



Lithuanian Military Digest

MAY 2022. NO 5 (48)

NEWS

AN INTENSE TRAINING CYCLE



U.S. LEADERSHIP IS THE PIVOTAL WEAPON



NATO'S PRESENCE

BALTIC BALLISTA: LIVE-FIRE ARTILLERY EXERCISE



SPECIAL

THE GREATEST MISSION OF THE FORMER FBI AGENT



Joint Force Headquarters deploys in Lithuania

As the United Kingdom-led Joint Expeditionary Force (JEF) steps up involvement in the Baltic region and interoperability with NATO capabilities, the Standing Joint Force HQ (SJFHQ) is for the first time deployed in Lithuania on May 2 through 31 for an international command post exercise. The event will put to test and enhance communications channels between Lithuania, Latvia and the Joint Force Headquarters (SJFHQ) in Northwood, UK, so that the response to arising threats is quick and joint planning, as well as a united response to hybrid actions in the Baltic Sea region, the High North and the North Atlantic Region is ensured.

The JEF is a high-readiness, roughly 10-thousand strong multinational unit established in 2015 and formed by land,

maritime and air capabilities contributed by the ten European partner nations (Denmark, Estonia, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Finland, the UK). The capability is tailored to respond to emergencies in Europe and beyond, from humanitarian assistance to deterrence and combat actions on UN, EU or NATO mandate. Lithuania currently has accompany-sized unit of the King Mindaugas Hussar Battalion of the Mechanized Infantry Brigade Iron Wolf assigned to the JEF. The staff officer Lithuania has also delegated serves at the Joint Force Headquarters (SJFHQ) in Northwood, UK, since early 2016. ■

Information and photo credits:
Lithuanian Armed Forces



An intense training cycle

The Lithuanian Armed Forces announces the beginning of an international exercise in the air, land and maritime territory of Lithuania held to strengthen regional security.

Multinational annual training exercise Swift Response 2022 of the U.S. Army Europe and Africa takes place on May 6–20. The event will involve approx 9 thousand troops from 17 NATO and partner countries and showcase the capability to execute airborne landing operations at the same time in Northern and Eastern Europe, the Baltic states and the Balkans. Exercise Swift Response 2022 actions in Lithuania will concentrate at Gaižiūnai Training Area (Jonava region) and surrounding territories.

On May 5 international exercise Iron Wolf 2022-I began at Gaižiūnai Training Area. It is closely linked with Exercise Swift Response 2022. The two-week event will involve approx. 1000 pieces of military equipment — tanks, IFVs, armored vehicles, artillery guns, and logistical support and administrative vehicles, and over 3 thousand servicemembers from Lithuania and other NATO Allies.

While operation Open Spirit 2022, a historical ammunition clearance effort in the Baltic Sea territory and exclusive economic zone of Lithuania takes place on May 6–20, concurrently with multinational diver exercise EODEX 2022. The Navy-organized training exercise and explosive ordnance clearance operation will involve 13 warships, 9 explosive ordnance disposal diver teams, and other specialists from 31 NATO Allied nations. ■

Information credits: Lithuanian Armed Forces

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Publisher — Lithuanian Armed Forces. The opinion of editorial office does not necessarily coincide with the opinion of the authors. Pictures, manuscripts are not returned and reviewed. Circulation is 300 copies. Printed by the Cartography Center of Lithuanian Military, Muitinės str.4, Domeikava, LT-54359 Kaunas dist. Order GL-273.



United States display military support in the Baltic Sea

On April 24 the guided-missile destroyer USS Gravelly arrived in Klaipėda from Norway for a scheduled port visit. Today she was welcomed by President of the Republic of Lithuania Gitanas Nausėda and Chief of Defence Lieutenant General Valdemaras Rupšys.

At a press conference, President underscored security on land and at sea as a priority as Ukraine struggled for the sixty-second day. The first visit by USS Gravelly to Lithuania demonstrated leadership and commitment to the security of the Baltic states that feel the threat especially acutely. We need unity, resolve to fight together and at once, because we need not only deterrence but also successful defence.

"This event today stands as a proof that the United States has our back in the maritime domain as well. I hope it will become yet another step towards a closer cooperation and new projects together," Chief of Defence said.

One of the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer, surface warships of the United States Navy, USS Gravelly (DDG 107), was built in 2007 and is named after U.S. Vice Admiral Samuel Lee Gravelly, Jr. Armed with Tomahawk guided cruise missiles and missiles of other modifications, submarine warfare torpedoes, naval artillery designed to engage both surface and air targets surface to air and surface to surface artillery guns, such ships make up the main fighting power of the U.S. Navy among surface warships. USS Gravelly has been deployed to a range of operations since its commissioning: the Syrian coast blockade in the Mediterranean and an African migrant rescue operation near Greece in 2013, arms embargo operation against Iran in the Persian Gulf in 2016. ■

Information credits: Lithuanian Armed Forces

Photo credits: Sgt Spc 1st Class Ieva Budzeikaitė



U.S. leadership is the pivotal weapon against Russia

"The United States understands that if we do not stop Russia in Ukraine, NATO Allies can be next, including the Baltics. Therefore U.S. and Allied presence in the region remains a key security and defence guarantee in the Baltic region," Minister of National Defence Arvydas Anušauskas states after meeting with Secretary of the Air Force Frank Kendall, secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro and Secretary of the Army Christine Wormuth in Washington.

Minister thanked the U.S. officials for the U.S. decisions that strengthened Lithuania's security, for the reinforcement deployed to Lithuania and the other Baltic states.

"We aim to have a rotational U.S. force and capability presence in our country on a persistent basis. It is our key priority. The U.S. support contributes significantly to the further development of capabilities and gap filling, enabling us to improve readiness, strengthen regional defence and, naturally, deterrence," Minister of National Defence underscored.

The U.S. Secretaries of armed services thanked Lithuania for the significant support it render to Ukraine and for the leadership in the process — the first shipment of Lithuanian military assistance arrived in Ukraine even before the war began. Gratitude was also express for hosting the deployed U.S. military personnel and improving their service conditions and infrastructure.

Minister also had a meeting with Chair of the Senate Armed Services Committee Senator



Jack Reed. A. Anušauskas underscored to him the importance of the U.S. financial support to the Baltic states and the necessity to put it into legal acts.

"Adoption of a piece of legislation that embeds a long-term financial U.S. support to the

Baltic states would primarily strengthen the U.S. relations with the Baltics, our defensive capabilities, while also deterring Russia from being delusional about transferring the war into NATO territory," said Minister. ■

Information and photo credits: MoD





First joint Lithuanian and U.S. CYBERCOM project

Joint operation of Lithuania and the Cyber National Mission Force at United States Cyber Command (U.S. CYBERCOM), Hunt Forward, wrapped in early May several months after its start. Lithuania's first joint project with U.S. CYBERCOM aimed at strengthening real-life interoperability and increasing cyber threat resilience in the most critical networks.

"The war against Ukraine has demonstrated that cyberattacks are an inseparable element of modern military campaigns. Bearing that in mind, we have to prepare and build up capabilities for safeguarding our key networks, during war and peace alike, in advance. The three months of the operation in Lithuania offers a wealth of intelligence and skills to all participants," said Vice Minister of National Defence Margiris Abukevicius as the event was wrapped.

