurate materials and documents concerning the crime of Moscow in Vynnytsia. Documentary materials of "The Crime of Moscow in Vynnytsia" give the facts of Russian genocide in Ukraine in the 20th century. But not only of genocide. Relatives of murdered people give the most terrible picture of the misery of the Ukrainians plundered by Moscow. The thousands of Ukrainians murdered in Vynnytsia are only a small part of the number of victims in the years 1937-38 who were discovered in 1942-43, during the German occupation of Ukraine. Similar crimes at the same time were discovered near Kyiv, where the number of victims was even greater than in Vynnytsia, and information as to tombs in Zhytomyr, Kamianets-Podilskyj and other places in Ukraine was hushed up. The Germans were not particularly interested in letting the civilised world know of the Moscow crime, because, beside the tombs of Ukrainians murdered by NKVD, there were already many Ukrainians murdered by Gestapo.

After the Vynnytsian exposure the Germans forbade further inquiries into victims of NKVD.

THE CRIME OF MOSCOW IN VYNNYTSIA is only one link in the long chain of Russia's crimes committed on the Ukrainian nation.

To inform the free world about the Russian crime, and to demand the punishment of the Russian imperialists who are responsible for the crime is the duty of every honest man. This punishment will overtake Red Russia in ruins when the independent States of all the enslaved nations will be restored.

W. KOWAL.

Che-ka, GPU and NKVD in Vynnytsia

VYNNYTSIA is situated on the green slopes of the River Boh. Founded in the 14th century it played a considerable part in Ukrainian history. During the Liberation War against the Poles, Hetman Bohdan Khmelnytskyj had settled his Cossack troops there, and the heroic battles of its colonel, Ivan Bohun, extol the past of Ukraine. In the years of Ukrainian National Revolution (1917-1921) the Ukrainian Government, leaving Kyiv, for a short time was settled in Vynnytsia.

Russian-Bolshevik occupation of Ukraine in 1921-22 brought mass murder of the Ukrainian population. And this terror did not leave Vynnytsia unharmed. Some escaped from Vynnytsia, but many Ukrainian intelligentsia remained, believing in the Moscow-Bolshevik promises of building a new Ukrainian Socialist State. But in a short time all the former officials and clergy of Vynnytsia were arrested by the Moscow Che-ka (CHE-KA, GPU, NKVD, to-day MVD—Russian Secret police) and most of them were shot. Then, close to a national park, Cheka arranged a so-called "international cemetery" where all the shooting was done. The victims were buried in big graves. After the "cemetery" was filled they turned it into a stadium! The old town deteriorated, and in a few years there was misery which the new buildings for the use of Soviet administration could not make look brighter. On the contrary, exactly as it was in the whole Soviet Union, it emphasised the difference between the ordinary people and the Soviet officials.

The new wave of mass terror sprang up in Ukraine, when, in 1928, GPU discovered the Union for the Liberation of Ukraine (an underground organisation which was preparing a rising against the Russian occupants). Again the prison of Vynnytsia was filled with those arrested. Hundreds of Ukrainians were captured and shot without a court or trial.

The next mass terror was in 1929-31, when the people were forced to join the collective farms. This plan of taking away everything from the peasants, land and cattle, did not correspond with the deceitful propaganda of Lenin and "all land for peasants," and there was only one way of realizing collectivisation—by force and murder. Some of the Moscow representatives for collectivisation were killed by the Ukrainian peasants in Vynnytsia and in other places in Ukraine. A result of it was again mass shooting of thousands of Ukrainians who did not want to give away their property. Millions of peasants were sent to Siberia, but their fate was not better than that of those at "Home." At this time, when, having 800-1000 prisoners in one prison and about 18,000 in another, the GPU of Vynnytsia

had to turn one of the hospitals into a prison. The conditions in these prisons were terrible: all cells were so full that prisoners had to stand all the time. Even the corridors were full of prisoners as well as the courtyard where prisoners were standing for months without a roof to shelter them.

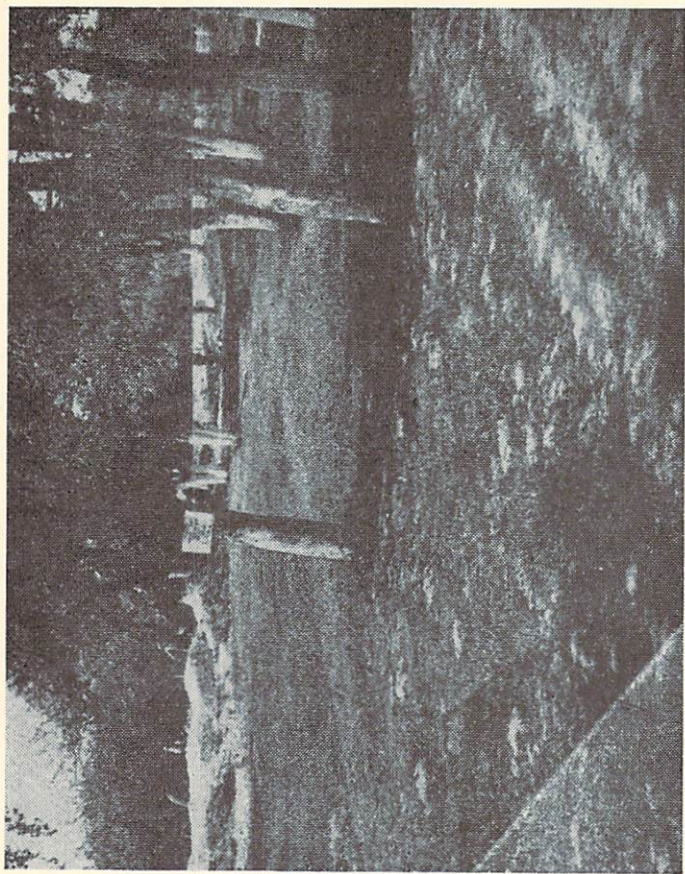
Those who joined the Communist Party as idealists and tried to prevent this mass murder, were shot almost at once. There was a famine in Ukraine in 1933-34. During one single year of this famine in Ukraine, the country with the best food-growing soil in the world, there died not less than five million Ukrainians. They died, because, by the planned action of the Moscow government, all bread was taken from them. Such were the methods that made Ukrainian kurkuls give way—breaking their resistance to collectivisation. There were many victims from Vynnytsia of this wholesale murder, unequalled in the history of mankind; hundreds of people were dying every day in the streets of the town, begging for help.

But all these murders did not end the terror of NKVD. In the period from the autumn of 1937 to the summer of 1938 thousands of people were again arrested; prisons of the NKVD were filled, and in the prison of Vynnytsia there were 30,000 prisoners. Their fate has been told us by the Ukrainian soil itself.

The German-Russian War

ON 22nd June 1941, the Russian-Bolshevik iron curtain fell. After the flight of the Moscow invaders from Ukraine, the Ukrainians were able to realise the terrible devastation in their national community. Many Ukrainians further realised the devilish plans of Moscow to destroy the Ukrainian nation completely, a scheme made possible when we remember how Moscow, through the NKVD, controlled all Ukrainian life. None dared ask about those who were arrested by the NKVD and why they were arrested. None dared write about it to their friends. None dared try to establish the number of the arrested.

But all attempts to hide these crimes were unavailing; the crimes could not remain undiscovered. And Vynnytsia was the place where the iniquitous activity of the NKVD was discovered, although it is only a drop in the ocean of bloody suppression by the Russians in Ukraine—complete exposure may take years.



Orchard where 4,000 Bodies were buried by the NKVD



Common graves in Orchard

How were the Crimes in Vynnytsia Discovered?

IN May 1943, the Ukrainian town authorities received information of mass graves of victims murdered by the NKVD in 1937-39, in the western part of Vynnytsia, in Litynska Street. On 24th May 1943, town authorities started to excavate in the places indicated. Workers who were digging in the orchard on the first day found some clothing, under which were dead bodies.

