Janina Syvokiene

Life Sacrificed for Motherland
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Reminiscences by Antanas Kraujelis's sister, relatives and friends

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This book is dedicated to my parents, who experienced harsh fate, and to my brother Antanas, who walked a difficult but honourable road of a warrior and never stopped striving for freedom.
Contents

Acknowledgements ... 9
Footprints in history ... 10
Memory of valour, determination and perseverance ... 13

Memories of the past
A patch of native land ... 17
Dad’s worries ... 17
Parfionas ... 19
The premonition ... 20
Mummy for us and partisans ... 20
The family in which I grew up ... 21
Brother, sisters – partisans’ liaisons ... 24
House raids and interrogations, the bunker ... 26
Homage and betrayal of the tricolour ... 28
Partisans leave our homestead ... 29

Along the windy paths of life
Antanas leaves home ... 39
The partisan’s supporters ... 40
Antanas’s manhunt ... 43
Vladas Petronis about Antanas ... 47
Antanas starts a family ... 48
Acting alone ... 49
The last bullet ... 52

The exile
The fateful morning ... 111
The new home ... 113
Antanas’s letters ... 115
Interrogations of the family members ... 115
Christmas in exile ... 116
The deportees’ toils ... 117
A school in the taiga ... 118
Moving to a settlement ... 119
The homeland did not welcome... 120

**Terror of the secret police**

Secret meetings ... 157
Offers for legalization ... 158
Back to Siberia...Kurundusy ... 159
The bandit’s sister – a student ... 160
The warning by the secret police ... 145
The secret police would remind of the past ... 161

**Commemoration of the partisan’s activity**

Antanas’s work evalued ... 163
The last stay in Kaniukai ... 164
Decades later ... 166
Only the hut remains ... 167

**Reminiscences by Antanas Kraujelis’s contemporaries**

Reminiscences by Antanas Kraujelis’s wife Janina Snukiskyte ... 193
The only photograph ... 200
The last Mohican of independent Lithuania ... 206
Petras Laguckas, a former KGB employee, reminisces ... 209
Sources and literature ... 221

**Additions**

Literature about the last partisan of Vytautas’s division,

Antanas Kraujelis – Siaubunas ... 224
Surname index ... 238
Copies of more interesting documents, found in Antanas Kraujelis’s
and Janina Snukiskyte’s files ... 244
A list of photo contributors:

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If anyone has more information about partisan Antanas Kraujelis-Siaubunas, knows the place of his burial or would like to offer comments related to the events described in the book, please contact the author at the following address: Architektu St. 25–57, Vilnius LT-04105, tel. (8 5) 240 1774.
Footprints in history
DALIA KUODYTE

Reading Janina Syvokiene’s book, you cannot help but think that talking about something lasting, about genuine values and, finally, about heroism of a particular period is only possible like this, using simple, unaffected words. Words like coarse rye bread, that, washed down with spring water, nourish the soul in this age of cynicism and pragmatism.

What ever is this book about? Certainly, about Antanas Kraujelis, partisan Siaubunas, who remained a citizen of independent Lithuania for 17 years (until 1965) in Soviet Lithuania, where conformity was the norm... And not just about him. It is a book, where the history of one family reflects the history of the whole of post-war Lithuania. What hasn’t happened here? Deportations, losses, pain, suffering, immense longing, betrayals, small joys...

There may be those to remark offhandedly, – the same old thing again, it has been known for ages, it is no longer interesting, enough about that... However, life itself shows that it is not enough! It is necessary to talk, to tell about the experience of the occupation period. It is also necessary to read about it, to delve deeper into that time, to understand its people, and, hopefully, to identify with them... And let these stories no longer shock – they only invite contemplation on the cost of freedom, its value, everyone’s duty and responsibility. It is not easy – not even to consider it – but there is no other choice if we do not wish to remain slaves or spiritual paupers.

If we say of Antanas Kraujelis-Siaubunas that he remained faithful to his oath until the end, – almost everything will be said. A farmer’s son, not a soldier, he swore an oath of allegiance to the Republic of Lithuania and its ideals in 1948, already after a few years of occupation had passed and the bells of hope for freedom had ceased tolling. Antanas Kraujelis-Siaubunas’s sister Janina reveals in her book the essential events of his life until his very death. Only Lord knows what it meant to fulfill the oath – 17 years of living illegally, constantly feeling the kiss of death breathing down his neck, hun-
ger cold... And day after day like that... There was also infinite light in this life: love, the birth of his son (closely resembling the father), humane kindness, sympathy and support. And when the time came, he left for the eternity with dignity, the only way he could and knew.

It is true that the independent, restored, dreamt of and suffered for Lithuania has not forgotten Siaubunas and his comrades. Dozens, including partisan Siaubunas, have been awarded the highest state awards, granted the honoured status of a volunteer fighter; the movement for Lithuania’s independence, its political documents, released books, albums, exhibitions organized no longer just in Lithuania have been made accessible... Everything has settled down – they will never be forgotten. Another question is how we will remember them: only ‘officially’ or, after all, realize what their values were, the meaning of their existence on this earth, their footprints left in our history.