"This hunt forward operation is a great example of how cyber is a team sport, and we have to play it together. With these missions, we see a broader scope of how these bad actors are trying to attack important government networks," said U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Joe Hartman, the commander of Cyber National Mission Force, the organization that deploys the hunt forward teams for U.S. CYBERCOM.

"Thanks to our partners, we can share that insight to bolster our collective cybersecurity across the government and private sector. We are incredibly grateful to our Lithuanian partners for allowing us to hunt alongside them for malicious cyber activity, and then strengthen both our Nation's cyber defenses," Maj. Gen. Joe Hartman underscored.



The hunt forward operation involved the U.S. CYBERCOM team and specialists of the National Cyber Security Center under the MoD and the IT Service under the MoD fortifying interoperability in practice and increasing resilience of critical National Defence System and Ministry of Foreign Affairs networks.

Lithuania and the United States partner closely on cyber defence. The Regional Cyber Defence Centre established in Lithuania last summer serves as the main platform for practical Lithuanian-American cooperation, and it has already been joined by Ukraine and Georgia.

In the spring of 2019 the Pennsylvania National Guard Cyber Defence Team assisted the National Cyber Security Centre in ensuring elections security. Another expert visit and a series of work meetings of PANG personnel with National Cyber Security Centre specialists took place last November.

This hunt forward operation is the first of the kind Lithuania has carried out with a U.S. CYBERCOM team. The United States has carried out such cyber defence operations across Europe before. ■

Information credits: MoD
Photo credits: Alfredas Pliadis

Finland and Sweden intensify talks on joint NATO application



The sudden elevation in intensity of top-level talks between Finland and Sweden has raised the bar on the expectation that the two unaligned Nordic states will jointly announce their decisions to join NATO by May 16.

The prospect for a "joint leap" by Sweden and Finland into NATO will be discussed when the prime ministers of both countries, Magdalena Andersson and Sanna Marin, meet at Schloss Meseberg castle, near Berlin, to discuss security issues with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz on May 3.

The possibility of Finland and Sweden presenting a joint announcement on NATO membership by mid-May was also discussed by Finnish and Swedish foreign ministers Pekka Haavisto and Ann Linde during talks in Helsinki on April 29.

"It is Finland's wish that Finland and Sweden can adhere to the same timetable in respect of applying for membership to NATO," said Haavisto at a press briefing following the meeting with Linde.

NATO's offer to accelerate the membership process for Finland and Sweden was repeated when alliance Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg held talks with Finnish President Sauli Niinistö, also commander-in-chief of the country's armed forces, on April 28.

"If Finland and Sweden decide to apply, then NATO will make the process of joining as quick as is feasible. My discussion with President Niinistö covered Finland's possible application to join the alliance and any arrangements that could be made for the period between the submission of an application and its ratification. We have agreed to meet again soon," Stoltenberg said.

Niinistö is scheduled to make a two-day visit to

Sweden ending on May 18. The visit will include talks with Swedish officials on future Finnish-Swedish security cooperation and the prospect of forming common positions on developing their relationship with NATO.

Finland is expected to reach a decision on NATO membership in the first or second weeks in May. A final decision will be ratified by the Office of the President, on the basis of a recommendation by Prime Minister Marin; and more specifically the government's Committee on Foreign and Security Policy.

In Sweden, the urgency over a possible membership application to NATO was evidenced on April 24 when its government decided to bring forward its national security policy assessment, described by Prime Minister Andersson as "the NATO solution."

The security policy assessment report, which will involve representatives of all parties in Sweden's parliament, the Riksdag, was originally due to be completed by the end of May. The new deadline is May 13.

Against the backdrop of the security assessment report, the Swedish government has rejected a proposal by the socialist Left Party (Vänsterpartiet) which called for a referendum on NATO membership.

"As the Swedish government sees it, a referendum is not a good idea. It would take time to organize and not fit the government's plan to take advantage of the existing window of opportunity to consider a faster route to possible NATO membership," said Johan Wänström, a political scientist at the University of Jönköping.

The Left Party's principal argument in favor of

holding a referendum is based on the pretext that most Swedes voted for political parties opposed to joining NATO in the most recent parliamentary elections in 2018.

"Based on the parties supported by the majority, who promised in their manifestoes not to join a military alliance like NATO, it is only logical that if politicians are going to change their positions, that needs to be put to the nation's electorate," said Nooshi Dadgostar, the Left Party's leader.

Relations between Helsinki, Stockholm and Moscow, meanwhile, continue to deteriorate over the "NATO question." Finland and Sweden are positioned to support further measures by the European Union and the United States to impose harsher trade and other sanctions on Russia.

Russia expelled four Swedish diplomats on April 25 in response to a decision by Sweden to withdraw the diplomatic status of three Russian diplomats in Stockholm. Sweden said the diplomats were expelled over Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Sweden is also primed to send more advanced military weapons and systems to Ukraine in support of its defensive efforts against Russia. Military materials are expected to include de-mining equipment and around 5,000 unguided, man-portable, single-shot and disposable anti-tank weapons built by Saab Bofors Dynamics.

Sweden and Finland can expect an increase in activities by Russian intelligence in their countries as they move closer to NATO, said Wilhelm Agrell, a professor of military and security intelligence analysis at Lund University.

"The possibility of a neutral Sweden joining NATO is a high priority for Russia's intelligence activities in Sweden — where it is both about influencing and gaining access to information to try to predict the actions of Swedish politicians. In this area I think a lot will happen in the coming months," said Agrell.

Popular support for NATO membership continues to grow in Sweden. The latest survey by pollster Demoskop revealed 57% of Swedes now favor Sweden joining the alliance, up from 51% from a similar poll conducted by Demoskop in March.

A poll conducted by Finnish media group Helsingin Sanomat, covering the period April 22 to April 27, found that 65% of Finns support NATO membership. The result was a 6% increase on a previous Helsingin Sanomat poll released in March. ■

Information and photo credit:
www.defensenews.com



Britain pledges anti-ship missiles, cargo drones for Ukraine's defense

Britain added anti-ship missiles, logistics drones and other key equipment to its list of military equipment heading to Ukraine, according to a Tuesday speech by Prime Minister Boris Johnson.

In a virtual address to the Ukrainian Parliament, Johnson said a further £300 million (\$375 million) in arms would be provided to Kyiv.

Johnson is the first Western leader to address the Ukrainian Parliament since Russia invaded in late February.

Since then the British have become a significant supplier of weapons and humanitarian aid as Ukraine's forces battle to beat off Russian efforts to subjugate the country.

This week it was confirmed that an anti-ship version of the MBDA Brimstone air-to-ground,

anti-tank missiles would be heading to Ukraine soon.

Alongside Brimstone, counter battery radars, logistics drones capable of supplying weapons and food, night vision goggles and armored vehicles for evacuation of civilians and protection of officials were among the list of equipment listed by Johnson.

The Daily Telegraph newspaper here said electronic-warfare equipment capable of jamming Russian drones was also included in the package, but there was no mention of the systems in Johnson's speech.

The latest round of supplies brings the British contribution to around £800 million (\$1 billion) supporting Ukraine with weapons and training. Previously, NLAW and Javelin

anti-tank missiles, Starstreak anti-air missiles mounted on Stormer armored vehicles, loitering munitions and armored logistics vehicles have been among the growing list of weapons supplied or pledged by the British.