The following witnesses, among others, gave information about the graves:

A co-operator of a hydro-biological station of Vynnytsia, H. Hulewych, stated as follows: "In the spring of 1938 I went to Kyiv and stayed there for three months. During that period my brother was arrested in Vynnytsia. After my return in the summer to Vynnytsia I noticed, opposite my work place in Litynska Street, a new wooden fence about three metres (1 metre = 1.0936 yd.) high. It was a solid double fence. My questions as to why the fence was there and what was the meaning of it were answered in different ways. Usually it was said that the fence was built by the NKVD. A few days passed, and I heard that there was a large grave for those shot by the NKVD. One day I sensed the smell of decomposed corpses. Then having observed the fence very carefully I found a small knot-hole in it, and looked through. I saw a large heap of loam and as large a heap of corpses, which there had not been time to bury. Every time a large motor lorry was passing, my eyes followed it till it disappeared through the gateway. I kept thinking that in one of those lorries might also be my brother. Nearly every day when it was getting dark I saw a passing lorry and then saw it disappearing through the gateway and coming back on the following day full of loam."

A watchman of the market in Vynnytsia, Opanas Skrepka, made the following statement: "From 1935 to 1941 I was a watchman of the town fruit plantations in Litynska Street. In March 1938, one of the orchards beside the plantation I was looking after was fenced with a high wooden fence. Talking with the workmen who were building it, I was told there was a Children's Home being built. About a month after I got on a tree beside the fence. It was a very bright night. Near the fence I saw six ditches, about three square metres each. Every ditch was filled with corpses. It looked as if there was room for more, because the ditches were still open. For some time I had noticed that loaded lorries were coming to the garden, and had heard dull knocks on

the ground, but I could not see what was going on inside the garden. A few times in the early mornings, after the lorries had passed, I noticed bloodstains on the road along Litynska Street, and disappearing behind the garden fence. In the morning an NKVD guardsman, who always stayed in the guardhouse in the garden, was covering the stains with sand. During the night I never heard any shooting or noise, but sometimes during the day I saw Russian commissars coming in their cars, and then I heard shooting. Sometimes the wind blew the smell of decomposed corpses from the garden. There was nobody allowed to be near the garden; the guard was marching back and forward along the inner and outer side of the fence. In 1938 the officials of the NKVD demanded some young trees from me, and when I refused to satisfy their demand I was called to the town office of the NKVD. There I was told that I had no right to refuse. After that, about 200 young trees were taken away from my plantation and transplanted on the graves behind the fence. But only a few of them grew successfully afterwards."

Maria Ponomarchuk (44 Litynska Street) said: "From 1927 I have occupied this house, and from the fenced garden to my house is only 300 metres. Very often I saw the NKVD men in uniforms standing beside the garden during day and night. What they were building behind the fence nobody knew, but already people were muttering that, when the NKVD is doing something you cannot expect anything good. None of the people believed the suggestions that there was going to be a Children's Play-Garden built. Several times in 1938 I saw a heavy truck covered with a waterproof sheet entering the garden. Already people guessed that shot victims were buried there."

The foregoing was confirmed by many other witnesses, by information by a technician of building, Fedor Stranec; by workmen Wasył Kozlovskij and Petro Ziwak; by a driver, Ewhen Binecky; by a watchman, Oleksa Kozlovskij; by the manager of the brick-kiln, Trochym Amosow, and his wife Olena. Everyone of these testified that, after the fence was built, very often from the former orchard the smell of the decomposed corpses was noticeable, that, during the nights, heavy trucks were entering the garden, and that till 1941, when German occupation began, NKVD men were watching the garden without a break. Such statements certify that the NKVD had used this particular part of the land for burying their victims. And for their own security, not wanting to be discovered, they turned the place into a forbidden zone, as is shown in the Minutes of the local authorities of Vynnytsia, then under Communist control.

Extract of Minute No. 1 of the presidium of the Town Council in Vynnytsia from 1.4.1939, is as follows:

"Were attending to: an information of the National Commissariat of the State Security (NKVD) about the prohibition of public use of the ground by Ślowianska dairy-farm in Vynnytsia.

Agreed: to close to the public the above-mentioned land which is the property of the Town Council; in extent 27 hectares and 9151 square metres, and to reserve it for use of the National Commissariat of the State Security (NKVD).

It is forbidden to build any kind of buildings on this ground without special permission of the National Commissariat of the State Security. The boundaries of the forbidden zone are as follows: (a) on the north—local wood and all the land of the village Piatnychany; (b) on the east—a building, No. 646; (c) on the south—Lityńska Street.

The cost of all the living-rooms will be covered by the National Commissariat.

(Sgd.) The Chairman of the Town Council: Fursa; The Secretary: Slobodianiuk."

Such was the way taken to stop building in this large area, with the purpose of keeping secret the mass graves. The young trees planted were meant to prevent all possible clues to discovery.

But there was not enough room for all the victims shot by the NKVD during the years 1937-39. They had to use the local cemetery in Litynska Street as well. The first witness, Hulewych, who informed about the mass graves, said: "I was resident in a part of the town from which I could reach the centre by a short way through the local cemetery. Going to my work I saw very often people digging graves. I could not imagine for whom such a mass of graves was prepared. But having noticed a rubber boot and a few stains of blood beside it in the main alley in the autumn of 1937, I started careful observation. Shortly after that, walking along the alley, I noticed a heavy truck covered with a waterproof sheet. It was going towards the dug graves. I heard very distinctly the noise of the throwing down of the corpses, along with brutal swearing. In the hurry, having covered the graves with some earth, and still swearing, a few men jumped into the truck and left the cemetery."

Jurij Klymenko, a resident of Wobliw, on 20.4.1943, made the following statement: "Since 1941 I was employed as a watchman in Pirogov hospital in Vynnytsia. There was only a fence between the hospital and the local cemetery of Vynnytsia. I could always see the cemetery very clearly. In the autumn of 1937 I noticed prisoners digging graves

in the cemetery, in size about 2 square metres each. During their work they were watched by NKVD guardsmen. All this looked very strange to me and I began to watch the cemetery during the night. About two o'clock in the morning a heavy truck drove into the cemetery. By the reflector light I saw very clearly two men who were putting something from the truck into the graves. I never asked anybody about the strange incident, fearing that I would be arrested by the NKVD."

A book-keeper, Petro Bokchan, testified: "In 1937 I was very often visiting my parents-in-law, who were resident near the cemetery. On my way, which led through the cemetery, I saw very often that graves were dug in the part of the cemetery which was near Pirogov's Hospital. Coming back about 8 o'clock in the evening I still saw the men at work digging. But when I went through the cemetery next morning all the graves were covered."

A medical sister from Vynnytsia, Ewhenia Prolinska, stated: "In the autumn of 1937 I was employed as a medical sister in Pirogov's Hospital. Quite often I had to be on night duty. One night I noticed the doctor of the NKVD prison; I had seen him before several times when he came to the hospital. As a rule he was wearing NKVD uniform, but on this particular night he was in civilian clothing. He was looking for a mortuary man who stayed in hospital, and whom he ordered to take 3 or 4 spades and to follow him to the cemetery. Because my husband was arrested by the NKVD on 20th December, I was very interested in this night affair. Having changed my white coat to a black one, I went outside and noiselessly started to creep into the cemetery. It was about 2-3 o'clock in the morning. Having stopped for a moment, I heard about ten people talking. I was sorry that I could not hear well enough to understand them. They were standing near two trucks covered with a waterproof sheet. I think there were the dead bodies of victims shot by NKVD ready to be buried. If the prisoners had died naturally they would not have been buried during the night. When the men started the work, being afraid that they might notice me, I left the cemetery. Later in the morning I went for a walk through the cemetery and noticed the militzia man watching that particular spot of the cemetery. I clearly remember this part of the cemetery, about three square metres in extent, level with the ground. When I asked a watchman the next day about the night incident, he just answered: 'it does not concern you, it is not your business.'" Such night incidents happened quite often, and the services of the mortuary man were demanded, not



Searching for Missing Relatives



Here are the sons and husbands of Ukrainian wives



Ukrainian Peasant indentified by embroidered shirt

only by the NKVD doctor, but by commissars themselves. Nobody had been buried in this particular part of the cemetery before."

The cemetery was chosen for a simple reason—it was less obvious to the public.

