



Lithuanian Military Digest

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NEWS

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EXERCISE VIGILANT GRIFFIN 2019 TOOK PLACE



NATO'S PRESENCE

LT COL ROUVEN HABEL: WE HAVE TO COME BACK TO THE "OLD SCHOOL"



SPECIAL

"SAUERKRAUT", WHICH BROKE THE MORALITY OF THE THIRD REICH



Photo credits: MoD archives & soldiers personal archives

Lithuanians Have Been Participating in International Operations for 25 Years

ON 22 AUGUST 1994 THE FIRST LITHUANIAN PEACE SUPPORT PLATOON LITPLA-1 OF 32 SOLDIERS LED BY CAPT ARTŪRAS CHRAPKO LEFT FOR CROATIA. JUST A QUARTER OF A CENTURY HAS PASSED SINCE THAT DAY – FOR THIS PERIOD PRECISELY LITHUANIA HAS BEEN PARTICIPATING IN VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS THUS CONTRIBUTING TO INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS TO CREATE A MORE SECURE ENVIRONMENT AND STABILISE SITUATION IN CRISIS-STRICKEN REGIONS.

"It should be emphasized that Lithuania deployed its first soldiers to an international operation merely four years after the reestablishment of independence, thus showing its aspiration to cooperate with allied countries and determination to share the responsibility for ensuring international security. Participation in international operations and joint multinational forces provides Lithuania with valuable experience while Lithuania is contributing to the strengthening of the European Union Common Security and Defence Policy, NATO collective defence,

and military cooperation", — says Minister of National Defence Raimundas Karoblis.

The character and geography of operations involving Lithuania have expanded over these twenty five years. Threats arising in the southern neighbourhood of NATO — unstable states in the Near East, North Africa, increased migration flows, activities of terrorist organisations — have an adverse effect on the security environment. Therefore, in order to contribute to the stabilisation of the security situation, Lithuania increases its involvement in international operations, training

Dear readers,

It is known that the Baltic countries were occupied by the Soviet Union for half a century, but the Balts never lost their desire to be free again. After years passed by, many Lithuanians as well as their brothers and sisters remember August 23, 1989 — the day when a strong sense of brotherhood, unity, dignity and desire for freedom, which became an important political factor, united three states: Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia.

At 19:00 on 23 August 1989 more than two million inhabitants of the Baltic States joined hands forming a 675.5-kilometer-long human chain from Vilnius to Riga to Tallinn. This peaceful but spectacular demonstration which gathered 700 000 people in Estonia, 500 000 in Latvia and 1 000 000 in Lithuania was organised by Baltic pro-independence movements: Rahvarinne of Estonia, the Tautas fronte of Latvia, and Sąjūdis of Lithuania. The participants gathered in the cities and villages where the campaign was to take place or drove to the less inhabited Baltic territories where the Baltic Chain was to wind through.

The demonstration originated in "Black Ribbon Day" protests held in the western cities in the 1980s. It marked the 50th anniversary of the Molotov–Ribbentrop Pact between the Soviet Union and Nazi Germany. The pact and its secret protocols led to the occupation of the Baltic States in 1940 and at the end of the 1980s the effects of it were still sharply present in Lithuania and our two neighbour countries. Occupation continued and the government of the Soviet Union undoubtedly denied the existence of the secret protocols of the Molotov–Ribbentrop Pact, and continuously asserted that the Baltic States had voluntarily joined the Soviet Union.

Despite the occupant's lies, the purpose of the people of freedom eventually was reached: USSR gave in to the joint protest of the inhabitants of the Baltic States and admitted all the past crimes. They acknowledged the existence of the Molotov–Ribbentrop Pact and declared it invalid. The event, which brought together everyone from the smallest kid to the wisest old man became one of the most important steps towards the renewal of independence in the Baltics.

A day that dawned 30 years ago, as well as the following Restoration of Independence of Lithuania on March 11, 1990 shortly after, proved the power of faith in democratic ideas.

Cordially,
Team of the "Lithuanian Military Digest"

Photo credit: Flickr.com



Baltic Road. 1989

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Lithuania Is About to Buy New Equipment

Lithuania's plan to buy the Joint Light Tactical Vehicle (JLTV) from the U.S. has been cleared by the State Department, according to a Defense Security Cooperation Agency notification.

The department notified Congress Aug. 27 that it had approved a possible Foreign Military Sale to Lithuania of 500 JLTVs — the U.S. Army's humvee replacement — for an estimated cost of \$170.8 million.

The Lithuanian Ministry of Defence first contacted the U.S. Defense Department regarding a potential acquisition of about 200 Oshkosh Defense-made JLTVs in late 2017.

The purchase, if approved by Congress, would include the vehicles M1278A1 Heavy Gun Carriers as well as kits including ones for ballistic armor, explosive protection, shot detection and GPS.

Lithuania would also get the M153 Common Remote Weapon Station, M2 QCB .50 caliber machine guns, and Forward-Looking Infrared (FLIR) systems.

The country has invested a great deal in recent years in its modernization of its defensive capabilities and plans to increase the investments in the coming years as Russia continues to build up its military power in Kaliningrad and its Western Military District while gaining influence with Lithuania's neighbor Belarus.



Photo credit: Flickr.com

The JLTV procurement was recently made possible as the U.S. Army approved the full-rate production of the vehicle in June after a six-month delay. With the approval, it is expected to see exports ramp up.

Slovenia has already placed an order for a small number of JLTVs, and it's likely the United Kingdom will be a future customer as well. The State Dept. cleared the UK's possible purchase two

years ago for 2,747 vehicles worth up to \$1 billion.

Lithuania's Ministry of Defence told Defense News in May that it was hoping to sign a contract with the U.S. for roughly 200 JLTVs by the end of the year. The country has said it intends to consider a follow-on purchase of additional JLTVs — possibly up to 300 more — after the first lot is under contract. ■

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Czech Military Eyes Bell Helos under \$623M Deal



Photo credit: Flickr.com

The Czech defense ministry has announced its decision to purchase 12 UH-1Y Venom and AH-1Z Viper helicopters with related gear and services from Bell Helicopters under a deal

estimated to be worth some 14.5 billion koruna (\$623 million).

Under the plan, the new copters will gradually replace the country's outdated Soviet-designed Mil Mi-24 and Mi-35 helos, the ministry said. Czech Defense Minister Lubomir Metnar said that the contract is expected to be signed by the end of this year.

"We want to carry out this purchase as soon as possible. Deliveries should begin in 2023," said Czech Prime Minister Andrej Babis.

As part of the designed contract, the Czech military aims to acquire eight UH-1Y Venom helos and four AH-1Z Viper aircraft.

The Czech Republic has intensified efforts to modernize its armed forces and replace Soviet-made weapons and equipment with new gear, following Russia's military intervention in Ukraine. Last year, General Ales Opatka, the chief of the General Staff of the Czech Armed Forces, unveiled plans by the government to spend 100 billion koruna, \$4.3 billion, on what he called the largest military upgrade program in the country's history.