Replacement of at least some of the weapons will be funded by the Treasury here, rather than come out of the defense budget.

"We will carry on supplying Ukraine, alongside your other friends, with weapons, funding and humanitarian aid, until we have achieved our long-term goal, which must be so to fortify Ukraine that no-one will ever dare to attack you again," Johnson told the Ukrainian Parliament. ■

Information and photo credit:
www.defensenews.com



Under Russian tsar rule: 40 years of Lithuanian press ban

EVERY YEAR ON MAY 7 LITHUANIA CELEBRATES THE END OF THE TSARIST BAN THAT FORBADE THE PUBLISHING AND DISTRIBUTION OF BOOKS AND NEWSPAPERS IN LITHUANIAN. IT IS THE LITHUANIAN PRESS RESTORATION, LANGUAGE AND BOOK DAY. TSARIST BAN OF LITHUANIAN PRESS LASTED ALMOST 40 YEARS (FROM 1865 TO 1904), BUT LITHUANIAN LANGUAGE SURVIVED THANKS TO BOOK SMUGGLERS, SECRET HOME SCHOOLS AND RESISTANCE OF ALL NATION.



On 13 May 1863 Tsar Alexander II of Russia ordered to the Vilna Governorate to organize in the whole Lithuania implementation of the Russification policy, preparing radical long-term Russification program that became known as the Program of Restoration of Russian Beginnings.

FOR LITHUANIAN LANGUAGE – RUSSIAN ALPHABET (CYRILLIC CRIPT)

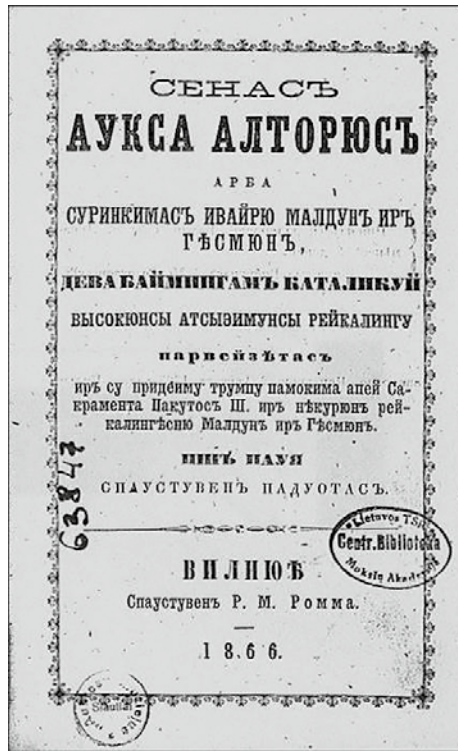
After the Polish-Lithuanian insurrection of 1863, the Russian Imperial government intensified its efforts to russify the Lithuanian population and alienate it from its historic roots, including the Roman Catholic faith, which had become widespread during the years of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. So the Lithuanian press ban (Lithuanian: spaudos draudimas) forbade all Lithuanian language publications printed in the Latin alphabet in force from 1865 to 1904 within the Russian Empire, which controlled Lithuania at the time.



Russian sign proclaiming that speaking in Lithuanian is strictly forbidden

Under the ban, it was illegal to print, import, distribute, or possess any publications in the Latin alphabet. Tsarist authorities hoped that this measure, part of a larger Russification plan, would decrease Polish influence on Lithuanians and would return them to what were considered their ancient historical ties with Russia. However, Lithuanians organized printing outside the Empire, largely in Lithuania Minor (East Prussia), and in the United States.

At first the Russian authorities encouraged and sponsored the publication of Lithuanian-language works in the Cyrillic alphabet. The idea of replacing the Latin alphabet with Cyril-



Two issues of the same popular Lithuanian prayer book, *Aukša altorius* (Golden Altar). The one on the left was illegal because it was printed in the Lithuanians' preferred Latin alphabet. The one on the right, printed in Russian-style Cyrillic script, was legal and paid for by the government.

themselves, and a discouraging atmosphere was created by the system of searches, inspections, and spying. Many students were schooled at home or in small secret groups instead, although this practice also resulted in sanctions.

BOOK SMUGGLING AND "ILLEGAL" LITHUANIAN NEWSPAPERS

Lithuanian book smugglers (Lithuanian: *Knygnešiai*) smuggled illegal books and periodicals across the border. The number of such publications kept increasing despite strict sanctions and persecution of the activists. The ban created a well-defined and organized opposition to Russian rule and culture — the opposite of its original intent. The Lithuanian historian Edvardas Gudavičius has described the ban as a test of the concept of Lithuania: Had there been no resistance, the language would have become a historical footnote.

According to the bibliographer Vaclovas Biržiška, between 1800 and 1864, when the press ban was enacted, 926 book titles were published in the Lithuanian language using its Latin alphabet. The orthography of the language was not standardized; this problem was

lic was first elaborated by the well-known Pan-Slavist Alexander Hilferding in his 1863 book *Lithuania and Samogitia*.

The first experiments with the conversion of Lithuanian writings into Cyrillic were conducted by a Lithuanian linguist, Jonas Juška. He showed some samples of adapted texts to both Muravyov and Kornilov in February 1864. About 55 Lithuanian-Cyrillic titles were published during the 40 years of the ban; half of these were published during its first decade. Seeing that the Lithuanian people were unwilling to accept these books, even when they were offered for free, the Russian government shifted its attention to eliminating the illegal publications.

Public and private education in Lithuanian was adversely affected by the press ban. The level of pent-up demand for schooling in the 19th century is illustrated by the increase in literacy in the Rietavas area; between 1853 and 1863, just before the ban, the number of literate persons rose from 11,296 to 24,330. The subsequent ban is thought to have contributed to illiteracy in 19th-century Lithuania.

In the wake of the ruling, parish schools were closed. A shortage of teachers led to the closure of a number of state schools as well, in spite of population growth. Parents began to withdraw their children from the state schools, since they were associated with the policy of Russification; students were not allowed to speak Lithuanian among



Sculpture Scholl of misery, showing mother teaching her child from the banned literature near the spinning wheel.



Lithuanian book smuggler Vincas Juška, 19th century.

used by the Russian authorities as a rationale for the change to Cyrillic.

The organized resistance to the ban, both legal and illegal, was largely initiated by bishop Motiejus Valančius, who petitioned the government to exempt prayer books from the ban. He then moved towards sponsoring the illegal flow of books from outside Lithuania. The period from Valančius death in 1875 to 1883 saw the establishment of the Lithuanian-language



Jurgis Bielinis, one of the most famous book-smugglers, 19th century.

newspaper *Ausra* (The Dawn), and the resistance at this time is associated with bishop Antanas Baranauskas. The resistance intensified towards the end of the 19th century, after another major newspaper, *Varpas* (The Bell), edited by Vincas Kudirka, was established in 1889. Between 1891 and 1893, 31,718 publications were confiscated and destroyed; between 1900 and 1902 this number increased to 56,182, reflecting their increased flow.