Moscow cynicism was completed by choosing the largest of public parks in Vynnytsia for the same purpose—hiding their crime. Bolsheviks ordered a fence to be put round this beautiful old park of the town, and forbade any to enter it without a ticket, the price of which was one karbowanetz. In one of the farthest parts of it, amongst the beautiful big trees, NKVD ordered graves to be dug for the usual purpose. Nobody would ever have known about them but for a few people of Vynnytsia who witnessed digging. The first of these was Hulewych, who said: "It was in March 1938. I was going home at about 8 o'clock in the evening. On the corner of the park an NKVD guard was standing. I stopped and looked around, when I heard the guard's voice: 'Why are you standing there. Continue your way.' I went along and stopped behind the tree. On a little hill beside school No. 2 I noticed a car giving light signals. Then three trucks appeared from somewhere along the street, drove on to the park entrance, and disappeared in the darkness. The signal car stopped by the entrance, too. Three men came out of the car and went into the park. Next I heard voices swearing, and: 'Nearer, nearer.' Swearing again, and the dull, heavy thuds on the ground. After a while the signal car left the park, and, later, the trucks followed it in the same direction."

During digging out in the place, No. 1, in the orchard, a watchman, Josyph Wejs, a Ukrainian, appeared and said: "At the beginning of 1929 I got a job as a watchman of the international cemetery near the stadium in the grounds of the national park. I was employed there till 1933, when I was arrested and sentenced to 8 years' deportation. In 1939 I was set free and took up my residence in Brjansk. On 13th September 1941, as a soldier of the Red Army, I was taken prisoner by the Germans. On 18th September 1941 I was released and went to Vynnytsia, where again I got a job as a watchman. During my absence the international cemetery was rejoined to the national park, and that is why I am in charge of the park at present. I was much surprised to see a summer theatre, swings, dance hall, and many other appliances for recreation in one part of the park. My wife, who, during my deportation, was doing the duties of a watchman in my place, told me that one day, in 1937, she saw a deep ditch not far from the recreation ground, and on the next day the ditch was filled in and levelled with the ground.

She noticed a few more of those ditches amongst the trees, but never heard any shooting, and never thought at the time that NKDV prisoners could be buried there."

Medical Sister Prolinska stated: "I have seen the same graves in the national park by the recreation ground. As far I remember it was in the spring of 1939."

The witness Bokchan stated: "Sometime in April 1939 I was walking along Litynska Street when all of a sudden I saw three men in long rubber boots climbing over the fence of the park. It looked suspicious, and I started to watch them—the three men were levelling the graves with the ground. It was close by the recreation ground."

The Opening of the Mass Graves

ALL the witnesses came voluntarily to the offices. They gave not only information as to their observations, but pointed out the exact situation of the graves of 1937-39. The witness Skrepko pointed out all three rows of the graves in the orchard, though they were difficult to find amongst the bushes. The witness Wejs remembered the situation of the graves in the park so well that, after his indication, one could start opening them with no difficulty in finding the place.

The regular opening began in June 1943. It was started from the orchard. In a short time there were found 38 graves. Along 75 metres of the western side of the former fence were found 16 graves, along the northern side 10, and along the eastern side of the fence 7. Another 4 were found separately in the north-western corner of the garden. All the graves were about 2 x 3 metres in size and about 3-4 metres deep. About 2 metres deep, one could already feel with the spade the pile of clothing and other personal belongings. Under such a pile were lying corpses. In some graves they were lying in rows, in others had just been thrown in any way. In all the graves there was the same picture: first a layer of soil, then the clothing and the corpses in the bottom. There was a different number of corpses in each grave. In each of the majority of the graves there were about a 100 corpses.

In the cemetery and in the town park the opening was started on 29th June 1943. In the cemetery was the same picture as in the orchard, the size of the graves 2 x 3 metres with the same depth. Under two metres from the surface—clothing and then corpses. In the first operation were found

14 graves, but according to the indications of the witnesses, there were another 20. The graves were situated here close by the central alley, and not in a row as in the orchard. In the town park they were situated differently in comparison with those in the orchard and cemetery. By the orders of the NKVD, the graves had been dug just where it suited them, under the trees or between them. Had it not been for the witnesses, nobody would have discovered them. Under one group of trees 14 graves were discovered and 10 under another, thanks to the witnesses of the crimes.

The Court—Medical Examination

AS soon as the opening of the graves began, the Ukrainian doctors of Vynnytsia served in the medical investigations. From 15th June 1943 the head of the Medical Commission was a specialist in Medical Jurisprudence, Professor Shrader of the University of Halle. He was helped by his assistant Doctor Kamerer, and other doctors of Vynnytsia who attended the investigations in their free time. Professor Shrader issued a statement of their work, as follows:

Court-medical Report of the mass-murders in Vynnytsia.

1. The number of graves found in the orchard which was NKVD property is 37. But only 12 of them have been opened yet. In one of the graves, beside the clothing, were found only 18 corpses; in the second, 74; in others from 100 to 130; in two of them were found 250-280 corpses. In the cemetery close to Pirogov's Hospital, were found 14 graves, but the complete figure of these should be a minimum of 30. Considering the near situation of the hospital, all these graves were not opened completely, but out of each grave were taken several corpses for examination. In the national park, amongst the trees, were found 14 mass-graves, and in the other part of the park, 10; 40 corpses were taken for examination out of the 14 graves.

2. Minute examination of 1670 corpses gave most detailed reasons for death. All corpses had marks of a shot in the back of the neck which paralysed the vertebrae of the neck or the action of the brain. Almost in all cases were noted two, three or even four wounds. This can be explained only by the use of a small-calibre pistol and lead bullets. The weapon was so small and light that it had to be fired several times to kill a human being.

It is very characteristic that in all cases were noted wounds of a bullet after it was fired into the victim, but there were no marks of it coming out. Instances when the bullets went through the head were very few. Some bullets never went through, this being proved by the missing flesh and skin on the head. In about 60 cases, besides the wounds of the bullets, there were smashed scalps. In other words, while still alive after shooting, the victims were killed with a heavy weapon, gun butts or clubs.

3. All killed had their hands tied together behind their backs. In one case there was a victim with only one arm, but it was tied behind his back just the same. Three young women, about 30-40 years of age, were not tied up, but they, too, had the marks of the bullets on the back of their necks. They were found in the nude. One woman, about 30 years of age, who, too, was naked, had her arms tied behind her back. The middle-aged women, about 15 of them, were found with some clothes on like the men.

4. The ages of the murdered people were between 40 and 60 years; there were not many younger.

5. The mass graves in the national park and the cemetery, opened and examined in parts, gave the same evidence as in the orchard. The corpses had their hands tied behind their backs, two or three wounds in their heads caused by the same weapon with lead bullets.

6. After counting the corpses from the opened graves, the minimum figures are: in the orchard about 4000, in the cemetery 3000, and in the national park 4000.

In general the figure of the murdered victims buried in those three places of Vynnytsia is 11,000 to 12,000.

7. *The time of the murders.* The corpses were found in different stages of decomposition. As a result of the two metres depth of clay, which kept the water from coming through, and of some clothing above the dead bodies, most of the corpses had begun to mummify. In most of the brain-pans examined was noted calcination of the brain. Such conditions, on the examination by medico-legal experts, certify that death was brought about 5 to 6 years previously, in other words, the crimes were committed during 1937-39.

Similarly examined 40 corpses from the cemetery and 40 from the national park gave the same indications. All the people must have been shot at the same time, unless it was done in parts at a time during the period of 1937-39. Such is the Report of the medico-legal examination.

During two days of July 13-14, 1943, Vynnytsia was visited by the International Commission of medical experts who were requested by the Germans to examine a number of corpses.

This Commission carefully examined the dead bodies from the mass graves and gave the following Report on their work:

"The members of the Commission have inspected all the places where the graves were found. The majority of the graves were similar in shape, size and depth. Ten of them were wider and deeper than the rest. The corpses were found lying anyhow in all inspected graves. The members of the Commission themselves have done post-mortems of 24 court-medical examinations. All corpses found in the Place No. 1 had post-mortems and one from the Place No. 3 (national park).