In 2019, Prague's defense expenditure is to total 66.7 billion koruna, or \$2.8 billion, up roughly 13% compared with a year earlier, according to data from the Czech ministry. ■

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Poland Searches for New European Tanks



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Poland's new desire to join the European Main Battle Tank project, an initiative spearheaded by the Franco-German tandem, is part of a larger regional trend under which numerous Eastern European allies are pursuing plans to acquire new vehicles and replace their Soviet-designed tracked and wheeled rides.

Following an August 16 meeting between Polish Defense Minister Mariusz Blaszczak and his German counterpart, Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer, the Polish leader said the country wants to join the European tank program, adding it could "be a good solution for the Polish defense industry" and "beneficial if this initiative were to be accelerated and it became a PESCO project" strengthened by European Union (EU) funding.

The Permanent Structured Cooperation initiative, or PESCO, is a framework established by the EU in 2017 to allow its member states to engage in joint projects related to military cooperation. In March 2018, the Council of the EU adopted an initial list of projects for development.

An updated version of the list released in November 2018 includes, among others, a project to build a prototype European armored infantry fighting vehicle that could serve as the basis of an amphibious assault vehicle and a light armored vehicle. The participating member states include Italy, Greece and Slovakia.

Germany and France, alongside other countries, are already collaborating to develop a European medium-altitude, long-endurance

remotely piloted aircraft under the Eurodrone project.

Local observers say that while the Polish land forces operate about 247 Leopard 2A4 and 2A5 tanks acquired from the German military, the country's armed forces urgently need to procure new gear to replace its Soviet-designed tanks.

"The armored and mechanized battalions have about 500 T-72 and PT-91 tanks at their disposal, but a large share [of those tanks] is not operational and should be decommissioned as



soon as possible," an analyst at a state-run, Warsaw-based think tank told Defense News. "To make another attempt at modernizing them would be a waste of very limited resources."

Poland's defense industry had developed a tank prototype, the Anders, but it became clear to Polish officials that it made more sense to join a European program, the analyst said.

CZECH, BULGARIAN TENDERS UNDERWAY

Poland's plan to strengthen its land forces and replace Soviet-built tanks with Western-made gear is part of a regional trend. A number of Eastern European allies have accelerated similar efforts following Russia's annexation of Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula in 2014.

The rise in military expenditure across the region has also triggered a surge in armored vehicle programs. In the Czech Republic, the Defence Ministry issued a request for proposals to replace the country's outdated BVP-2 platforms with new infantry fighting vehicles, according to an August 6 statement.

The four bids for the contract, under which 210 of the vehicles are to be supplied for an estimated 50 billion korunas (U.S. \$2 billion), include the Ascod, offered by General Dynamics European Land Systems; BAE Systems' CV90; Rheinmetall's Lynx; and Puma, made by Germany's Krauss-Maffei Wegmann and Rheinmetall.

"Czech political parties agreed to increase defense spending to 1.4% of gross domestic product by 2020 and 2% of GDP by 2024," Jakub Janda, the executive director of the Prague-based European Values think tank, told Defense News. "Both the government and the democratic opposition parties agree on this. Large tenders are currently being processed, but the issue of a lack of... managerial staff at the Defence Ministry is causing the tenders to run very slowly."

Meanwhile, Bulgaria's Ministry of Defence is seeking to purchase 150 armored vehicles for three battalions of the country's land force.

The bidders for the contract, which is estimated to be worth about 1.5 billion leva (U.S. \$851 million), are expected to include Finland's Patria; France's Nexter Group; Swiss-based General Dynamics Land Systems-MOWAG; and Germany's ARTEC, which is a joint venture involving Krauss-Maffei Wegmann and Rheinmetall. Offers are to be evaluated by Dec. 20, the ministry said in a statement. ■

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Lithuanians Have Been Participating in International Operations for 25 Years



Photo credits: MoD archives & soldiers personal archives

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and advisory missions in the Near East and Africa. Lithuanian soldiers are also increasingly participating in naval operations, contributing to the efforts of the world community to stop the illegal migration in the Mediterranean Sea and the international efforts to combat piracy in the Indian Ocean.

Over 5.5 thousand Lithuanian soldiers have been deployed to international operations over the quarter of a century; most of them took part in several deployments. They not only gained experience in planning and conducting operations, working together with allies under various conditions, which is especially valuable in preparation to defend our country, but

also became instructors themselves — they share this experience to those who need their expertise and knowledge. Regrettably, we lost two soldiers in these international missions: 1st Lieutenant Normundas Valteris who was killed by the explosion of an anti-tank mine in Bosnia and Herzegovina on 17 April 1996, and Sergeant Arūnas Jarmalavičius who was killed on 22 May 2008 during the attack on the camp of Lithuanian-led Ghowr Province Reconstruction Team of NATO International Security Assistance Force.

The majority of Lithuanian residents are in favour of Lithuania's involvement in international operations. According to a public opinion poll conducted in December 2018, 72% of

respondents support the idea that Lithuanian soldiers should be deployed to international operations if NATO allies request to. Also 68% of respondents support the idea that Lithuania should be more active in its contributions to the fight against international terrorism.

Recently Lithuania deployed soldiers to 11 international operations conducted by NATO, European Union, United Nations and other allied coalitions in Europe, Africa, Asia, and the Indian Ocean. Such deployments include the military training mission in Ukraine, EU training mission in Mali, Central African Republic, NATO operations in Iraq, Afghanistan, EU operation in the Indian Ocean, etc. ■

Lithuanian MoD inf.



Exercise Vigilant Griffin 2019 Took Place



Photo credits: Laura Joksaite



On August 12–22 Exercise Vigilant Griffin 2019 conducted by the Motorised Infantry Brigade (MIB) Griffin took place at General Silvestras Žukauskas Training Area in Pabradė. The exercise involved over 1,000 soldiers, most of them from subunits of the MIB Griffin, a Baltic Battalion company, and the Portuguese rotational force contingent.

The main objective of the exercise is to train and evaluate the Lithuanian contingent in the Baltic Battalion, to train MIB Griffin units in planning and conduct of defensive operations, and to evaluate military training level achieved by the Continuous Mandatory Initial Military Service conscripts of General Motiejus Pečiulionis Artillery and Duke Margiris Infantry Battalions and anti-tank company over the past nine months. Joint training environment with the Baltic Battalion and the Portuguese rotational contingent created better conditions for improving interoperability among allies while efficiently completing joint tasks.

The final phase of the exercise trained live fire with different weaponry systems operated by Lithuania's and Portugal's military personnel. Simultaneous live fire of different military units and different weaponry systems requires not only great individual and teamwork skills but also reliable coordination among units. Such a dynamic exercise environment helped to assess the Baltic Battalion soldiers and the Continuous Mandatory Initial Military Service conscripts, as well as give useful experience for career soldiers to take to their home units.

The Baltic Battalion (BALTBAT20) is a project of the Lithuanian, Latvian and Estonian armed forces to standby for the NATO Response Force (NRF). The objective of the trilateral Battalion is to prepare for the standby for NRF and to maintain the readiness level in 2020. BALTBAT20 is largely constituted by the 1st Mechanised Battalion of the Latvian Armed Forces. Lithuania contributes a headquarters element formed by the Lithuanian Grand Duke Kęstutis Battalion of the MIB Griffin, its infantry company reinforced by a platoon of the Lithuanian Grand Duke Butigeidis Dragoon Battalion, weapons platoon, logistical support and Military Medical Service elements, and a Tactical Air Control Party/Post of Brigadier General Motiejus Pečiulionis Artillery Battalion. ■

Lithuanian Armed Forces inf.

