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# Some context

- Lithuania was occupied during WWII.
- There were Lithuanian collaborators involved in the Holocaust.
- Some war criminals later became part of postwar partisans.
- Some war criminals got on payrolls of Western intelligence agencies.
- Soviets leaked genuine information....and then planted false information.
- Lots of denials, lies, propaganda, false claims: parse your sources carefully.
- I recommend [Tomas Venclova's essay on this subject](#).

# Who helped the Lithuanian partisans?

- Resistance against occupation began early.
- British SIS and SOE in contact with resistance figures during 1940.
- Swedish intelligence services provided support from at least 1943.
- Several governments in exile (Norway, Denmark) provided support from at least 1943.
- Free French intelligence services provided support from 1943.
- US OSS did not appear to be in contact until 1945.

# The German role

- As Germany started to lose, attitude changes.
- Mass arrests of Lithuanians started in spring 1944.
- Calls for volunteers in Waffen SS changed into conscription.
- Germans began training Lithuanians as stay behind "radio agents."
- Prisoners offered release if they would work as "radio agents."
- SOE and SIS tasked some agents to get trained as "radio agents."

# The beginning of the Cold War, late 1944-early 1945

- SIS starts recruiting agents from among Lithuanian refugees.
- OSS, US Army Counterintelligence Corps (CIC) begin in early 1945.
- SIS and CIC used long-term Lithuanian agents and contacts for vetting.
- OSS recruited from people released from camps by US Army.

# Who was fighting the Soviets? (Miško Broliai)

- Declassified CIA report from 8 Nov 1949 gives breakdown
- 70% Lithuanians
- 12% Germans
- 10% Russians (mostly from Vlasov Army)
- Total numbers about 20000
- Organized partisan group between 3500 and 4000 strong.
- Union of Lithuanian Freedom Fighters (Lietuvos laisvės kovos sąjūdis)): LLKS.

# A bit about Lithuanian quasi-government in exile

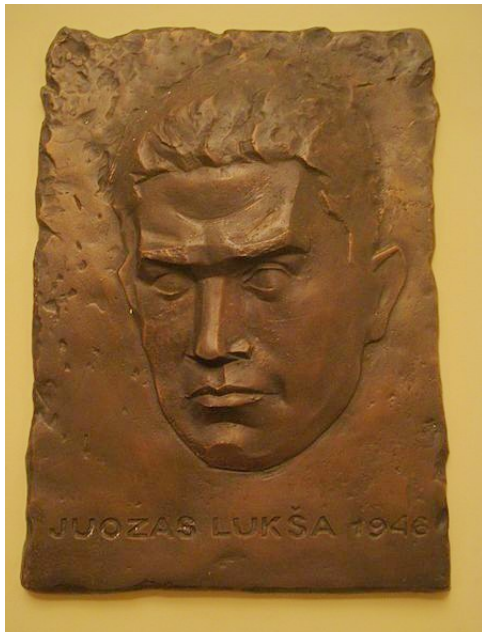
- Lithuanian diplomatic service stayed in being
- US, UK never recognized Soviet conquest of Lithuania.
- Vyriausiasis Lietuvos išlaisvinimo komitetas (VLIK): Supreme Committee for the Liberation of Lithuania.
- VLIK was the closest thing to Lithuanian government in exile, but was never formally recognized.
- Soviet intelligence services infiltrated or created rival groups.
- SIS, CIA, Swedish intelligence services, Gehlen Organization, Danish intelligence, US CIC and French intelligence all worked with VLIK and/or organized partisans.
- SIS and CIA sometimes worked jointly.

- Imprisoned by Soviets in 1940.
- Released by Germans in 1941.
- Part of underground during German occupation.
- After 2nd. Soviet invasion, joined armed partisans.
- Made it to the West in 1947.
- Worked with France, [Sweden](#), and [CIA](#).
- Toured Lithuanian diaspora.
- Wrote book about experiences.
- One of the more prominent partisan leaders.
- CIA infiltrated him back in 1950.
- Betrayed and died in 1951.



- Daumantas.
- Skirmantas.
- Skrajunas.
- Adomaitis.

# Relief of Jozas Lukša



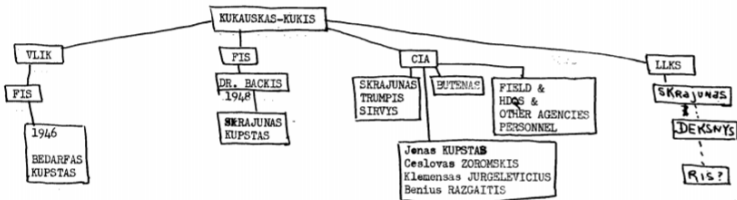
# Cryptography in Lithuania during interwar independent period

- Very little on subject in Lithuanian before 1990s.
- UK and Sweden cooperated with Estonia and Latvia on SIGINT during the 1920s and 1930s...not Lithuania.

# Training for Lithuanian partisans

- CIA and Swedish intelligence provided cryptographic training to partisans.
- SIS, CIA, French and Swedish services provided radio training.
- Wartime training in cryptography and radio use from Germans.
- Some partisans worked for multiple services.

# Declassified CIA info on partisan links to Western Intelligence



- Declassified CIA reports say that Swedish cryptanalysts provided cryptographic methods used by partisans.
- Method outlined is a book cipher.
- CIA also provided one-time pads.
- I have an FOIA request in to CIA for more info.
- CIA facilitated material getting from Sweden.

## Other COMSEC measures.

- Tight control on access to cipher.
- Use of dead drops.
- Messages relayed by courier.
- Mail drops.
- Close awareness of Soviet radio monitoring.

# Problems

- Radio monitoring.
- Tight control of amateur radio.
- Soviet infiltration of German training.
- Soviet infiltration of partisans.
- False flag groups.
- Radio games.
- Poor security practices in diaspora.
- Soviet infiltration of the West.
- Security mistakes by partisans.



# A classic security mistake



**Colin Percival**

@cperciva



I sent a GPG-encrypted email to a company security contact. They replied, quoting the entire text of the report, in plaintext. :-(

6:22 AM · Sep 22, 2017 · [Twitter Web Client](#)

# The End

- Partisans mostly defeated by 1952.
- Western intelligence cut support.
- Western efforts muddled, sometimes at cross purposes.
- Counterproductive partisan actions.
- After Stalin's death, Soviet rules less onerous.
- CIA planned ops in 1955, but they appear to have not gone forward.
- Soviets made major propaganda out of partisan failure.
- Latvian language films made in 1967 and 1988.

?

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Colin Percival

*Twitter comment on gpg insecurity.*

2017



Alma Pater

*A relief of Lukša at the Vilnius Academy of Arts*

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