All male corpses were dressed and had their hands tied behind their backs. Three female corpses were nude, their hands were not tied (graves 24-26). All corpses had wounds, mostly in the back of the neck, caused by the use of a small-calibre pistol, 5.6 mm. All the bullets were lead. It has been proved that in most cases the firing was done from a short distance. Usually the bullets stuck fast in the heads. In many of the killed there were two or even three separate bullet wounds. Besides wounds on the head, caused by heavy blunt weapons, some of the victims had broken lower jaws, some smashed skulls and so on. In one of the cases the skull was smashed by many bullets fired into the back of the neck. In the majority, the death of the victims was as a result of the shot. But many who were still alive after the shot had entered into the lower part of the back of the neck were killed by additional wounding by blunt weapons. On some occasions, in shooting in the back of the neck, when the bullet entered the lower part of the neck and there were no wounds caused by use of blunt weapons, it must be supposed that the victims died from indefinite causes. When in one such case, in gullet and stomach was found some clay, it must be assumed that, being still alive, the victim swallowed soil being heaped on him.

Having inspected all clothes which were on the corpses, one could come to the conclusion that nearly every one of the murdered people was of the working class, peasant, and middle aged.

The large bushes on some graves, the hardness of the ground where the graves were, and, most of all, the look of the corpses and state of their decomposition, indicate that the people were buried five years previously, and this was confirmed by the local population, and especially by the relatives of the dead and the officials of the local offices.

General remarks: The undersigned members of the Commission inspected 66 graves on the ground of the town

Vynnytsia. All the inspected corpses had wounds from the firing weapon in the back of the neck, except one who was shot in the temple. There were discovered many victims who had been killed instantly by the use of heavy weapons, such as iron bars. By the evidence of relatives and witnesses, and from documents found in the clothes, and the condition of corpses it is stated that the murders were committed in 1938."

The signatures of the members of the Commission are as follows:

Dr. Zenon Hent,	Belgium.
*Dr. Mychajlow,	Sofia, Bulgaria.
Dr. Pezonen,	Helsinki, Finland.
Dr. Duvuar,	Paris, France.
Dr. Kazzaniga,	Milan, Italy.
Dr. Jurak,	Zagreb, Croatia.
Dr. den Poorten,	Amsterdam, Holland.
Dr. Birkle,	Bukarest, Roumania.
Dr. Chequist,	Stockholm, Sweden.
Dr. Kresek,	Bratislava, Slovakia.
Dr. Orsoz,	Budapest, Hungary.

The conclusions of the medical experts are all the same. It must be said that the examination was done by some of the most famous specialists in Europe, known to the whole world. Their conclusions as to the time of the murders, 1937 and 1939, were unanimous.

* Dr. Mychajlow is dead; after the Russian occupation of Bulgaria he was destroyed by the Moscow NKVD there.

The Recognition of the Victims

AT last came the day when, soaked in blood, Ukrainain soil gave up the secrets of horrible crimes. During one year alone there were killed 12,000 people, defenceless victims, with hands tied behind their backs. For months they suffered in packed prisons, from cross-examinations and tortures. In vain might they expect temporary deportation, even if for many years, to the slave-labour camps in Siberia, which had at least the possibility of coming back, and ultimately seeing their relatives again. In vain! A bullet in the back of the neck was waiting for them. Who were all these victims? Were they really criminals, deserving such punishment as the NKVD had chosen? Not at all! The truth was soon exposed. The population of Vynnytsia was horror-

stricken when, amongst the first 103 corpses from the graves, they recognised their relatives. Naturally, being buried for years, the features of victims had very much changed, but they were recognized by the clothes, by the Ukrainian shirts embroidered with love by the mothers and wives of the victims, and by the documents found in their pockets. There were horrible scenes in the place where the corpses were found. The news of the fearful discovery spread like lightning through town and countryside. The newspaper "The News of Vynnytsia" periodically had columns of the names of the murdered people who had been recognized by their documents or clothing. The relatives of those arrested by the NKVD in 1937-38 came to Vynnytsia from far away places. Not a day passed but some of the dead bodies were recognized by their relatives. The names of 450 murdered victims were ascertained by the help of relatives or documents. There was a special Trial Commission formed, and relatives gave most detailed information about those arrested and killed. And so, following 450 cases of such evidence, there was exposed the picture of the NKVD terror which had reigned in the district of Vynnytsia in the years 1937-38. Without embellishment, the evidence showed the inhuman sufferings of the Ukrainian Nation under the Russian-Bolshevik occupation.

Here is the evidence of an Ukrainian woman, Alexandra Prusak, from the village Werchivci, Barskyj district: "My husband, Iwan Prusak, born in 1898, was, till 1937, employed as a worker in a collective farm of our village. Before that, till 1929, we had about 6 hect. of land and three cows. In 1929 we had to give our property to the collective farm. Till 1937, my husband was never arrested or suspected of a crime. But on 6th April 1937, during work in the field, he was taken away by the NKVD policemen. I tried to find out why he was arrested, but in vain. I wrote to Kyiv and Moscow, but the answer was: 'apply to NKVD of Vynnytsia.' In 1938 my application was answered, informing me that my husband was sent away for 10 years to Siberia with no right of correspondence or any other way of communication. For how long my husband was kept in Vynnytsia I cannot say. To-day in the former place of NKVD (in the orchard) I recognized a coat of my husband's. There can be no mistake about it, I recognized it by the patches which were sewn on by myself. This assured me that my husband must be buried in the same place. At the same time there were arrested 11 more men from our village, but their fate is not known."

Vynnytsia, 29th June 1943

Signature.

Maria Madij, from the village Werchivci, Barskyj district, affirmed: "My husband used to be a farmer with only 2 hect. of land. During the time of liquidation of kulaks' property we got from Government some more land. Later we had to give everything away to the collective farm. In April 1937 my husband was arrested at home during the night and taken to the NKVD prison. I was not told the reason of his arrest. And when my daughter and I went to Vynnytsia to inquire about him we were told that he was sent to a labour camp for 10 years. To-day, in the former place of NKVD, I recognised my husband's jacket."

Vynnytsia, 29th June 1943.

Signature.

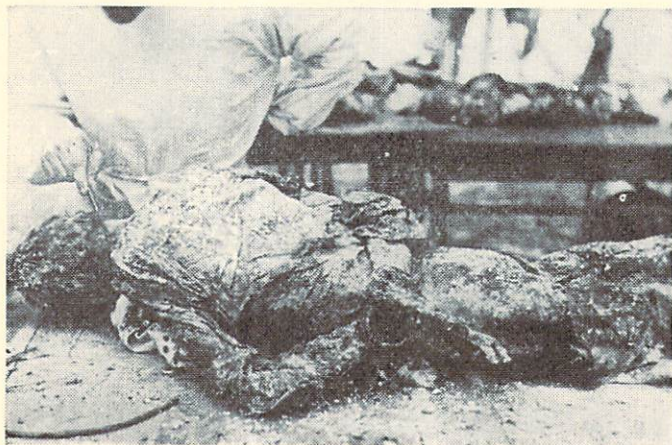
An affirmation of a widow, Ahafia Usowa, from the village Tefyliwka, Chulynskyj district: "On first January 1938, my husband, Mykola Osow, was arrested at night, on his way home, by four NKVD men, and sent away to Chulyinka. At the same time seven more men from our village were sent away to Chulyinka. After the arrest of my husband, NKVD men came to search the house. I think that my husband's correspondence was the centre of their attention, but they were searching for weapons as well. When I asked the reason of his arrest, the answer was that he was guilty of sabotage. But they never gave me any confirmation and just ignored the rest of my questions. They even had the rudeness to tell me that I knew myself how guilty he was, and that he could not be released. In about six months after that I had a similar visit from NKVD men, with the intention of taking our clothing away. But, having heard before of it from others, I hid all my clothes and other things in neighbours' houses, and the NKVD men were not able to take anything. In Chulyinka my husband was kept only one day, and then he was sent to Hajsyn. By chance I learned that in February 1938 he was transferred to Brazlaw, and later to Vynnytsia. In March 1938 I went to see the NKVD of Vynnytsia. But I was put out in the most brutal way, and was told that they did not know anything at all about my husband. I was quite certain that my husband had been sent to Siberia. But to-day in the former place of NKVD I found some of his clothing, a corduroy jacket, a bread bag and four shirts, which told me that my husband was amongst the murdered victims."

Vynnytsia, 1st July 1942.

Signature.