Possible Replacement for NATO's Surveillance Plane

As NATO looks to replace its E-3A Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) fleet, it has asked operators for feedback on what technologies to incorporate in its future system.

While NATO leaders have not yet decided whether a single platform or a family of systems will take over the early airborne warning mission, "I think the most essential thing is the capability... be absolutely interoperable. I think that's the key, that is the most essential thing," said Lt. Col. Hans Growla, a crew member and public affairs officer for the NATO E-3A component in Geilenkirchen, Germany.

But Growla declined to comment on what specific technologies could be integrated into an AWACS replacement to grow its capability, citing sensitivities.

In June, the head of the NATO organization that manages the E-3A inventory told Reuters that the organization was racing against the clock to choose an AWACS replacement.

NATO plans to spend \$750 million for the final service life extension of the aircraft, which would keep it flying until 2035, said Michael Gschossmann, director of the NATO Airborne Early Warning and Control Programme Management Agency. But if it delays making a decision on a replacement for too long, it could get stuck paying for additional work on the current E-3A aircraft.

"We have to get moving on this. We have to ensure that the studies move along quickly. We need a reality check," he said.

One option, Gschossmann said, would be to purchase the E-7 Wedgetail, a Boeing aircraft currently operated by Australia, Turkey and South Korea. The United Kingdom also plans to purchase the aircraft. "That would give us a basic capability that could be expanded in the future," he said.

Like the units that conduct Baltic air policing, the NATO E-3A component has found itself similarly taxed after the Russian annexation



Photo credits: Flickr.com

tion of Crimea in 2014, with the number of surveillance missions increasing.

"There is a clear shift from training to real world missions/operations," Growla said, with a growing presence over the skies of Poland, Romania and Bulgaria. "Flying in northeast Poland gives you a great view into the Baltic States. We don't need to be physically flying in the airspace of the Baltics, we can stay a bit more south and see everything."

Despite the high operational tempo, Growla said NATO's E-3A component is making due with its 14 AWACS planes.

"The Ukraine crisis was starting when we were still deployed to Afghanistan. ... [For a time] we had more or less two tasking, and then ISIL," he said, using an acronym for the Islamic State group. "We were really busy."

Currently, 17 nations participate in NATO's early-warning-and-control force, which operates 14 E-3As and six E-3Ds: Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands,

Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States. Canada announced in February it would rejoin the NATO E-3A mission, after dropping out in 2014 to cut costs.

Earlier this year, NATO wrapped up a two-year-long effort to modernize its E-3A aircraft, replacing the fleet's 1970s-era flight instruments with glass cockpits that include five full-color displays and modern avionics that are easier to maintain.

One of those upgraded AWACS planes made the trip to Amari Air Base, Estonia, for an air show commemorating the Estonian Air Force's 100th anniversary. It was the first open display of a NATO E-3A in Estonia, with visitors able to walk inside the aircraft to view the cockpit and crew stations.

"We want people to see the NATO asset that is flying more or less daily, touch it, and see the guys who are making their airspace safer," Growla said. ■

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Germans Argue over NATO's 2% Spending



Photo credits: Flickr.com

Germany is again quarreling over a defense budget equal to 2% of its gross domestic product, thanks to the new defense minister, Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer.

A confidante to Chancellor Angela Merkel, Kramp-Karrenbauer raised the prospect of a significant military-spending boost in media interviews over the past week, and again during a speech before parliamentarians in Berlin, who were recalled from vacation for her impromptu swearing-in ceremony.

"If we want the Bundeswehr to be able to fulfill its role, the defense budget must rise," Kramp-Karrenbauer said.

While she reiterated the 2% spending pledge approved by all NATO members as a German objective, she left open when exactly Berlin would meet it.

Ursula von der Leyen, Kramp-Karrenbauer's predecessor and now president-elect of the European Commission, pursued a similar strategy, but the emphasis appeared fuzzier during the latter part of her tenure. That is because the latest Cabinet spending proposal has defense spending falling to somewhere around 1.3 percent of GDP in the early 2020s.

Kramp-Karrenbauer, who also holds the job of leading the Christian Democratic Union, said she would use her authority within the party to advance an agenda aimed at boosting defense objectives. Achieving a spending level of 1.5% of GDP by 2024 is a key element of that pledge, she said.

Germany this year is on track to spend

about \$50 billion on defense, nearing the peak of a large increase that began several years ago. The latest defense-spending projections are more timid, largely because there are questions about the continued pace of economic growth for Germany and because the Social Democratic Party — or SPD, a junior partner in the governing coalition — believe more money alone cannot fix the Bundeswehr.

The SPD signaled again that it would not carry the budget increase envisioned by Kramp-Karrenbauer. Rolf Mützenich, a mem-

ber of the party leadership who sits on the parliamentary Defence Committee, argued Germany's posture for security policy should include a greater share of non-military means to counter crises.

"The Bundestag alone holds the purse strings," Mützenich told Kramp-Karrenbauer, as key lawmakers took turns responding to her speech. The new defense minister should prepare herself to deal with a "confident" parliament as questions of military funding come up, he said.

Besides laying down a marker on the budget, Kramp-Karrenbauer also said she would strive to spark a new dynamic in evaluating future German military deployments.

The comment goes to the heart of a problem that analysts in Germany have decried for some time — that troop requests from the United States for Syria, for example, are so mired in domestic politics that there is little room for larger geopolitical considerations.

When allies ask Germany to contribute forces, "we can't approve them hastily, nor deny them reflexively," Kramp-Karrenbauer said. Instead, the requests should be weighed in coordination with allies, resulting in rules of engagement that "make sense militarily," as required by the coalition, she added.

Mützenich shot down that idea, too. Alliance considerations are ill-suited to judge the merits of sending German troops abroad, he said, "Since a racist sits in the White House." ■

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Photo credits: LITHAF

Lithuania's Military Aviation Marks Its Centenary

On July 27 The Lithuanian Air Force Base in Šiauliai hosted Air Show Falcon Wings 2019 marking the 100th anniversary of the Lithuanian military air capability. The event was attended by the leadership of the Ministry of National Defence and the Lithuanian Armed Forces — the audience was greeted by acting Minister of National Defence Raimundas Karoblis and Chief of Defence Major General Valdemaras Rupšys. The air show with programs from various aircraft, static displays activities and competitions from aviation organisations and universities has attracted tens of thousands of viewers this year.

The anniversary air show included programs of NATO and partner countries' military aircraft, one of the most famous aerobatic teams worldwide Freccie Tricolori from Italy, F-16 Dark Falcon demonstration fighter aircraft of the Belgian Air Force, etc. Viewers were

also very interested in the reproduced historical Lithuanian ANBO aircraft.

The Lithuanian Land Force, Navy, and the Special Operations Forces also presented static displays of equipment and weaponry giving the air show audience the opportunity to have a closer look not only at military aircraft but also at armed forces' armaments — from regular weapons to self-propelled artillery cannons, to compete in different matches, and to learn to render first medical aid and more about the service with the Lithuanian Armed Forces.