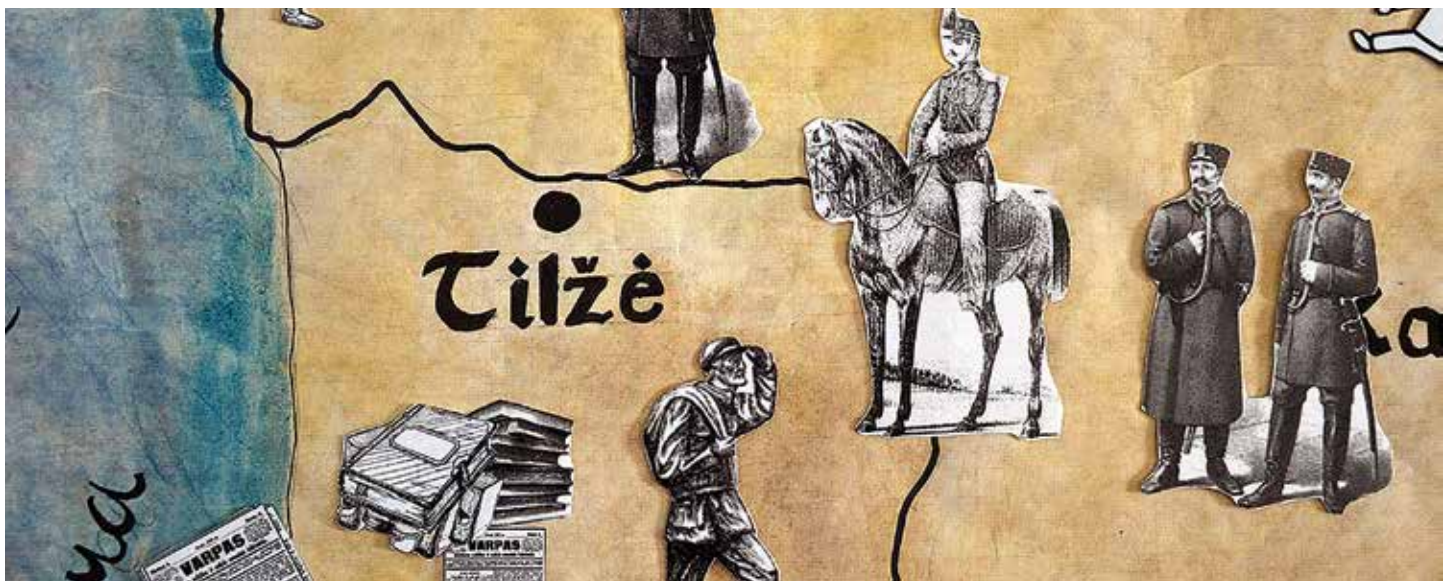
The period from 1890 to 1904 saw the publication of about 2,500 book titles in the Lithuanian Latin alphabet. The majority of these



Motiejus Valančius, one of the main supporters of the Lithuanian press during the ban.

were published in Tilsit, a city in East Prussia, although some publications reached Lithuania from the United States. A largely standardized written version of the language was achieved by the turn of the twentieth century, based on historical and Aukštaitija (highland) usages; the letters -č- and -š- were taken from Czech orthography. The widely accepted Lithuanian Grammar, by Jonas Jablonskis, appeared in 1901.

During the years of the ban, 3,047 people (829 smugglers, 859 distributors, and 1,359 persons possessing banned books) were arrested in connection with the ban.



The majority of Lithuanian books during the years of ban were published in Tilsit, a city in East Prussia, and were brought to Lithuania by book smugglers. During this period 3,047 people (829 smugglers, 859 distributors, and 1,359 persons possessing banned books) were arrested.



AFTERMATH: THE DEVELOPMENT OF LITHUANIAN NATIONALISM

The Russian Ministry of Education issued a report in May 1898 recommending that the Lithuanian press ban should be repealed. The report stated that the ban had produced adverse and unforeseen results, including the development of Lithuanian nationalism. Other Russian officials had opined that the interests of the Russian state would be better served by the presence of a legal Lithuanian press that could be censored.

After the ban was lifted in 1904, printing presses and their supporting social and cultural infrastructure needed to be established. The first issue of a Lithuanian newspaper after the ban, *Vilniaus žinios*, appeared on December 23, 1904; the Great Seimas of Vilnius, which took place in November 1905, was now able to issue its announcements and publications in Lithuanian.

The publishing houses of Martynas Kukta, Saliamonas Banaitis, and the Society of Saint Casimir in Kaunas were responsible for many of the publications issued between the end of the ban in 1904 and the restoration of Lithuanian independence in 1918. The businessman Petras Vileišis installed a printing press at his palace, commissioned in 1904. During this period 4,734 Lithuanian-language titles in the Latin alphabet were published in Lithuania and abroad. After Lithuanian independence was established, the rate of publication increased steadily; 16,721 book titles were printed from 1918 to 1939. Between 1925 and 1939 about 800 to 900 book titles were printed annually.

A standard Lithuanian orthography and grammar were established during the ban, despite the fact that the co-ordination of this process, involving competing dialects, was forced to take place in several countries. The ban is widely felt to have stimulated the Lithuanian national movement, rather than discouraging it. In 2004, the 100th anniversary of the ban's end was noted in UNESCO's events calendar. ■

LMD inf.

Photo credits: Flickr.com

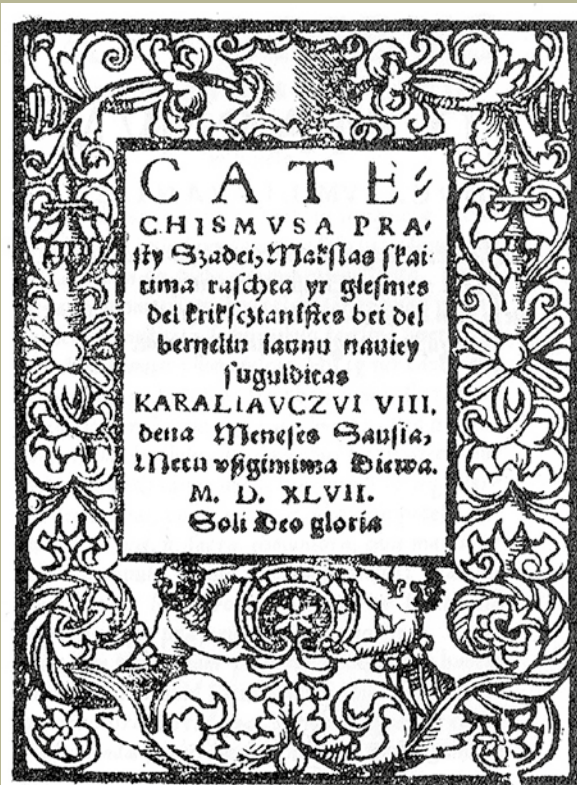
FIRST BOOKS IN LITHUANIAN

The first book published in print in the Lithuanian language was Lutheran Catechism of Martynas Mažvydas in 1547. Other milestone publications included Daniel Klein's Grammar in 1653, a publication of the Bible in 1735, and the first work of imaginative literature, Kristijonas Donelaitis' *Metai* (The Seasons), in 1818. During the years of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, which lasted from 1569 to 1781, the Polish language gained ground as the written lingua franca of greater Lithuania, although the Prussian areas of Lithuania Minor continued to issue publications in Lithuanian.

At the beginning of the 19th century, use of the Lithuanian language was largely limited to Lithuanian rural areas, apart from its use in Prussia; it was, however, retained by some members of the minor nobility,

especially in the Samogitian region. Several factors contributed to its subsequent revival: The language drew attention from scholars of the emerging science of comparative linguistics; after the abolition of serfdom in the Russian Empire in 1861, social mobility increased, and Lithuanian intellectuals arose from the ranks of the rural populace; and language became associated with identity in Lithuania, as elsewhere across Europe.