Foreign Medical Experts examining bodies showing earth in mouths and stomachs



Medical expert pointing to typical wound in back of neck



Relatives of murdered indentifying clothing

Information by a widow, Maria Antoniuk, from the village Polovi-Berlynzi, Muralawano-Kyryliwskyj district: "My husband, Stephan Antoniuk, 46 years of age, employed as a farm worker in the local collective farm, was arrested by NKVD on 20th June 1938. He was taken during the night from his bed and driven away to Kopaj-Horod, where he was kept for six days. Where he was transferred afterwards I could not say. At the same time was arrested another farm worker, by name Stadnyk. Stadnyk's wife and I were told by the NKVD that our husbands were spies. For six months we did not hear of our husbands. And then we wrote to Moscow to Kalinin. In a month's time we were called to the NKVD of Koropaj-Horod, and were informed that our husbands, as spies, were sentenced to 10 years deportation to Siberia. This was all we were told. I am positive that neither my husband nor Stadnyk was guilty of crime, as neither of them had ever anything to do with politics. In one of the mass-graves in the orchard which belonged to NKVD in Vynnytsia I found to-day my husband's shirt. I recognised it as it was I who made it. Now I know that my husband was not sent to Siberia but was shot in Vynnytsia."

Vynnytsia, 2nd July 1943.

Signature.

Halyna Hrushkiwska, from the village Horodnyzi, Nemyriwskyj district, stated: "In October 1937, my father, Petro Hrushkiwskyj, 65 years of age, employed as a farm worker in a local collective farm, was arrested by the NKVD in Brazlava. My mother was told that he was an enemy of our country. But I am positive that my father, who never had any schooling, never had anything to do with politics. For two weeks he was kept in Brazlava, and then was transferred to Vynnytsia. Every day my mother was visiting the NKVD in Brazlava till she learned that he was transferred to Vynnytsia. But we did not like to apply to Vynnytsia. Therefore we never heard anything about my father from the day of his arrest. The same occurred with other ten men from our village who were arrested at the same time as my father. I read in a paper about the opening of the mass-graves in Vynnytsia, and later I heard that a neighbour had found some clothing of her husband in the place where the graves had been opened. Therefore I also came here. To-day I found my father's cap. I know that it is his cap, because it used to be too big for him and I had to alter it myself. Now I know that my father was also shot by NKVD."

Vynnytsia, 3rd July 1943.

Signature.

A widow, Nadia Honchar, from the village Stupiewka, Muravano-Kyryliwskyj district, said: "In December 1937 two NKVD men made a search in my house, seeking for weapons and documents in connection with sabotage. They did not find either, but they arrested my husband, Pavlo Honchar, 30 years of age, and drove him in a lorry to the NKVD. Neither of us was told the reason of the arrest. At that time I was not well, and therefore could not find out what had happened to him after arrest. But I asked my father to go to the prison and inquire about him. The answer was that he had been sent to one of the northern islands named "New Land." But when this had happened, and where the "New Land" was, my father was not told. Since then I never heard a word about my husband. And when after a couple of months I applied to the NKVD in Vynnytsia, they gave me the same information as to my father. I must say that up till now I thought my husband had been sent for ten years to Siberia. But to-day in the place that used to be occupied by the NKVD I found some of my husband's belongings, and a jacket which I recognised by the patches that I had sewn on some time before. Now I know that my husband was also amongst the murdered."

Vynnytsia, 5th June 1943.

Signature.

Hanna Hodowanez, from the village Mychajliwka, Murovano-Kyryliwskyj district, came to the office and stated as follows: "On 3rd January 1938 my husband, Kasian Hodowanez, born in 1886, during his work on the station in Koropaj-Horod, was arrested by a member of our village council and a policeman who was present at the station. They took away my husband's passport and sent him first to Mychajliwka and then to Mohyliw, and at last, on 3rd March 1938, to Vynnytsia. All this information I had from acquaintances who happened to witness the arrest of my husband. Later on, my son Wasyl, talking to a farm worker from Mychajliwka, learned that he was called for an interview in connection with my husband's case to the district NKVD in Muravano-Kyryliwka. He was asked if my husband said his prayers and why there were so many holy pictures in our house. It was evident that all this, and that my husband missed a day of his work because of a religious day, were the reasons for the arrest. At the end of April 1938 I was told that my husband was sent to one of the far away camps with no right of correspondence. Later I applied to the district NKVD authorities for more definite information about my husband, but it was in vain. Then I applied to Stalin

himself, pleading with him to release my husband. On 3rd May 1938 I got a reply from Vyshynskij, a Supreme Procurator of USSR (the same Vyshynskij who to-day interferes in the United Nations) informing me that my husband was going to be released. But he never came back. On 24th June 1943, amongst the clothes found in the ground of the NKVD, I recognized a shirt, which was made by myself, a coat with the blue inner pockets which I put in, and a leather boot with a special heel, made by a blacksmith in Koropaj-Horod, to my special requirement. All these articles I sent to my husband while he was in prison. Now I am sure that my husband was not going to be sent north or released, but that he was murdered in Vynnytsia."

Vynnytsia, 8th July 1943.

Signature.

Statement by a widow, Jawdocha Jawnych, from the village Voznivci, Stanislavchyzkyj district: "On 6th January 1937, after an unsuccessful search of our house, an NKVD man in presence of two witnesses, arrested my husband, Wasyl Jawnych. My husband, 40 years of age, was employed as a farm worker in the local collective farm. Later I learned the reason of his arrest—correspondence with his relatives in Galicia, Western Ukraine, then occupied by Poland. My husband was born in Western Ukraine in the village Lysok, Shydachivskyj district. In Stanislavchyk he was kept only for a few days, then he was transferred to Vynnytsia. After a month I went to the prison of Vynnytsia to enquire about him, I was told he was sentenced to 10 years' deportation with no right of correspondence, and that he was away already. I wrote to Moscow to Stalin, Kahanovich and other Soviet dignitaries, and had the same answer from each of them, that my husband had been sentenced to 10 years' deportation. To-day, 20th July 1943, in the former orchard of the NKVD, I recognised my husband's coat by its buttons. I feel that my husband was not sent away, but is lying here amongst the dead."

Vynnytsia, 20th July 1943.

Signature.

Olena Olchivska, from Vynnytsia, stated: "In November 1937, NKVD arrested my husband, Petro Olchivskyj, in our home; he was a Ukrainian, and had been employed in a baking-factory. At the same time they searched all through the house and took all my husband's documents. Later, I went to the prison of the NKVD, but I was not allowed to enter the building. After a week's time I went to the local prison to which my husband had been transferred, but again

in vain. After a month I managed to send him a winter coat and a pair of winter boots, but I never got the chance to see him. And then I was informed that he had been sent to the Far North for 10 years, and had no right of correspondence. The reason of his arrest was the accusation that he was an enemy of the country. My husband had never in his life anything to do with politics. It is possible that he was reported by a Jew who was working in the factory next to my husband, and once, as my husband told me, he had a quarrel with him. When the opening of the mass graves started, every day I tried to be there. And one day, on one of the corpses, I recognized a black jacket, a pair of leather boots, a pair of trousers and a shirt. I was present at the time when this corpse was taken out of the grave. And later I definitely knew that he was my husband as he had a twisted finger on his right hand. Hence there can be no mistake about this."

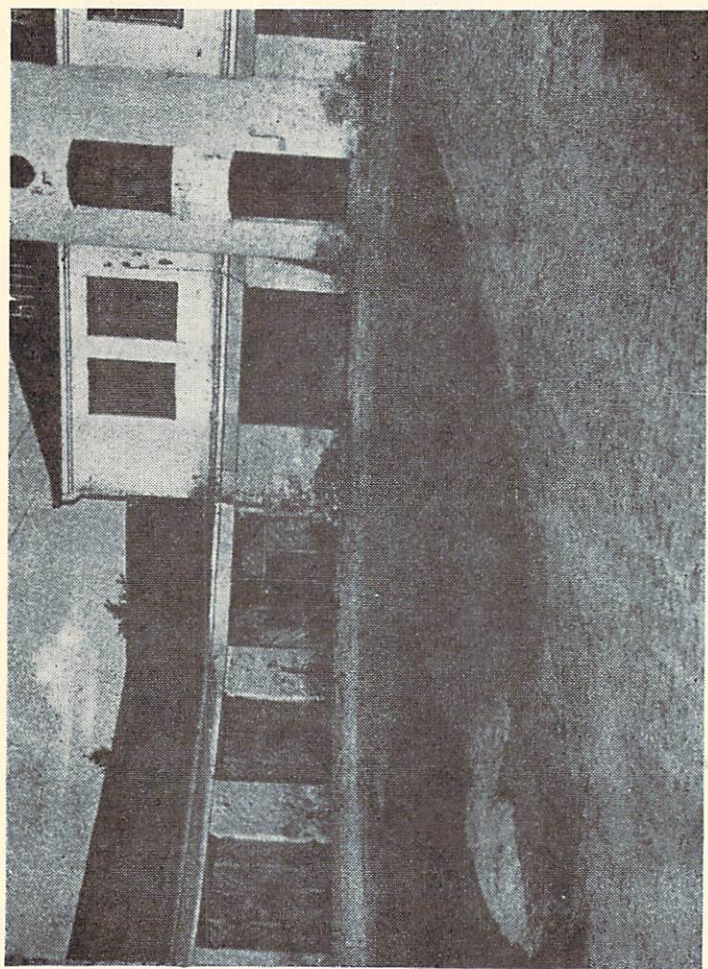
Vynnytsia, 1st July 1943.