The Lithuanian Air Forces currently celebrating its 100th anniversary is formed by the professional military service soldiers, as well as conscripts of the Continuous Mandatory Initial Military Service and civilian personnel who actively take part in international training events, exercises, and other military cooperation projects and events, as well as social life. The Lithuanian Air Force Headquarters and the Air

Surveillance and Control Command together with the Airspace Control Centre are based in Kaunas, the Lithuanian Air Force Maintenance Depot and the Air Base are in Šiauliai, and the Air Defence Battalion is in Radviliškis.

Lithuanian military aviation history boasts exceptional personalities: engineers Brig Gen Antanas Gustaitis and 1st Lt Jurgis Dobkevičius designed and built aircraft in series, Capt Pranas Hiksas was the first Lithuanian military pilot to fly Lithuanian military airplanes on his own, Lt Juozas Kumpis was the first and the only military pilot who perished during Lithuania's independence fights, Capt Vladas Morkus made the first parachute jump, Capt Romualdas Marcinkus joined the French Air Force in 1940, later — the Royal Air Force and carried out battle flight on the front in Hurricane fighter aircraft and fought in air battles against the Nazi war aviation. ■

Lithuanian Armed Forces inf.



Lt Col Rouven Habel: We Have to Come Back to the "Old School"

ONCE DREAMED OF BECOMING AN ENGINEER NOW HE LEADS MORE THAN 1,000 SOLDIERS FROM ALL OVER EUROPE. THE VERY BEGINNING OF MILITARY PATH BEING A FRESH SCHOOL GRADUATE WAS NOT EASY, BUT ALL GAINED EXPERIENCE DURING THE YEARS LED TO WHERE LT COL **ROUVEN HABEL** IS TODAY: THE POSITION OF COMMANDER OF THE NATO ENHANCED FORWARD PRESENCE BATTLE GROUP. WORKING SHOULDER TO SHOULDER WITH ALLIES FOR ALL OUR SAFETY, COMMANDER FINDS SOME TIME TO SHARE INSIGHTS ABOUT HIS SERVICE IN LITHUANIA AS WELL AS SOME PIECES OF HIS PERSONAL LIFE.



Photo credit: Kotryna Gurevičiūtė

– Sir, could you tell when was the time you joined the armed forces?

It was July 3, 1995 being 19 years old, right after school. I joined the armoured infantry battalion 122 in Oberviechtach near the Czech border, a very lonely place. At that time, we had a conscription system so I signed as an officer candidate but I did my basic training which lasted for twelve months with conscription guys. So, there was no difference between an officer candidate and a regular soldier except that after the basic training everybody knows you're an officer candidate because instead of the green stripe on a shoulder you wear a silver one. The boot camp was my first experience to be total separate. You can talk to people who serve but hearing stories about and experiencing it by yourself are totally different things. I went to a place I didn't know, slept in a room with people who were strangers to me, and I was completely unfamiliar with the whole situation about the ranks, who's telling you what, what are you allowed to do and what not, what is expected from you and so on. All these new rules just come up on you and consequently you grow up very fast.

Photo credit: NATO ePPBG archive



Col Mindaugas Steponavičius hands over the NATO flag to Lt Col Rouven Habel.

– What encouraged you to seek for soldier's career?

The possibilities at that time in Germany were that you either go to the armed forces as a conscript or do some civilian service. I was never interested in the latter option, for me it was clear I want to join the armed forces as a conscript. In Germany the regular officers have to go to the university in Munich or Hamburg, I thought why shouldn't I combine both things? Therefore, I went to the assessment centre, did a test and they offered me both the university and officer's career. Of course, I agreed. And for me it was never a question which military branch to choose, it was always combat troops. I cannot explain why but I just never had a thought about becoming a pilot or someone else. Actually, I had four wishes then: light infantry, parachuter, armoured infantry or tank-er. Those were what I applied for and eventually I was offered a job at armoured infantry which I took.

– Was becoming a soldier your aspiration in younger age?

My family and friends always said they knew I would become a soldier as I was interested in military stuff since childhood. You know as a small kid you play with small toy tanks and soldiers, talk with your grandfather, etc. I also started reading books quite early. Besides, both of my grandfathers served in the World

War II, but they were just privates. My father was drafted in the Federal Armed Forces in 1968 and served in an engineer battalion also being a regular soldier and my brother joined the armed forces as a conscript and made his time as a parachuter. However, until it came to the A level exams and I started thinking what I want to do after school I never really thought about military career. Actually, I wanted to

become an engineer but it was quite clear that mathematics is not my strength. They made it quite plain in the assessment centre saying that they have some study offers for me but I will never study engineering systems in the armed forces because I was not good enough. It was hard, but that was the truth. Since then I never thought about being an engineer again.

– You mentioned that armed forces make you grow up rapidly. Could you describe how did you experience that?

You come to a real but different world to which you have to adjust fast. For example, by the time you start you're in a room with at least six people you don't know meaning you have to be careful about what things to say and how you treat people. If you make failures they let you know. You also have to do cleaning and other similar stuff as well as to overcome physical challenges — some people were not so into sports but had to grow up physically quite fast because it's demanding. Honestly, I can tell you that the first four weeks in the armed forces are the hardest ones. Sometimes you ask yourself if this was the right decision. Of course, it is but everyone has doubts at the beginning.

– What do you find to be the most challenging for you these days?

” The company commanders are highly experienced and they receive from my side a lot of freedom. I make some constraints, but, for example, I give them one week to train their company with all the assets they need: an opponent, medics, joint fires, engineers, reconnaissance. Therefore, they have all the possibilities to conduct their tanks.”



Photo credit: Kotryna Gurevičiūtė

The first deployment to Afghanistan in 2003, which was a four months tour. We were released in Kabul from a Canadian contingent. The mission has changed and things got more dangerous. Exercises are one thing, but be deployed is totally another game. At that time, I was a platoon leader and it was clear that we're going to Afghanistan with a company and a huge responsibility will fall on my shoulders. Of course, exercises are also a responsibility, but during missions you know that people might actually shoot at you or accidents can happen. Besides, at that time the threat of improvised explosive devices began to grow up. In Afghanistan, there are many old devices of the Russians. When the Taliban grew stronger, they started using all the military stuff, forgotten by the Russians to improvise their own bombs. So, you or one of your soldiers can be hit thus with that in your mind set this deployment was another step.

I also did a few more mission in Afghanistan, one took place in Mazar-i-Sharif in 2009 for four months where I served as a company commander. My main responsibility there was conducting convoy operations and establishing forward command posts. We were far away from the town. I spent more time outside than I thought I would. Last time I was deployed was in 2013 in NATO Mission Training Afghanistan which was in Kabul in an American camp with a small German contingent.

– All your deployments were in Afghanistan which are obviously way different experiences than mission in Lithuania. How would you compare it?