Within the Catholic Church, the barriers that had earlier prevented commoners from entering the priesthood were eased. A closer relationship developed between the educated clergy, who were increasingly of ethnic Lithuanian stock, and their parishioners, including a sympathy with their wish to use the Lithuanian language. The emerging national movement sought to distance itself from both Polish and Russian influences, and the use of the Lithuanian language was seen as an important aspect of this movement.



Title page of the first book in Lithuanian — Catechism of Martynas Mažvydas, published in 1547.



Baltic Ballista: Live-Fire Artillery Exercise in Lithuania

German, Dutch, Norwegian and U.S. forces demonstrated their firepower during the Baltic Ballista live-fire exercise at Pabradė Training Area, Lithuania in the end of April.

Artillery batteries practiced fire support coordination to be stronger together in NATO enhanced Forward Presence Battle Group Lithuania, using self-propelled Howitzers PzH2000.

U.S. Army M109A7 self-propelled Howitzers assigned to the 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, also have participated in a multinational exercise held at Pabradė Training Area. As part of the event, the soldiers conducted live-fire training and platoon certifications on Artillery Table XII.

Almost for a week the sound of the shots were heard in Vilnius and Utena counties. ■

LMD inf.

Photo credits: NATO eFP BG, Agustin Montanez, Lithuanian Armed Forces





U.S. Paladin reinforcement arrives in Lithuania

Military personnel of the 1st Battalion, 109th Field Artillery Regiment, U.S. Pennsylvania National Guard, arrived in Lithuania with their combat equipment this morning. Comprised of, among other things, an M109A6 Paladin 155mm self-propelled howitzer battery and over 100 articles of other military equipment, the unit will additionally reinforce the rotational U.S. capabilities already serving in Lithuania. The capability reached its temporary home destination at the General Silvestras Žukauskas Training Area (Švenčionys region) by rail. In May, it will join Lithuanian Armed Forces and other allied troops for an international live-fire exercise at the General Silvestras Žukauskas Training Area. ■

Lithuanian Armed Forces inf.
Photo credits: Senior Sgt Sp 1st class
Ieva Budzeikaitė





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)



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

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20%



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up to
30%

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15% *



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15% *



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Maironis Lithuanian Literature Museum 50% (and museum departments) www.mairioniomuziejus.lt



Museum of Lithuanian Education History 50% *
www.lsim.lt



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www.muziejus.lt



National museum of Lithuania * Free **
www.lnm.lt



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	Football Club "ATLANTAS" www.atlantas.lt	Free ****		Ecological Clothing Cleaning "CLEAN GREEN" www.cleangreen.lt	15%

Lithuania — the greatest mission of the former FBI agent

"ALL MY LIFE I WAS TRYING TO KEEP LITHUANIA'S HISTORY ALIVE", — SAYS LITHUANIAN AMERICAN HENRY LAZARUS GAIDIS FROM BALTIMORE. HE HAS SPENT ENTIRE PROFESSIONAL CAREER IN THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (FBI) AND FOR ALMOST 70 YEARS WAS CHASING UNIQUE MILITARY ARTEFACTS RELATED TO LITHUANIA. THROUGHOUT HIS LIFE HE ACCUMULATED A WIDE SELECTION OF WEAPONS, WAR AWARDS, DOCUMENTS, HISTORICAL COINS AND THE WHOLE COLLECTION DONATED TO LITHUANIA. IT CAN BE SEEN AT NATIONAL MUSEUM OF LITHUANIA IN VILNIUS, AND THE PERSONALITY OF THE COLLECTOR HIMSELF IS NO LESS INTERESTING.



H. Gaidis donated his collection to the National Museum of Lithuania back in 2020. The collection consists of about 8000 exhibits, they were packed in more than 60 boxes. According to the museum, the value of the collection, calculated on a preliminary basis, is at least 350 000 Euros.



HIS LITHUANIAN ROOTS ARE VERY IMPORTANT TO HIM

Gaidis was born in the USA, speaks English, but his heart beats for Lithuania.

Gaidis is a third generation Lithuanian American and all four of his grandparents were born and raised in Lithuania. Each immigrated to the U.S. in their youth during the 1900–1910 period and settled in Baltimore, Maryland. His parents were born in Baltimore as well. Like most Lithuanian immigrants who settled in Baltimore all four of his grandparents initially went to work in the garment industry, but soon established their own tavern (bar). Gaidis' parents owned their bar as well and Henry worked in my family's tavern while attending the University of Maryland.

The bar was largely in a Lithuanian American neighborhood. In Baltimore they had a Lithuanian church, Lithuanian fraternal hall, Lithuanian grocery stores, Lithuanians vendors in the local markets, Lithuanian banks, Lithuanian barbers, etc. Gaidis frequently says he did not know there were anything but Lithuanians in the world until he went to high school. As a child Gaidis reportedly spoke Lithuanian well, but over the years that skill was lost. Today, he still speak Lithuanian at probably a 5–10 old level.

Baltimore was not among the larger Lithuanian American cities, but the community at that time was surely over 10,000 Lithuanian born immigrants and their children. Its major claim to fame was its being the closest Lithuanian American Community to Washington, D.C. and very notable who came to the U.S. in the old days travelled by boat usually arriving in New York and travelled to Washington by train right



Adolph Gaidis and Pauline Radowskas wedding in the U.S.

through Baltimore. For example, famous Lithuanians like Dr. Jonas Sliupas, who received his medical degree in the city, Jonas Basanavicius, aviators Darius & Girenas, Felix Waitkus, Lithuanian Presidents like Antanas Smetona and Kazys Grinius, etc. Virtually every Lithuanian government representative who has visited Washington at some time visited Baltimore.

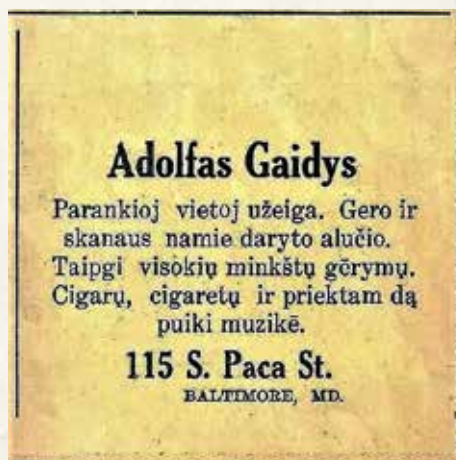
There was no Lithuanian cause that the Baltimore Lithuanians did not play a part in it. Gaidis serves as one of the three representatives of the Lithuanian American Council who sit on the Board of Directors of the Joint Baltic American National Committee (JBANC) that represent Lithuanian Americans with the incumbent Presidential administration, U.S. State Department, and three Baltic Embassies.

START OF COLLECTING MILITARY ARTIFACTS

Gaidis started collecting coins as a small child given to him by his parents and grandparents.



Baltimore Lithuanian Hall 1921 Opening Day Program Cover.



He was only about 5 years old when the American veterans were returning home from WWII. Virtually ever veterans brought WWII artifacts home and by the time he was starting grades school at St. Alphonsus, with Lithuanian Catholic Priests and Nuns teachers from the Order of St. Casimir, most of his parents' customers were Lithuanian American veterans.