Signature

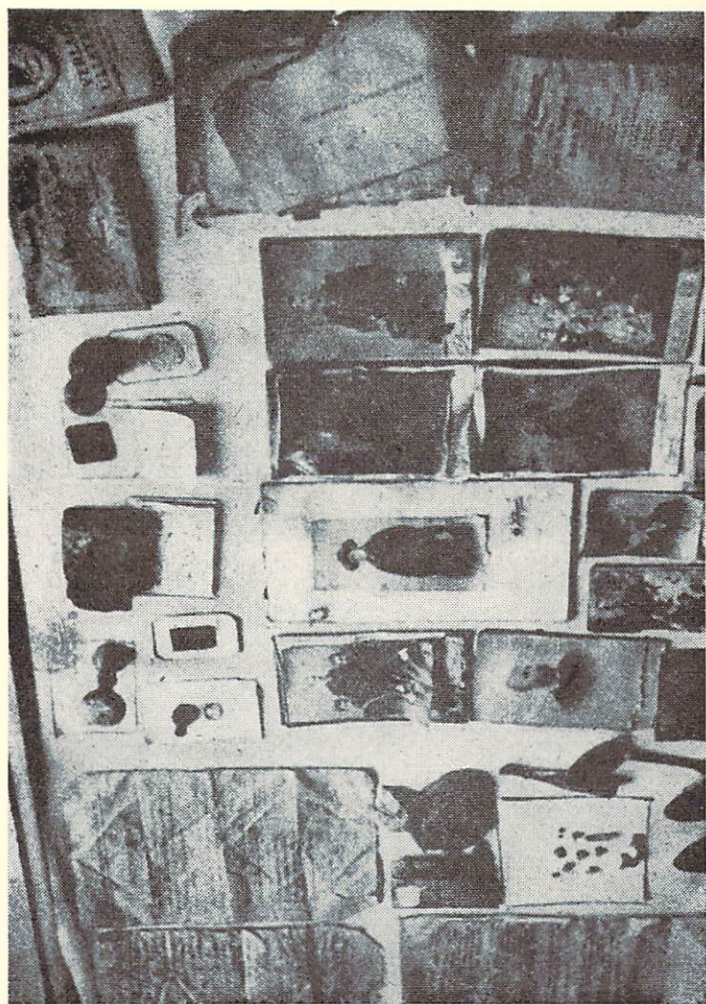
Kateryna Horlewska, from Zhmerynka, said: "Amongst the clothes found in the orchard of the NKVD I recognised some which belonged to my husband—an embroidered shirt and a winter jacket with a fur collar. My husband, Dymtro Horlewskji, an Ukrainian, born in 1888, was a railway engine-driver. He was arrested in Zmerynka on 13th May 1938. He was called to NKVD for an interview and never returned. The next day our house was searched by NKVD men but nothing was taken away. The reason given for my husband's arrest was that he was accused of being an enemy of the people. But my husband had never anything to do with politics. And, as a matter of fact, three months before the arrest, he was awarded a prize for being a good engine-driver. In two weeks he was transferred from Zhmerynka to Vynnytsia. Every two weeks I went to Vynnytsia, taking something for my husband, and trying to see him, but I never had a chance. On one occasion I was told that he had been transferred to Kyiv. I went to Kyiv. And when I asked about my husband, the answer was that he had never been in Kyiv, but had been sent to Siberia, and had no right of correspondence. But now I am certain that my husband is amongst those killed by the NKVD. Just before the first of May 1937, in Zhmerynka, there were arrested 60 men, all railway workers, from 35 to 50 years of age. Nobody ever heard of them again."

Vynnytsia, 1st July 1943.

Signature



Garage and Slab where Ukrainians were murdered



“Evidence” — a motive for arrest

Information given by Solowjowa, from Shytkiwzi: "My husband, an Ukrainian, who through illness had to leave his post as a teacher, was employed in a branch of the State bank in Shytkiwzi. He was 47 years of age, when, on 17th April 1938 he was arrested at work. It happened at 12.30 p.m., and at 2 p.m. he was taken by railway to Vynnytsia, and was put into a prison of the NKVD. When, on the third day, I went to the prison, I was told that my husband had been transferred to the town prison. But I could not get any information about him from this other prison, nor could I manage to see him or send him something. Later, I heard that on 5th May 1938, he was sent for ten years to the Far North, and had no right of correspondence. Since then I never heard of him again. Almost at once, after the arrest of my husband, our house was searched. His sporting gun, some silver which I kept for filling teeth, and a little cross were taken away. In two years after the arrest I was ordered by the NKVD to give away all his clothes, because, as they stated, he was an enemy of the people. The arrest took everyone in our village by surprise, because he never had anything to do with politics. I think that the arrest was brought about in the following way: there was a resident in our house named Feld, a lawyer, a Jew who wanted to take possession of the whole house. About a week before the arrest of my husband, this man applied to the bank for a credit of 2000 karb. in order to send his wife for a long holiday. Following the regulations in the bank my husband could not satisfy his request. I think that was the true motive for my husband's arrest. In a newspaper "Vynnytski Wisty" there was mentioned a handkerchief with the initials "A.S." I have recognized it as my husband's handkerchief, and that is the proof that he was not deported, but is here—amongst the dead."

Vynnytsia, 1st July 1943.

Signature

Evidence by Ordarka Belezka, from the village Zhyrovske: "My husband, a priest, Leonid Belezkyj, 35 years of age, was arrested on 24th September 1937. During the night, our house was searched when his vestment, books and documents were confiscated. My husband had finished in the theological seminary in Volhynia, and till 1935 was preaching as a priest in the village of Peleva. In 1935 the church in Peleva was closed and my husband had to leave the village. We went to the village of Hrebla, the village where I was born, and there he started to work as a forestry man. When he was arrested, the motive for the arrest was not mentioned, just one of the NKVD men said to my husband: 'Hei, you dog, you have lived too long.' First, my husband was put in a prison in the village of Zhyrovske,

and later, in about two weeks' time, was transferred to Vynnytsia, to the prison of the NKVD. When I tried to send him some clothes, only two handkerchiefs and a towel were permitted to be received by him. I never managed to see him again. In a month's time, I went to Vynnytsia again and learned that he had been sent away. No further information was given. I applied to Moscow, and in about six months I got a reply (through NKVD) that my husband was sent to the Far North for ten years, and had no right of correspondence. From the newspaper I learned about the Ukrainian mass graves here in Vynnytsia, and decided to come and see them for myself. I found a suit of my husband's. I know it was his suit, as I made it myself, and still have some of the material which was left over. I am certain that my husband was not sent away, but was murdered here."

Vynnytsia, 1st July 1943.