Here is no immediate danger. Also, in Afghanistan there's nothing outside the camp you could go to. You're always in the camp and it's quite secure. Meanwhile here you can go outside the barracks' territory and I encourage all my soldiers to do so and meet the people. It's not a third world country, it's part of NATO and civilised world. However, the reason why we are here has a background. If you speak to Lithuanians — which I did — you would see that their perception of their neighbourhood is totally different than, for example, German people's if you would ask them what do they think about some kind of threats from the East. And that's because we're more far away from the direct line with Russia than Lithuania. Consequently, you think differently and I know that from my own experience since I served with three Lithuanian officer candidates in 1995-1998 in Germany. I talked with them and I know Lithuanians take this situation still very seriously.

“ For me it was never a question which military branch to choose, it was always combat troops. I cannot explain why but I just never had a thought about becoming a pilot or someone else. Actually, I had four wishes then: light infantry, parachuter, armoured infantry or tanker. Those were what I applied for and eventually I was offered a job at armoured infantry which I took.”

– Here you're leading more than 1,000 troops whose rotations are constantly changing. How much of a challenge it is for you?

My day starts at 8 o'clock with the commanders update briefing where we talk about the daily work of staff for about 45 minutes. On Mondays, we have a big "Battle Group Coordination Meeting" with company commanders. That's the chance for commanders to clarify things with me, the deputy commander and especially with the support of the staff. During the rest of the day people show up aiming to speak to me so I'm always highly busy.

I'm an armoured infantry battalion commander in Germany having 750 soldiers under my command. Obviously, here I've got more, but leading a battalion or this battle group is not so different. The main difference is that my staff here is much bigger — 130 people — while in Germany it consists of around 30. The reason is that these people in Lithuania have to care about a lot of things which I do not have in the German Armed Forces. For example, here we got a Range Control, I have a Public Affairs Office, Information Operations Specialists, a cyber-staff officer, etc., meaning that my staff needs much more coordination.



Photo credit: NATO eFP BG archive

When we talk about the composition of the battle group, then yes, it's always different. For example, in the take-over ceremony I met Lieutenant Colonel Otto who was a commander of 2nd rotation. His force was more or less infantry and light infantry while my forces' composition is heavier. And I'm glad for it. In armoured

infantry, I am used to working with the battle tanks but I also have lighter compositions of the Dutch and the Belgians. This composition is flexible and by every kind of means I get an answer. In the wooden area, I can take the lighter infantry assets of the Dutch ones, on an open terrain, I can use the big tank guns of the



Photo credit: NATO eFP BG archive

Lt Col Rouven Habel at Freedom Picnic in Kaunas.



Photo credit: NATO eFP BG archive

The changeover ceremony of NATO eFP commanders. From left: current commander Lt Col Rouven Habel, Col Mindaugas Steponavičius, former commander Lt Col Peer Papenbroock.

German platoon or even the Norwegian tank platoons. Every nation brought up some kind of anti-tank systems. So, here I have a broad bunch of capabilities.

– What pre-deployment preparation you've done?

It started on January 2019 with a combat training centre in Germany where I met the Dutch company as well as most of the staff officers from the Netherlands and Belgium. We also did computer assistance exercise on brigade level, the so-called "CAX Stolzer Wettiner". So, we knew each other's procedures beforehand and worked together quite well. I can assure you that before we started the pre-deployment training I had some sleepless nights. You never know who shows up, which rather company you will get as a commander or what the mindset of the different military leaders is. When it came to the pre-deployment training the tactical issues and details were something we had always to talk about with each other. In every armed forces if you say to your people that you want to do some specific thing I'm pretty

sure everyone has minor thoughts about it but different ways to do it. And the same goes for the multinational environment which makes things a bit more complicated. Most of the

“ I can assure you that before we started the pre-deployment training I had some sleepless nights. You never know who shows up, which rather company you will get as a commander or what the mindset of the different military leaders is. When it came to the pre-deployment training the tactical issues and details were something we had always to talk about with each other.

time of my experiences if you take some particular military term, let's say the *passage of lines*, which is a procedure that can be very dangerous if not conducted very clearly, everyone knows what it means but if it comes to the details there are things you have to sort out.

Also, I know that the companies who are being deployed here do their own pre-deployment training. They are encouraged to deliver a fully proved and certified company so they're already prepared on a company level which makes it much easier for me to lead them. The company commanders are highly experienced and they receive from my side a lot of freedom. I make some constrains, but, for example, I give them one week to train their company with all the assets they need: an opponent, medics, joint fires, engineers, reconnaissance. Therefore, they have all the possibilities to conduct their tanks.

– Are you going to focus on local communities?

Yes, I have a branch who takes care for it. Just to name a few, we were invited in Freedom

Picnic in Kaunas where we took part with a static display and we participated in the Baltic Road Run. I think this an excellent opportunity to show NATO's commitment to protecting our freedom. In addition, one of the more interesting projects is going to be the so-called German Days in Kaunas. We received a letter from Mayor of Kaunas inviting us to take part in one-week festivity ceremony concerning the 30th anniversary of the partnership of Kaunas and Lippe in Germany. On top of that, Lithuanian Armed Forces and Lithuanian police invited us to participate in a long-distance horse-riding event, to honour your restoration of state and the Lithuanian knights.

– Did you have any specific expectations prior your arrival?

Yes, I had very clear expectations. The core of the battle group is the German one and I talked to them back in Germany after I took over of my battalion in June of 2018. Then I already knew that we were going to Lithuania. I told my soldiers that this is a chance for us to be

” I told my soldiers that this is a chance for us to be far away from a regular business in Germany and really focus on training basics for ourselves and our allied partners. In Germany, our training schedule is extremely tight and you're always under time pressure. Here in Lithuania we got no limitations and have everything we need.

far away from a regular business in Germany and really focus on training basics for ourselves and our allied partners. In Germany, our training schedule is extremely tight and you're always under time pressure. Here in Lithuania

we got no limitations and have everything we need: the armoured infantry, the tanks — the German ones and the Leopards from the Norwegians — a lot of different anti-tank systems from other nations, also the medics, the engineers, the joint fires and everything else. In conclusion, we got the materials, the personnel, the assets and the time.

In addition, for the last 15-20 years we've been focusing on stabilizing missions and with the things that happened in Crimea NATO had to put more attention on the classic defence training and this was also in a way new for us. For those years, we focused on fighting the Taliban, which has soldiers with an AK, IED or RPT7. They got the tactics, but no heavy artillery, no tanks, no rockets, and no jets. So, it's totally different mind-set. Nowadays, our opponent is a peer one. He has, for example, tanks rockets, artillery. Therefore, we have to come back to the "old school", to combined arms manoeuvre warfare. ■

Kotryna Gurevičiūtė





The discount is applicable only upon presentation of a service card.

Conditions and applicable discounts may change.

* There are additional conditions.

** Expositions are free of charge to the Lithuanian Military Academy (LMA) cadets, Permanent Mandatory Initial Military Service (PMIMS) soldiers serving in the LMA, and soldiers from the Gediminas Headquarters Battalion (GHB).

*** Coordinate with the regional Conscription and recruiting service department.

**** Due to a match of the football club "Atlantas" coordinate with the Grand Duke Butigeidis Dragoon Battalion's S5 division of the Motorized Infantry Brigade "Samogitia". Due to a match of the basketball club "Neptūnas" coordinate with the National Defence Volunteer Force's S5 division of the Samogitia district 3rd team. Due to a match of the football club "Sūduva" coordinate with the Lithuanian Grand Duke Vytenis General Support Logistics Battalion's S5 division.