At the same time, the Lithuanians Displace Persons (DPs) began being resettled in the U.S.



Grandfather Adolphas Gaidis, wearing uniform of the Lithuanian St. George the Warrior Society.



Henry with mother Anna, his father Henry V. Gaidis, and stepfather Stanley Prymas working behind their bars.

and somewhere around 800–1000 Lithuanian families settled in Baltimore. A good number of these DPs had also served in military service during WWII. Movies, radio, and soon television were always producing shows related to the military. Gaidis suspects to this day that male children are born with a love for the military. Somewhere out of this mix, Gaidis' coin collecting shifted to military artifacts — pins, badges, decorations, and eventually guns, swords, uniforms. At first, he had a great interest in American Civil War items, but since his relatives and friends/bar customers had served in WWI, WWII, and Korea he began collecting from all periods.

Until he started high school all of his friends

were Lithuanians. He jokes about being surprised only then learning not all people were Lithuanians. He was also shocked to learn most of them had never heard of Lithuania. This shock has continued throughout his life and was further expanded when he realized that even a great deal of Lithuanian Americans had no knowledge of their heritage and history. Once again, some type of evolution took place, and Gaidis collecting interest began a conversion to anything related to the Lithuanian military. Since there was very little information about the topic, Gaidis constantly did research to find information about Lithuania, Lithuanian material, and definitely anything to do with the Lithuanian mili-

tary and their artifacts. He eventually discovered Karys magazine that was being published in the U.S. in exile, found bar customers who had served in the Lithuanian military, and even started corresponding with some Lithuanian historical notables. Surprising a good number of them for whatever reasons took pity of this dumb Lithuanian American kid, as Gaidis says now, and befriended him. Among them were Peter and Constantine Jurgela (Lithuanian scout founders), Commander Povilas Labanauskas, etc.

As Gaidis' collection grew, he eventually began display it and during the Cold War era, he used this collection to keep the love of Lithuania alive in the hearts of Lithuanian Americans during the Soviet occupation years. He displayed his collection from the Washington, D. C. area to Boston and New York to Chicago. At places like the Balzekas Museum, the Lithuanian Research and Studies Center, Sauliu and Lithuanian Scout Jamborees and Conventions, etc. What was kind of unique about the Gaidis collection is he did not totally fixate on guns, sword, etc., but concentrated on telling the history of Lithuania. Kind of a Gaidis mini travelling Vytautas the Great Museum that gave a visual presentation of Lithuanian history through artifacts. Displays became a quest to keep Lithuania alive in the hearts and minds of Lithuanian Americans during the Soviet occupation years.

GAIDIS COLLECTION IS COMPOSED OF LITHUANIAN MILITARY RELICS

The word Artifact is totally correct and accurate, but Gaidis thinks it is a cold word and does not give the credit to define each and every one of the items in his collection. He believes the word Relic is more appropriate in every sense



Henry's tavern building, 401 South Fremont Avenue, photographed in 2011. In the beginning of the XX century it was a popular place of Lithuanian community in Baltimore.

the Catholic Church uses it for Saintly Relics. The church holds that relics are the remains or items owned or touched by a Saint. Gaidis holds that each and every one of the items in his collection was held, used, worn, etc., by a Lithuanian warriors struggling to establish, save, or restore the nation. Saint is a word denoting an individual is surely in heaven. All the others who have lived and died hold the same status. Most of those who owned, used, etc., the relics in his collection are gone. He holds that if they lived and died for their country, God would have accepted them into heaven. Yes, it is Viking Valhalla type thinking, but can anyone say that a Lithuanian warrior that served in such a capacity would be rejected by a Merciful God? He doubts it. Therefore, Gaidis prefers the word Relics.

Gaidis started collecting as a kid probably about 5 or so years old. He says collecting is or frequently becomes something akin to an addiction, which is virtually impossible to explain to a non-collector, but each collector knows what it is: The more you acquire, the more you want. So Gaidis, who is now 81 years old, has been collecting from about 1950 to the present. The world might now have a cure for the Coronavirus, but Gaidis knows there is no cure for the collecting disease and still does it.

WEAPONS THAT TRAVELLED AROUND THE WORLD

Gaidis purchased items for his collection on the collector market, traded earlier acquired American militaria for Lithuanian, some were gifts from veterans, some from widows after their spouses pasted on.

Lot of the guns, pistols and rifles, and swords were purchased on the American Collector market. The strange part is most of his acquired Lithuanian contract weapons, made in Belgian, Germany, Czechoslovakia, etc., were captured by American forces during the Korean war. These weapons were initially captured by the Russians from the Lithuanians or Germans during or at the end of WWII along with those of other nations. As the Russians updated their weapons after WWII these weapons were passed along to the Chinese Communist and used by them. The weapons then were passed along to the North Koreans and captured by American forces fighting in Korea and brought home and sold as war surplus. Basically, weapons bearing Pillar of Gediminas markings, but only a hand full of American knew what a Lithuanian weapon or the Pillars of Gediminas was? In these days America's anti-firearm laws were not as stringent as they are today. As a result, Gaidis was able to purchase these Lithuanian firearms, which are donated for Lithuania now, in the \$25 range

"UNBOXING!": GAIDIS COLLECTION IN VILNIUS



The most valuable part of the collection, which weighs almost a ton, is military-themed: Among the exhibits there is the flag of the only Lithuanian interwar warship President Smetona, as well as extremely rare special-made weapons for the interwar Lithuanian army with engraved Gediminas pillars and Lithuanian Arms Fund insignia. No less important is the numismatic part of the collection, archival and written sources, rich iconographic material.

Some of the artifacts returned to Lithuania after traveling around the world. For example, Lithuanian army's weapons after the occupation of the country were nationalized by the Soviets and entered America even from the Korean War. H. Gaidis managed to preserve a very important part of Lithuanian history, and the value of the collection is increased by the fact that it is not silent — the history of some exhibits is known, as well as whom they belonged.

Gaidis Collection reached National Museum of Lithuania back in 2020. About 8000 exhibits were packed in more than 60 boxes. Its acceptance and description procedures alone took more than a year. Although more detailed research of the collection has not begun yet, it is already clear that a significant of the unique material is huge. The value of the collection, calculated on a preliminary basis, is more than 350 000 Euros.

The size of the collection also determined the experimental format of the exhibition: Most of the artifacts were displayed at the opening, so that the visitor could make his own discoveries in the stylized environment of the museum repositories. Meanwhile, researchers who are committed to an unusual experiment will work in the researcher's office next door for the first three months of the exhibition. The visitors with their help will be able to observe the process in the archives and repositories of the museum, also follow how researchers reveal the content of the collection donated to the museum, and the most interesting their discoveries will become a part of the exhibition later. In this way it will be given a broader context for the exhibits of Gaidis Collection.

Visitors who have purchased a ticket to the exhibition will be able to return to it several times and thus witness the collection research process.

The exhibition "Unboxing!" of Gaidis Collection was opened on March 30 in the New Arsenal of Lithuanian National Museum and will run until January 29, 2023.

Lithuanian National Museum inf. and photos



National Museum — Gaidis Exhibition Opening photographs.