Signature

Information by Antonia, from Zhyrovska-Hrebla: "My husband, a Ukrainian, a driver at the machine-tractor station of our village, was arrested on 26th March 1938, while he was working in the field, and was put in a cell of the village police station. Our house was searched at once, but only his personal documents were taken away. My question about the motives for the arrest was answered by the statement that my brothers, Sawytski, who were resident in the same village, were corresponding with some one abroad. But my brothers never had any correspondence with any foreign countries. They were arrested in November 1937, and sent to Asia. We heard from them from Mongolia. My husband was kept for a month and a half in the village cell, and then he was transferred to the prison of Vynnytsia. While he was in the village cell, very often I had seen him from behind the fence, but I never managed to have a talk with him, or to pass him anything that he might require. After he was transferred to Vynnytsia, I went to the prison for some information about him, and was informed that he had been sent away. I applied to the higher authorities, and after two years I got a reply that my husband had been sent to the Far North for 10 years, and had no right of correspondence. I never discovered the true motives of his arrest, but I do know that he never had anything to do with politics. From the paper I learned about these opened mass-graves and came here. I found a shirt which I embroidered some time ago, and had to patch later. I know that it is the shirt of my husband. I think he was murdered by the NKVD."

Vynnytsia, 1st July 1943.

Signature

Comparing all the facts in these statements and in thousands of others, one could see that this terror of the NKVD in all Vynnytsia district had been started during the summer of 1937, and had lasted the whole of the following year. At the same time, a wave of arrests was spreading all over the nearest towns and villages. There were usually no real motives given for the arrests, and if sometimes motives were given, they were obviously merely excuses of the NKVD to the relatives of the victim, and not real motives for the arrest. As a rule, in every village, NKVD agents had selected their victims beforehand, and the so-called motives for the arrest never produced any proof. Very often the arrests were based upon the personal interests of the agents. It could be said that, in general, NKVD agents knew what they were doing with those unfortunate people — just to prove their loyal service to the NKVD. The agents of the NKVD knew that nobody ever would bother about true motives for the arrests of victims, and that there was no escape for them anyway. Every victim had a pinned-on label, "an enemy of the people" as a formality, but the truth was otherwise.

What was the truth then? Often the arrests were made and the reports written for the benefit of the agents themselves; very often it was a matter of personal vengeance. Sometimes, when a young girl did not like to have love made to her by an NKVD man, her whole family were made to suffer.

But certain groups of the population were systematically watched by the NKVD. Amongst them were those people who did not hide their religious beliefs. The fact that one was religious was considered as a crime against the State. Among those arrested were many former clergy, who for years had been doing all sorts of hard work, even in the wilds of the forest, but were still under suspicion of attachment to their religion. But the majority of the arrested did not even have any fictitious reasons. All these arrests could be explained in a simple way: a certain percentage of the men were arrested in every village, so as to terrorise the whole Ukrainian village. This was generally the only reason for all terroristic methods used by the NKVD.

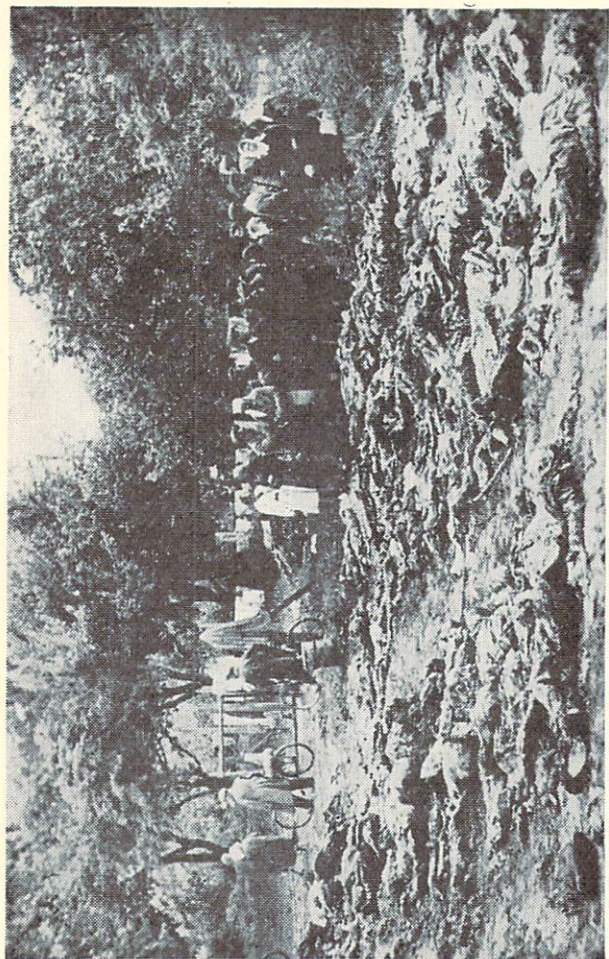
As a rule, a search was made during the arrest or after it. At that time, something was usually confiscated—old photographs, letters, pictures, religious books, crosses, medals, and, most of all, foreign literature. Very often personal documents of the arrested were confiscated. From former clergy especially, were taken robes, books connected with the Church, rosaries, crosses, etc. Most of these articles were burned, but many were buried along with the corpses. During the searching, immediately before and after the arrest, some clothes were taken away. This made the relatives think that the arrested were going to be sent to the

forced labour camps. Therefore, most of the relatives brought underwear and some clothes to the prisons; the people of the Soviet Union knew too well the terrible conditions in those camps in the Far North or in Siberia.

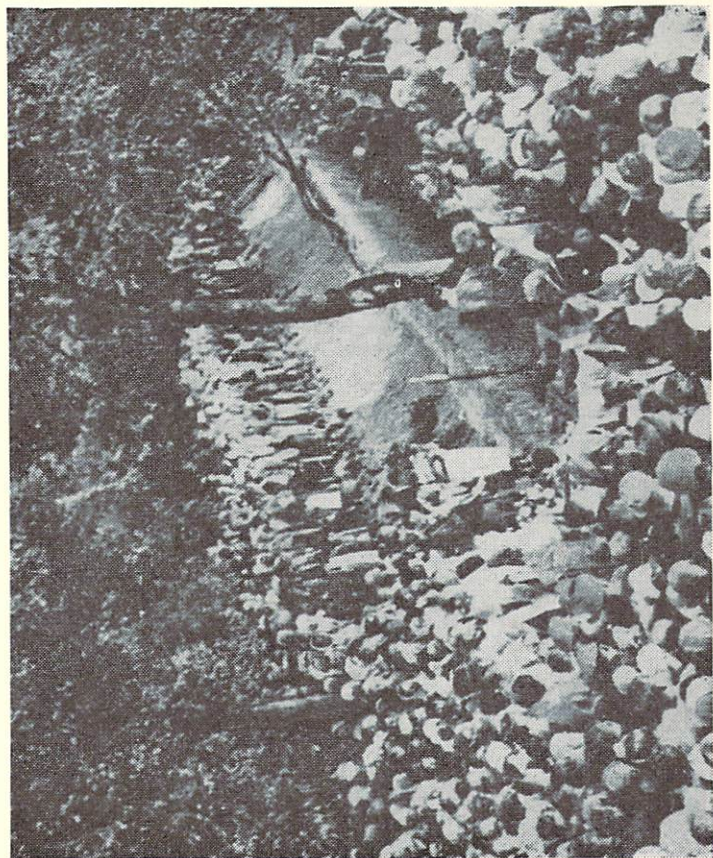
All arrested were kept for some time in the local prisons, where sometimes women were fortunate enough to see their husbands and sons, and even to talk to them, but the last was very infrequent. And, as time passed, they were informed that the prisoners were transferred to Vynnytsia. Vynnytsia—a town of tears. Thousands of women regularly gathered by the gate of the prison or the NKVD department, where there was a prison as well. What fears and torment those unfortunate women suffered; many false declarations, much wild laughter of NKVD-ists at their distress, they had to listen to. The women were hunted from one place to another, from the town prison to the NKVD office, from the NKVD office to the head of the local NKVD department, then to the procurator, but nowhere they could receive any definite information about the prisoners. Often they were hunted as far as Kyiv but were sent back, tired and exhausted. But even if sometimes one of them was fortunate enough to find out where the prisoner was, there was not very much benefit. It was permitted to pass clothing and even money and food, but not to see the prisoner. And nobody could get the most painful question answered—what was going to happen to the prisoner? Some time after the tenth visit or so to Vynnytsia some of the relatives were informed that the prisoner had been sent for ten years to a concentration camp in the Far East or Far North. Correspondence was strictly forbidden. After such information, horror-stricken women used to return home. And then there was the one and only hope—to meet in ten years But this hope was in vain. Every one of the NKVD agents, if giving any information, advised every woman not to wait for her husband's return, but to get married again. Of course, this advice was rarely followed. Just as one that is drowning tries to catch at anything to save himself, so all those people lived, clinging to "10 years" in the hope of the return of their dearest. Millions of Ukrainians went through Russian concentration camps, and some managed to return, but many more never returned home. How many millions are still suffering in those camps, which, like mushrooms after the rain, are springing up in most unhealthy parts of Soviet Russia!