***** The discount is applicable to persons who serve or have served in the Lithuanian Armed Forces, also to those who are in the prepared personnel reserve of the Lithuanian Armed Forces (for the entire study period both for the first and second cycle studies).

***** The discount is applicable on February 16, March 11, July 6, and November 23.



National Defence System employees (soldiers, civil servants and employees working under an employment contract)



NPPKT

Soldiers of the Permanent Mandatory Initial Military Service



Members of the Lithuanian Riflemen's Union



Lithuanian soldiers



Soldiers of the National Defence Volunteer Forces



NATO soldiers



Negotiation issues

ACCOMMODATION SERVICES



Hotel and SPA center "DAINAVA" **up to 20%**
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	The Samogitian Museum "ALKA" (and museum departments) www.muziejusalka.lt	50%		Basketball Club "NEPTŪNAS" www.bcneptunas.lt	Free ****
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The morale of the German Armed Forces in Italy is the main target of operation "Sauerkraut".



"SAUERKRAUT",

Which Broke the Morality of the Third Reich

... and Other Psychological Operations 1944–1945

THE YEAR OF 1944. THE GREAT GERMAN REICH IS NO LONGER SO GREAT. IT IS SURROUNDED FROM SEVERAL SIDES, AND FRONTS WHICH HAVE TO WITHHOLD THE ONSLAUGHT OF ALLIES ARE BARELY HOLDING ON. PROPAGANDIST TALKS ABOUT "ELASTIC DEFENCE" ARE SIMPLY EUPHEMISM, A FIG LEAF, BARELY MASKING DESPERATION AND RETREAT. HOWEVER, THE LOSERS ALWAYS HAVE HOPE THAT THINGS WILL TURN OUT DIFFERENTLY AND THAT THEY WILL BE ABLE TO REVANCHE OR AT LEAST LEAVE THE GAME IN GOOD CONDITIONS WITH MINIMAL DAMAGE. IDEOLOGISTS OF NAZI PARTY PLAY WELL IN THESE SENTIMENTS, AGITATING FOR A "TOTAL WAR", AND THE GERMANS SUPPORT IT. THEY AGREE TO EAT EVEN LESS BUTTER TO MAKE MORE CANNONS.

INTELLIGENCE TAKES ACTIONS

The target of the allies is not only to break the Nazi war machine, but also to weaken morale within the front and the back. This task was entrusted to the Office of Strategic Services (OSS).

The OSS was the first centralized intelli-

gence agency in the United States of America (US), which was founded in 1942 and operated until the end of the war. It united both civilian and military intelligence services, becoming a kind of spearhead of the US intelligence community. It was a logical step during the war. In addition to gathering, processing, and ana-

lysing information, the Board's primary goals were to take active steps in order to break the capabilities of the enemy camp. These include sabotage, diversions, support for resistance movements, informational influence, meaning both misinformation and counter-propaganda. In total, there was about 12,000 professionals

of various specializations, not including non-staff agents, working in the OSS. It was a force to be reckoned with, although, of course, it is difficult to assess the contribution of the intelligence officers who worked in the shadows to the victory: to front fighters, they always appear to be "coffee-drinking sluggards", to politicians — "non-gentlemanly players", and to the public — some mystical "men in black".

However, 12,000 people had to be of use otherwise what would be the point to pay money for them? And OSS really met expectations until the end of the war and even later. After the war, many employees remained and after the reorganization they became part of the still operating Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), and the motto *De oppresso liber* ("For

freedom of the enslaved") was later used by US Special Forces.

WAITING FOR THE MOMENT!

A propaganda campaign can also be carried out separately, but it is always better to associate it with a specific essential fact, especially if it can be interpreted symbolically.

The circumstances were favourable as intentionally. On July 20, 1944 a group of German officers attempted to kill Adolf Hitler. The attempt failed, but the OSS, after analysing the situation, concluded that this event created special conditions for influencing the morale of the Wehrmacht and civilians of the Third Reich if particular propaganda were immediately disseminated.

The tasks were entrusted to the OSS "Moral Operations" (OM) unit, based in Rome. There were both ideas and opportunities to implement them. According to the MO report, two types of proclamations were made on the same day as the signal to operate was received. To make it more convincing, they were printed on fictitious, re-photographed German mail form.

After 48 hours (!), three more types of propaganda publications were produced.

It should be mentioned that the MO printing equipment was good and the fictitious formal documents (various certificates, permits, etc.) provided to the OSS agents were of excellent quality. However, the propaganda printings for the purposes of the operation were deliberately made quite roughly. It was a subtle nuance: the aim was to make German soldiers think that this material was a self-made creation of the Third Reich citizens. Or even better — that it is produced by the movement opposing the Nazi regime. The assumption that invisible underground activity was taking place should have affected the target, audience whose moods were quite bad, even more.

For example, received agency reports testified that the troops from the 4th paratroopers' division in northern Italy were weak, malnourished and that many think the war had already been lost; the supply of the artillery unit deployed in L'Isola is irregular and the supplies of artillery are only sufficient to shoot with the personal permission of the division commander.



Official mark of OSS
(Strategic Services Board).



The OSS printing house in Rome worked continuously.

For this reason, the typical propaganda press distribution on the front, throwing it off planes or even firing on enemy deployment sites with agitating artillery ammunition, was cancelled. This would be completely inconvenient to some active underground image, so it was turned the other way. Delivery and distribution tasks had to be entrusted to agents recruited from German captives.

HOW "SAUERKRAUT" WERE MADE?

This idea was proposed by philosopher F. Burkhart and Austrian aristocrat O. Fon Shnedic who collaborated with OSS. It is mentioned that, when considering who to entrust to carry out the distribution, they asked, "What if 'cabbage' would do this?" "Cabbage" was the slang for the Germans. This is how this quite funny name of this propaganda campaign — "Sauerkraut" was born.

At the same time as the proclamations were being intensively printed in Rome, candidates were selected at a prison camp near Naples.

Several groups were formed from them. The agents were brought to Rome on July 23, where the prepared material was already waiting for them. Here they were additionally provided with clothing, necessary documents, maps, money and weapons. Infiltration was scheduled near the city of Siena, close to front line. Groups of agents crossed the Arnas River and began their rout, distributing the received material on their way. Trying to penetrate as deep as possible into enemy territory, they glued proclamations on fences, buildings' walls, roadside poles and trees, leaving other prints neatly stacked in squares, buildings, even near field camps, field hospitals, kitchens, or other enemy's objects. Several agents turned out to be so agile that they managed to glue proclamations on a few "Tigers", who were poorly protected, and leave a bunch of illegal newspapers in their toolboxes.

According to sources, between the second half of 1944 and the first half of 1945 at least thirteen raids were conducted to the

frontline and the back of the enemy. The agents not only performed a direct task, but also tactical reconnaissance, on the way finding out where and what are the enemy forces, their positions, important firing points, and so on. It should be noted that all groups which consisted of two or three people successfully infiltrated and exfiltrated by carrying out their tasks. Only one loss was recorded — a German gendarmerie detained one 8th mission's agent who was injured while trying to escape.