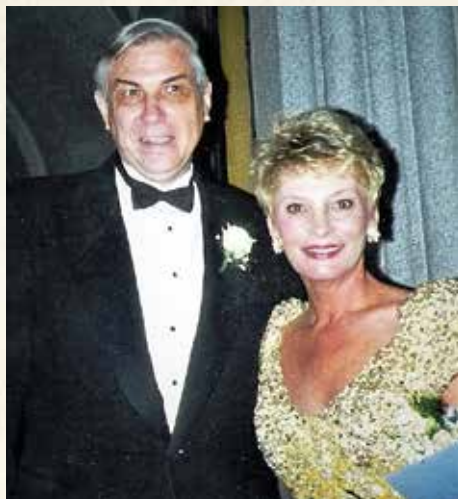
as a kid from spending money given to him by his parents. Today, these Lithuanian pistols sell in the \$3,500 — 5,000 range and Lithuanian marked Mauser rifles in the \$2,500 — 3,500 range. Interesting Lithuanian marked rifles are even rarer, but the pistols more desirable to American collectors. Gaidis likes to say with his returning of these weapons to Lithuania they are the "Weapons that travelled around the World".

SPECIAL STORY OF THE IMPERIAL PRUSSIAN CAVALRY SABER

An American Civil War Cavalry Saber, that Henry's father gave him in his tavern was one of earliest Gaidis' acquired weapons. When talking about his mother, Gaidis could not estimate how much money she gave him as a kid to assemble his collection. Similarly, his sainted wife put up with his collecting and wasting of family money, as Gaidis says, for just two months short of 50 years of their shared lives. Sure she complained about his spending, but it was just loving spouse's ranting. Then he recalled a story that he will carry with him to the grave.

There was Imperial Prussian Cavalry Saber that was approved by Kaiser Wheilm I for the 1st Prussian Lithuanian Uhlan Regiment garrisoned in Tils. The Kaiser himself presented the first of these sabers to the officers of the regiment that was composed largely of ethnic Lithuanians. Thereafter such swords were only authorized for wearing by officers of this one regiment.

One of these rare sabers came up on an eBay auction about ten or more years ago. It was something that Gaidis needed to have to feed his collecting addiction, as he jokes now. If one knows anything about eBay, the bidding is cut off at a fixed set time. In many hard pressed bidding the winning bid is made within fractions of seconds. In this case, Gaidis placed his last



Henry with his belloved wife Terry, who always strongly supported his passion of collecting.

bid that was winning with 5 seconds left. While watching count down in his computer's monitor, he saw his winning bid surpassed by a higher bid. His dream of owning one of these treasured sabers crashed with that bid and Gaidis was surely in a state of depression. He only knew two others surviving specimens in the world and the rare opportunity was lost before his eyes in seconds. Yes, tears rolled down his cheeks and he remembered his wife always had told him he was too cheap in his bidding. In this case, Gaidis had bid what he thought was an overly excessive amount to no avail. As he recalls now that bid was \$3,500 which was a very large amount of money in those days.

When eBay bidding was closed, he again looked at his computer and noticed that the \$3,600 bid that has passed him had also been passed by still another \$100 higher bid. While telling his wife this terrible story, a close friend called him. He answered the call with his wife standing next to him. The friend than told him to

tell Terry, his sainted wife, and explained that the bid she had asked him to place for her won the historic saber!!! Henry says that his eyes are full of tears every time when he tells this story and now this special saber can be seen in the donated Gaidis Collection, displayed in Lithuanian National Musuem now.

QUESTION OF GAIDIS FIVE MOST INTERESTING EXHIBITS

The standard answer of Gaidis to this question is the recounting of an old story about the women who had to choose which of her two children she would save, and he quickly replies back, who can make such a decision? In addition, he thinks that such a question is very subjective and his answer surely differs each time the question is asked. For example, his donated Labanauskas' collection included the Smetona Ship Naval Flag and a lot of his other personal affects — parts of his uniform, medals, photos, documents etc., so five items could be easily selected from this one grouping.

Gaidis then notes that he has similar groupings of other Lithuanian historical notables and it is very hard to rank one hero over another. As well as to pick between historic relics that tell a piece of history, for example, things like the French Napoleonic document creating the Lithuanian military units in 1812, Napoleonic Tiskevicius Saber, medals and decorations owned by Labanauskas, Prancevicius, Alisauskis, Vitkauskas, etc., who all fought to establish Lithuania as an independent state or free it from Russian or German occupation. Also Lithuanian contracted and made weapons bearing a Vytis, Pillar of Gediminas, etc., insignias that clearly linked them to Lithuanian history. Although carried by unknown individuals many of Gaidis donated items were recovered from places like Zal-



Visitors who have purchased a ticket to the Gaidis exibition will be able to return to it several times and thus witness the collection research process.



giris, a sword of the type carried by Kosciusko, a one of a kind Lithuanian medals, his father's own USAF WWII decorations, etc.

Gaidis Collection also includes material from the Grand Duke Vytautas the Great era to the current time.

While displaying his relics, Gaidis never ceased to be amazed by the interest between men and women. Frequently, he showed his collection to people in a rectangular room with a main entry in the middle. He tended to set up his display with Lithuanian coins and currency on one side and military swords, guns, decorations, etc., on the other. He also tried to have a centre table he could watch his material and be available to answer questions (although Gaidis tried to label material there were always questions to be answered). The point that Gaidis trying to make is when watching couple enter the display area, the same thing virtually happens every time: The women turn to the side with the money display and the male – to the side with the militaria. Gaidis suspects this is a clear example of the famous Venus-Mars difference.

WHAT ELSE SPARKS GAIDIS' INTEREST?

Gaidis notes that he is still collecting and even brought a few additional relics to add to his already donated collection during his latest trip to Vilnius. The most significant is a U.S. Army, Baltic Labor Service, Lithuanian Company, Berlin Air Lift Honor Badge. Gaidis advised that he doubted if one in a couple thousand Lithuanians even knew anything about this unit. It was a U.S. Army auxiliary unit formed in the U.S. German occupied zone during WWII. That unit served in the U.S. Army from 1948 until its last formation was disbanded in 1991 with the reestablishment of the Restored Republic of Lithuania. This unit was formed by the U.S. Army from Lithuanian volunteers recruited from the Displaced Persons Camps. Gaidis wrote an article about history of this unit in a three part Bridge's Magazine article a couple years back. He also donated four uniforms from this formation and a number of their other relics that are part of his collection, which can be seen in Vilnius now.

U.S. Army, Baltic Labor Service units served

largely in security and ordnance capacities that included the loading of U.S. Air Force planes that provided vital supplies to the Russian surrounded Germans in Berlin during over a year long 1948 Soviet blockade of the city.

Another virtually unknown Lithuanian military story is about Lithuanians who helped to save the Germans living in Berlin during the post war period. Each and every one of these men surely saved hundreds of Germans during the total occupation of the city by the Russians. Gaidis has known about this badge for decades and looking for one surely for 50 years. He just stumbles across one for sale at the American Military Show. The seller knew it was a rare U.S. Army badge, but nothing about its Lithuanian history. Gaidis paid \$550 for this badge which is dirt cheap. Probably no more than 200–250 of these badges were awarded and Gaidis acquired bade Number 62. It is a little badge that tells a great Lithuanian story that few know and it will be soon displayed at the National Museum in Vilnius.



H. Gaidis managed to preserve a very important part of Lithuanian history. For example a few Lithuanian army's weapons after the occupation of the country were nationalized by the Soviets, later brought to the U.S. after the Korean War and now are returned to Lithuania.