Such was the hope, the hope that millions of women cling to.

Most of the women did not want to think that they would never see their sons and husbands again. Being certain that the dear one was not guilty of any crime, women tried to think that the arrest was only a misunderstanding or mistake made by the



Exhumed bodies from a common grave



Reburial Service of exhumed bodies in Vynnytsia

NKVD. Therefore they were applying everywhere they could think of—to the head NKVD department of Vynnytsia, to Kyiv, Moscow, addressing Kalinin, Kahanovich and Stalin himself. Just once came a reply from Moscow, signed by the head procurator of the USSR, Vyshynskij, saying that the arrest was a mistake, that the arrested was released already, and "was on his way home." But that was a shameless falsehood. The "released" never returned home; and now his wife found his clothes in one of the mass graves.

A great many Ukrainian families cherished for years a hope for the return of their dearest. They thought that perhaps the sentence might be reduced, perhaps to-morrow a letter may arrive, perhaps one of the arrested neighbours will send a message that your dear one is still alive, perhaps . . . The thoughts were in vain! There was very little hope, but in the depth of the heart there was burning a spark; perhaps . . .

It is impossible to describe the feelings of all the mothers and wives after they heard of the discovery in Vynnytsia, and after they knew that other women found clothes as a proof that their owner had been killed. Grieved to leave their homes for Vynnytsia, from every quarter they gathered at the place of the murders. The last shock. All hopes for the return of a beloved husband or son vanished! The unfortunate woman finds some of the clothes—a coat that was patched by herself, a towel with a carefully embroidered monogram, a shirt that was made and embroidered by herself during the long winter nights. She is almost losing her reason over the situation: her husband, who was not guilty of any crime, whose name was always mentioned in her prayers, whom she was hoping to see again—had been a victim of savages. All information she had received before had been nothing but lies! A shameless lie was the information as to his 10 years sentence. He never received the clothes meant for his 10 years sentence in a concentration camp. Everything was just a lie!

One ought to have been present at the opening of the Ukrainian mass graves to be able to realize the grief of the women. Innocent victims were lying dead. All of them had their hands tied behind their backs. Sometimes the legs were tied as well; some of them had their mouths stuffed with dirty clothing, and very often marks were recognised as a result of cruel torture, although the bodies had been lying for 5 to 6 years. For instance, sometimes they had burnt patches on the neck, as if done by a lit cigarette. There were found corpses with parts of the body mauled—sexual organs in most cases. The methods of the murders were enough to make one lose his senses. To kill a human being by the use of a small-calibre pistol and a

soft lead bullet is the most horrible way of taking life that one can imagine. About two-thirds of the corpses had two, three and four wounds on the back of the neck. Medical experiments proved that very often the first and second bullets were crushed when they met a bone, leaving a large wound but not killing the victim outright. Even if such a bullet reached the brain, a human being might not die immediately, because it might only cause terrific bleeding, leading to a slow death. In some cases even three or four bullets were not sufficient to kill a miserable victim. Then a gun butt was used. The result of this last action was a broken brain-pan which ended the bloodshed.

What tortures must those have suffered who were discovered in the mass graves! 24 women in nude?! Young women captured by NKVD!

Who is the Murderer ?

THOUSANDS of innocent Ukrainian peasants, workmen and intelligentsia were buried in mass graves in Vynnytsia. Who was it that committed these crimes? The correct answer was given by the investigation.

Moscow hates the Ukrainian nation, and the crimes committed were the result of this hatred. Stalin, one of the most cruel Russian imperialist executioners of all time, has chosen terror as a way of maintaining his rule in Ukraine. NKVD was ordered to kill a certain number of people in every district, accusing them of being enemies of the people. It was sufficient for every agent to hear a baseless report to accuse an innocent man of crime. As the agents strove to prove their loyalty to NKVD, the figures of such "enemies" increased with lightning speed. Every agent tried to get more and more men who were "under suspicion" and more and more "enemies of the country" and every NKVD department strove to destroy as many "parasites" as they could. There is not a single house in Ukraine that did not lose someone during this unforgettable period. Nobody was certain of the morrow. In Vynnytsia, where the curtain was lifted, laying bare the bloody Bolshevik system, an engine-driver who was praised and was awarded a prize for his good work, only three months later was shot as an "enemy of the people." Many people were arrested at their work, like a choir-singer, for instance, who was arrested in the radio-station during radio-transmission. A dreadful feeling was created in the family when the father or some other member failed to come home from work, and it was later discovered that they had been arrested by the NKVD. It is impossible to

realise the sufferings of the unfortunate mothers and wives, pushed from one place to another by NKVD men or, when applying to Moscow or other authorities, they received shameless falsehoods in reply and had to be thankful that they were not arrested as well. What difficulties, horror, and torture families had to face! What oceans of tears were shed in Ukraine!

The fate that was meted out to a human being after arrest was most horrible. He or she was always condemned to death beforehand; the NKVD specialists used most devilish technique of tortures to make the victim plead "guilty." In most cases there was no investigation at all. There were no formalities, the victim had no opportunity to defend himself, the death sentence had already been passed.

According to reliable testimony, most of the prisoners died in the prison of Vynnytsia, where practically all the time the prison held about 18,000 prisoners. It should be remarked here that the population of Vynnytsia was not higher than 100,000 people. And the figure of the arrested was 30,000, 12,000 of them were sent to work at the stone quarry and other places in the neighbourhood. In a prison designed for only 2,000 prisoners, 18,000 were confined. One can imagine the conditions which prevailed. In a cell meant for 18 people there were 370 victims. The prisoners were not able to move, and had to sleep standing. The same situation obtained in the prison corridors and courtyard, all packed with prisoners as well. It is quite evident that prisoners died every day and these were buried just outside the prison.

In autumn 1938, when the weather was very bad, a few times every week it happened that, towards night, a certain number of prisoners were called out of the cell. They were issued with their own clothes which had been kept separate. Sometimes one hundred, sometimes two hundred, were put into big trucks; it was thought they were going to be sent to Siberia or the Far North. But the trucks stopped at the prison of the NKVD, and the prisoners were pushed into cells which were situated almost underground. They were not kept very long. During the night they were brought to the courtyard. The clothing was taken away and thrown on the truck, and the prisoners were ordered to stand in a line. Then their hands folded behind their backs, were tied with a piece of wire. After that, one at a time was led to a garage. A square of the court in the front of the garage was paved, being meant for washing cars. As soon as the prisoners reached the end of the square, the end leading to a ditch, or drainage, a shot was heard. The unfortunate fell beside the drain, into which the blood ran. Often there were heard

two, three and even four shots, all fired to kill the victim. Corpses were thrown on lorries that were standing just beside the drain. To drown the sound of the shots, the engines of the lorries were kept running all the time. This continued every night for months. Then on some nights the corpses were buried in common graves that had been prepared by other prisoners the day before. The bodies were simply thrown into the grave. Very often some were still moving, even after the fourth shot. In such a case, a victim was finished off by a gun butt. But quite a number were thrown in still alive. Then the blood-soaked clothes were thrown at them as they died.

This ghastly picture is not a figment of the imagination. It is proved by witnesses that thousands of Ukrainians were destroyed by NKVD men, whose faces merely bore a cynical smile at the time of the murders. What can be more horrible than the mass murders in Vynnytsia? Does there really exist a more ghastly and cruel way of disposing of innocent victims than that chosen and practised by Moscow savages? Can there be found an example of greater and more cynical brutality than organizing "A Public Park of Culture and Rest" over the common graves? No! They did not merely want to hide their crime; *they actually wanted to enjoy seeing Ukrainian children playing on the graves of their fathers.* Language has no words to express the devilish methods of Russian-Bolshevik sadism. For the "Park of Culture and Rest" for the Ukrainians in Vynnytsia was actually laid on ground which had been levelled for the purpose — with thousands of murdered Ukrainians to be danced on! SURELY NOTHING MORE FIENDISH WAS EVER PLANNED BY THE MIND OF MAN!