The operation "Ravioli", which can be considered as part of the "Sauerkraut", should be mentioned separately. It was an analogous propaganda campaign, only similar information was for the Italian audience who fought by the side of the Germans, and the distribution has to be entrusted to Italian captives. Compared to the "German" part of the operation, it was less effective — perhaps the Germans were still more meticulous in their assigned work, or the Italians, being "at home", took the information not that seriously.



The newspaper "Naujoji Vokietija" was supposed to give the impression of an organized anti-Nazi resistance movement in Germany.

"CORNFLAKES" FOR DESSERT

"Sauerkraut" was a propaganda campaign aimed at the morale of frontline and near-frontline soldiers. In order to influence the German's backing the OSS conducted several other psychological attacks, of which probably the most interesting is operation "Cornflakes". Why such a strange name for psychological impact operation? The answer is much simpler than one would want. Just many of the propaganda production printed in Rome were packed in boxes labelled "cornflakes" — a good solution, without wanting to cause unnecessary suspicion of those around you.

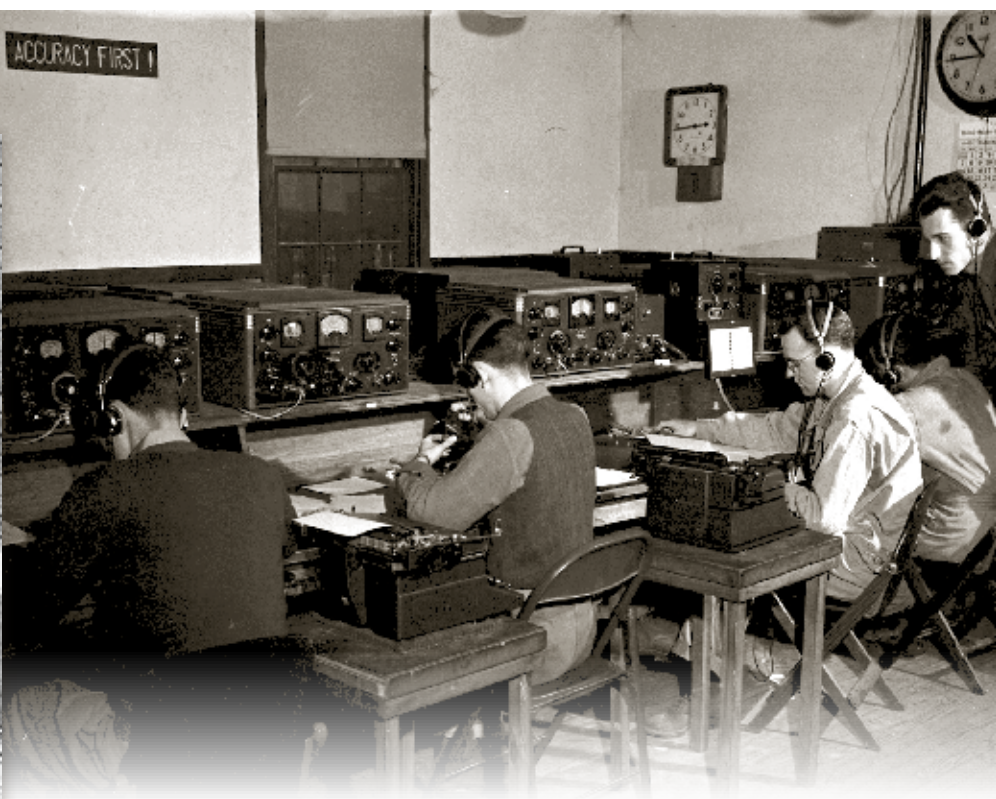
It is possible that the operation inspired and executed by the OSS would have remained little known, but the field seemingly completely unrelated with intelligence — philately — helped to popularize it. Probably, for the first time in open sources this operation was mentioned in the journal of the American Philatelist Society in 1972. It turns out that there is a direct relationship between the interest in collecting postage stamps and the "cornflakes".

The whole secret is simpler than one could imagine. And at the same time, it is brilliant.

The OSS decided to distribute propaganda in Germany... by the hands of the Third Reich institutions! Major J. Libich who worked in the OSS after interviewing former German mailmen and studying the German postal system, proposed a project that was approved in January 1945.

On February 5 of the same year, planes of allies attacked a German mail train in Austria

Mail bags were placed in special bomb-containers.



near Amstetten. The locomotive was destroyed, twelve trains were broken. A few minutes later, another US Air Force 15th Army aircraft appeared.

But this time there were no explosions. Eight German mail bags full of correspondence were thrown from the aircraft to the site of the train wreck. They contained fictitious letters meeting the requirements of the Third Reich post — stamped standard envelopes with ordinary postage stamps addressed to various offices. And the envelopes contained analogous material used during operation "Sauerkraut" — proclamations, pamphlets, newspapers. The confidentiality of the correspondence and the German pedantry were a kind of assurance that upon rescue services arrival at the scene of the accident, the bags would be collected and the mail neatly sent to the given addressees. And that happened.

By the end of March of the same year, ten such flights were made, of which a couple failed. However, at least half a million letters were distributed, each containing several units of propaganda correspondence. It was a tremendous job. Every week, the OSS department had to prepare several thousand envelopes. This means making envelopes, placing corre-

spondence in it, writing addresses by hand (!), sticking postage stamps and stamping them. Later, the envelopes were loaded into mail bags, and these into special bomb-containers, which used to throw the bags at a low height. An extra challenge awaited the organizers of the operation in the middle of the preparations: the Germans changed the postal regulations unexpectedly. The stamps had to be immediately re-made as well as editing some addresses.

"Cornflakes" actually also worked because the addressee, after receiving a shipment with obviously prohibited literature, did not always want to deal with German security institutions. Therefore, for a longer time German counterintelligence could not have a comprehensive picture and trace how the propaganda press is being distributed. They thought it was the job of the Austrian separatists.

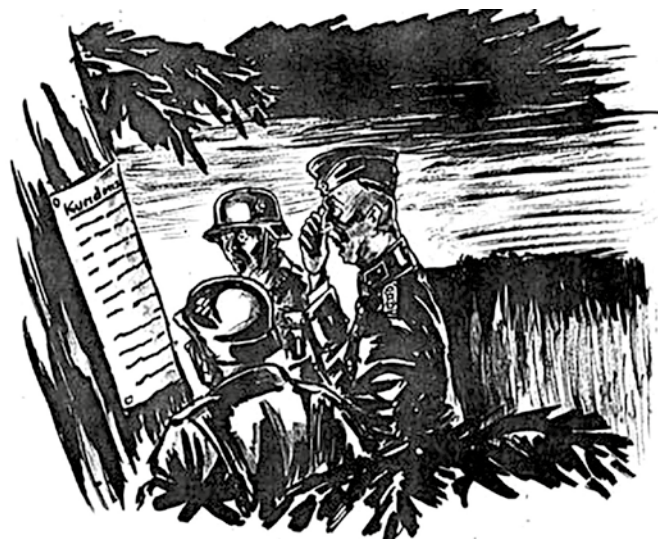
A similar, but slightly more straightforward was the simultaneous operation "Pig Iron", during which the agitation bomb of the same type was being dropped right above German and Austrian cities. This way about ten

million propaganda newspapers were distributed.