GAIDIS MILITARY SERVICE

After graduation from college, Gaidis joined the U.S. Air Force and served for four years as a Lieutenant in an Air Police Squadron based in France (NATO) 1962–1965. The Air Police is not only a law enforcement unit, but the infantry arm of the Air Force. For three to four years in the military, Gaidis was involved in the law enforcement activities as well as military base security matters.

From 1963 to 1965, Gaidis was assigned to 15th USAF, 66th Tactical Reconnaissance Wing, Laon Air Force Base, France. At that time France was involved into semi-mutiny or insurrection over Algeria. France wanted to grant Algeria full independence and the French Algerians did not want to be separated and started military attacks and bomb civilians like happened in Vietnam and Afghanistan. Several American military bases were attacked for weapons. Luckily Gaidis' base was never attacked and he likes to think that it was because their security was so strong. Maybe it is wishfully thinking, but other bases were attacked.

During his military service, Gaidis was involved in two significant incidents. While he was attending USAF Officers' Training in Texas in 1962, those in training were totally cut off from the outside world. During those three month the world went through the Cuban missile crisis. At that time, the Russians were trying to put nuclear weapons into Cuba and the United States under President Kennedy was prepared to engage in a world war to prevent it. Although Gaidis training facility would have been a major target, he never learned about it until the program ended and the crisis was already over.

Another interesting episode occurred in 1963,



USAF 1st Lieutenant Henry L. Gaidis, 66th Air Police Squadron, Laon AFB, France

while he was assigned in France. Henry says that everyone virtually lives in a self-contained community in a military base overseas. There are movie theatres, housing, stores, etc., just everything you need is on the base, but people cannot go outside the base for outside activities.

One night, when Gaidis was leaving the base theatre the Full Alert warnings alarms were sounded indicating that the base might be coming under an attack. Hearing those sirens everybody responds to their duty stations, so Gaidis went to his security duty station and upon arrival was informed that the President of the United States was just assassinated. Gaidis' base in France was basically cut off from any additional



information. His base as well as all the bases in Europe went into an immediate alert attack status. In U.S. aviation base it meant that aircrafts remained on the ground, but pilots seated in engine running plains for immediate take off. Gaidis tells, that similar actions were taken on air bases all over Europe and everybody was ready for a nuclear war, because soldiers and pilots had no information why the President was killed or what happen until later. Only later they learned information that Russians immediately grounded their air force upon getting news about the assignation of the president of the United States, because they were worried, if one Russian aircraft even by mistake crossed a board, the U.S. could have gone to war that night. About twenty four very tense hours went by before Gaidis learned that the assassination was done by one mentally disturbed person from Texas.

CAREER OF AN FBI AGENT

During the 1940 and 1950 era, U.S. evening radio was glutted with police, detective, etc, and such broadcasts surely contributed to Gaidis' interest in law enforcement. Knowing that he was going to separate from the USAF, Gaidis began looking for another position and applied with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) the primary American law enforcement organization. J. Edgar Hoover was then the Director of the FBI and Gaidis six months later received an appointment to the FBI Academy. After graduating from the academy in 1966, Gaidis was assigned to the Detroit, Michigan field office for year, which was followed by a ten year assignment to the San Francisco, California, field office.



Chief of Defence of Lithuania General Lieutenant Valdemaras Rupšys awarded H. Gaidis during his latest visit to Lithuania.

In 1976, Gaidis was given an office of preference assignment to the Baltimore Field Office, where he was born and raised. Gaidis then spent the rest of his career in the Silver Spring, Maryland residence field office.

The FBI field assignments generally divide along security or law enforcement duties. Although Gaidis worked in both areas over his 32 years in service, but he preferred criminal work and was largely assigned to fugitive arrest cases. United States has a federal system with the federal government and each individual state holding shared powers. The FBI is basically the federal law enforcement body which can make arrests across state lines. For example if somebody kills a man in Chicago and then come to Maryland, the police in Chicago cannot chase him to Maryland, but they can request FBI assistance. The FBI then conduct investigations to track down people who have fled across state lines. Because of the expense involved, such Unlawful Flight to Avoid Prosecution (UFAP) arrest request usually only involve major dangerous crimes such as for murders, armed robbers, assaults to commit murder, rapes, etc.

Gaidis was probably involved in three or four thousand arrests over his 1966 to 1997 career. For his first three or four San Francisco duty years, Gaidis was largely involved in the location and arrest of US Vietnamese war military deserters. After that Gaidis was assigned to UFAP arrest cases, in the late 1960s, the arrests radical organizations members advocating the violent overthrow of the United States government. One of such groups was the Weatherman that frequently detonated bombs. For example, once they detonated a bomb in the U.S. Capital Building space. William (Bill) Ayers and Bernadine Dohrn where the major leaders of Weatherman terrorists, and Gaidis chased them during the investigation of FBI. Later they surrendered and became personal friends of President Obama, nevertheless they tried to overthrow the United States government before.

Other radical fugitives that Gaidis was involved with where from the Black Panthers and Venceremos Brigade. While Gaidis was working in San Francisco area, many strange things happened. He recalls that there were many "nuts" in the city in those days. Charlie Manson was living on the streets in Haight-Ashbury during the time and Gaidis made many arrests in that area. Gaidis remembers interviewing people such as Jim Jones. He was the guy who took a religious community from San Francisco and perhaps two hundred people killed themselves drinking Cool-aide because they were afraid that Jim Jones was going to be arrested and they thought of him as god.



Henry at his home office in Baltimore.

Another famous case that Gaidis worked with was Patty Hearst Kidnapping. Patricia Hearst was the granddaughter of publishing magnate William Randolph Hearst and great-granddaughter of self-made millionaire George Hearst. She was kidnapped from a Berkeley, California, apartment and became one with by the Symbionese Liberation Army (SLA), a radical organization, which members robbed banks among other things and also sought to overthrow the government. Gaidis was directly involved in this investigation. Patty participated in at least two bank robberies in San Francisco before the group was

tracked down and killed or captured. Gaidis received an FBI commendation letter for the Patty Hearst arrest. He also testified in her trial and was in the court room when the jury returned with guilty verdict.

Serving as an agent Gaidis was never involved in a TV style law enforcement shoot out, but noted that when the FBI is involved in such activities it means something went wrong. According to him, the FBI basic arrest concept is if you are arresting one guy, you go with two or four agents, and the number continues to increase with the number of people involved, because the more manpower you have, the easier it is to overcome the individual's desire to resist. Gaidis never fired a shot in the line of duty, but was directly involved in two situations when individuals were cornered, but did not want to give up and killed themselves.

Gaidis serviced with the FBI from 1966 to his retirement in 1997. Thereafter, he operated his own private detective agency for five years followed by ten contract employment as a Security Adjudicator for the U.S. Federal Energy Department. The later work involving granting or denying security clearances required for some federal civilian employees.

Throughout his life Gaidis has always tried to follow the U. S. military "For God and Country" and the FBI's — "Fidelity, Bravery, and Integrity" mottos. ■



Lithuanian traditions are still alive in Henry's family: His granddaughters wear national Lithuanian clothes during the holidays.

By Ilona Skujaitė

Photo credits: National Museum of Lithuania, personal archives of Henry Gaidis, Emilija Treinė



Photo credit: PAO of NATO eFP BG LTU