Some OSS employee wrote the addressee's name starting with the letter "C" without looking at the envelope, and according to the German transcription it had to be "K". This way it was found out that organizers were not Germans. But the war was coming to an end, and it was too late to change anything.

FROM TOILET PAPER TO "RESISTANCE MOVEMENT"

What kind of propaganda was distributed during the OSS campaigns? Millions of volumes showed that it was not intended to be





The scheme of Operation "Cornflakes": mail bags with fictitious letters are dropped near a bombed train and then delivered to the addressees.

limited to one kind or one single-themed material. In fact, it was exactly like that.

Various publications were printed at the OSS printing house. Their methods of influence also varied, from primitive, very unambiguous or even vulgar, to logical reasoning or hidden meanings.

Proclamations, designed to stick on the walls, fences, trees, roadside poles. It was meant that potential readers would see them when walking or passing by — i.e. for a very short time. Therefore, it contained a few words or a short slogan in large, clear font (typical examples would be: "Get out!", "Will you die for Hitler?", "Hitler to the gallows", "Freedom! Peace!". To make it more memorable, proclamations were sometimes written in rhyme, for example: "Bonzen in Speck, Landser im Dreck" (German) or in the form of the aphorism ("Peace on earth, not underground", "Hitler dies — Germany lives", "Later it will be late"). Some proclamations emphasized the image rather than the word — let's say a pictured rough wooden cross with a helmet on it had a greater emotional impact than logical reasoning.

Proclamations could also include another type of print of a very unusual form: toilet paper. It featured either trivial Hitler's cartoons or some no less drastic text that, figuratively speaking, linked "form with content". For example: "Friends! Enough of this shit! We are not fighting for Germany, but for Hitler and Himmel. Nazi Party brought us to this shithole, only thinking how to save their own skin. They think we will fight until the last ammo, but we will use the

last ammo to clear Germany from SS-shit!" Such typical examples of black propaganda may seem strange and repulsive, but it undoubtedly had to influence the exhausted, non-emotional troops.

Fictitious correspondence. Using this type of propaganda, the reader was expected to be influenced by such factors as home longing or trust in the mail as an official institution. For example, handwritten text on behalf of non-existing German Mothers' Union, inviting soldiers to return home was copied on standard German postcards. A public letter from the Soldiers Christian Union called for surrender and saving their own lives. Strife and confrontation had to be induced by another letter from an anonymous soldier for everyone, denouncing allied Slovaks and Italians who fought along with the Germans, accusing them of cowardice and betrayal.

A falsified letter ostensibly from the East Prussian Gauleiter E. Koch, seemingly written in a completely National Socialist spirit, was also distributed. But there was one little detail — it was mentioned that "the Führer is in danger, his health is poor". This hint should have caused doubts whether it is worth to fight in a war.

Newspapers. The aim of the periodicals was to make a serious image of the existing resistance movements. Their level and topics varied greatly: for example, fictitious newspaper "New Germany" was produced with all common characteristics — typed text placed in columns with professional illustrations, even

with a price tag. This publication was distributed in tens of thousands of copies and had a definite effect. The Germans probably did not find out whose job it was, and thought that it is actually related with German underground resistance. Such conclusions can be made because even the official SS weekly newspaper "Das Schwarze Korps" published on its first page on January 11, 1945 a publication condemning the "traitorous movement" and threatening with repressions anyone who hides the "New Germany" press "in their hands, mattresses or clothes." After the war ended, a prisoners' survey was conducted which confirmed that 14% respondents read the newspaper "New Germany", and 45% was aware of the existence of this "resistance movement".

And the publication "Austrian" (Ger. "Der Oesterreicher") was of poor quality, with hand-written title and made with a typewriter. However, it promoted the self-awareness of the Austrians, subordinate to the Third Reich, and thus frustrated the morale of Wehrmacht. The main messages which were being distributed through this publication were to "reprogram" and denazify Austrian thinking even before the victory. "Ten Precepts of Austrian" recommended to call the country not "Ostmark" (it was the official Austrian name in the composition of the Third Reich), but a common name; bid farewell saying "Good bye" instead of "Heil Hitler" and so on.

Seemingly insignificant details should also be mentioned. Among other materials distributed during the operation "Cornflakes" there were not only serious newspapers but also trivia such as postcards or postage stamps. Was it worth to bother with such press? And if yes, what was the purpose?

The answer is simple. Americans at that time had been convinced of Freudian theory for a while and used the principles listed by Freud in an applied dimension, particularly in commercial advertising. The slogan "Sex Sells" was used even for recruiting to the armed forces, depicting attractive pin-up girls on military posters. When it comes to propaganda aimed at the enemy, another no less powerful instinct — the fear of death — is used. For example, seemingly innocent postcard vignettes depicted German cities that had recently been bombarded, and stars depicted on a dark background were drawn like that on purpose to



Fake postage stamps used in the operation. The first one was used for correspondence, the second for psychological effects.

resemble cemetery crosses. The fake postage stamps completely reproduced the standard original drawing with Adolf Hitler's profile, but his face was depicted to show the skull's outline, and the inscription "Deutsches Reich" ("German Reich" was replaced by "Futsches Reich" ("Collapsed Reich")...

EPILOGUE

Information war and propaganda have always been an important part of any conflict. The means to influence the opposing party's thinking and behaviour in a self-beneficial way are virtual weapons. The effect of their impact is completely tangible — they help to domi-

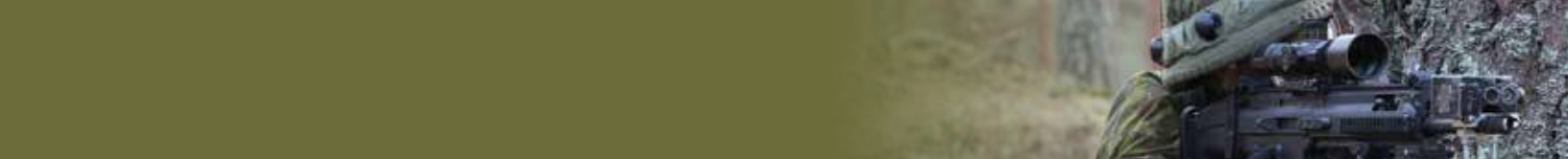
nate and defeat. Only, according to the classic saying, "a bullet is a single-shot weapon and the idea is a multiple-shot weapon."

Knowing about these psychological attacks and imagining in more detail the stages of their organization it can be concluded that they did not go in vain. It is also important that every one of us in case of becoming familiar with relatively primitive World War II propaganda technologies would ask themselves: "Isn't propaganda production and distribution currently more effective? Can mistrust be developed in information that looks neutral but is received from unknown sources? What specific measures have to be taken to develop information immunity?" Ultimately, in terms of a possible self-propaganda, it should be finally realized that its main component is emotional impact, and development methods can be very non-standard. ■

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Photo credits: Progetto900.com, psywarrior.com, psywar.org, mentalfloss.com



**The first Lithuanian peace support platoon LITPLA-1.
Croatia, 1994**

Photo credit: Tadas Dambrauskas