Vytautas’s Partisan Division, to which Antanas Kraujelis also belonged, was being formed already in 1944. As in the rest of Lithuania, large groups were being formed here which would then fight openly with the army as well as carry out audacious feats such as in August 1944. That’s when Antanas Streikus, a volunteer fighter for Independence and a cavalier of Vytais’s cross, together with his two sons Izidorius and Juozas and a group of 300 men attacked the prison of Antazave in the Zarasai district and tried to free ten political prisoners who were detained there. Examples like that can also be found in the Svencioniai (the battle of Kauneliskis), Utena districts where the Tiger unit was founded, which happened to be the beginning of the formation of Vytautas’s Division. The Hawk unit (a part of the Zarasai and Svencioniai divisions) as well as Sarunas’s unit (a part of the Utena district) were in the process of being formed already in the spring of 1945.

As early as August 1945 a division was formed from the units mentioned above, which was named Vytautas’s Third Division of the independence army of Lithuania following the traditions of the independence army of Lithuania. Subsequently, units and the radius of their activities were outlined: the Tiger unit was based in the Svencioniai district, Sarunas’s unit – in the Utena
district and the Saldutiskiai settlement of the Svencioniai district, the Bear unit – in the Zarasai district and the Svyriai district of Belarus. Lieutenant Jonas Kimstas-Zalgiris of the army of Lithuania became the Chief of the Division. The chief and his headquarters were faced with a difficult task co-ordinating unit activities, re-establishing subdivisions which had been destroyed, securing connections with other divisions and unit headquarters which were being formed.

Throughout its existence Vytautas’s Division did not manage to avoid MGB-KGB attacks (provocations by Markulis), highs and lows, internal disagreements among the leaders as well as restructuring. However, it managed to retain its fighting spirit, – already in 1948–1949 it didn’t shy away from active operations, such as fighting with the army, organizing attacks against Soviet establishments and their collaborators. The Division headquarters were chanelling a lot of effort into the area of publishing, – newspapers, propaganda leaflets and other publications were constantly being released.

In 1950 partisan numbers significantly decreased – only a few dozens of fighters were active in each division. After the MGB recruited their striking forces, by 1953 only the remnants of 6 groups were left – about 20 fighters in total. From 1954 Siaubunas acted alone and achieved a moral victory – he remained undefeated and unbowed like Lithuania itself...
Memory of valour, determination and perseverance
Prof. dr habil. ANTANAS TYLA

From 1918 to 1940 Lithuania and its people experienced creative renaissance. They had to build what couldn’t be accomplished throughout the oppression by the Russian Empire, which lasted longer than a hundred years. They had to defend themselves from aggressive neighbours, undergo and survive massive territorial and ethnic losses, build new government structures, the Lithuanian education and communication systems, the Lithuanian army, public organizations, improve agriculture and develop trade. Following European values and overcoming or bypassing difficulties, Lithuania was changing as it was relinquishing traces of oppression. The Lithuanian citizen grew illuminated by the aura of the creation of the State, educated to his or her ability, loving the Motherland, her freedom and striving for her well-being and progress.

Lithuania and its people realized what personalities were cultivated by the Lithuanian school, the army, the Lithuanian Riflemen’s Union and other public organizations or simply a patriotic spirit only after independence was lost and the oppression by the Soviet communist imperial occupation began, especially for the second time, which started in the summer of 1944. Lithuanian partisans’ fight against communists was their political determination not only to resist the occupation, strive for Lithuania’s independence, but also to retain personal freedom from occupants’ coercion. This resistance will still be remembered, talked about and written of for a long time. The brave ones, who won against the enemy, will continue to be honoured as the occupants are no longer here, and the Freedom fighters are respected amongst us and their names are carved in granite. The Soviet occupants, driven by fear and terrible hatred, treated the fighters for our freedom atrociously. They were scared even of the dead or killed partisan’s, they interred them secretly in the backcountry, in remote places, such as Tuskulėnai in Vilnius. How
many of those unknown remains, are still waiting for proper burial? In the years of independence many of them have been found and solemnly reburied, headstones have been erected for them, cenotaphs with the partisans’ names inscribed have been opened in Rasu cemetery in Vilnius.

In this book the legendary partisan Antanas Kraujelis’s sister scientist Janina Syvokiene tells us about his childhood and youth, his growing will to fight, to resist occupation and cherish hope for attaining freedom for Lithuania during the years of struggle for independence. Antanas Kraujelis was focused on his goal throughout the 17 years of fighting until his tragic death on the 17th of March, 1965 in a homestead of Papiskiai village. Only his sister could know and understand him best. She writes about one of twenty thousand Lithuania’s partisans who had fought and perished, reveals Antanas Kraujelis’s motives for determination and courage.

The author narrates not only about her brother Antanas, but also about the whole Kraujelai family, persecuted by occupants but surviving their deportation to Siberia, constant rampages of the NKVDists and cops, house raids, about persecutions of the family members returning from exile, interference settling. It is simply hard to imagine the occupants’ ferocity. How many more family histories like this will remain unknown? In addition, this book also features the author’s, who is a noted biology scientist, pathway to science, marked by perseverance.

The book deals with genuine human values. They are eternal but need to be constantly revived in our memories and passed on to future generations.
...all your might you sacrificed to freedom,
but the free land you never lived to see...

(from a Lithuanian partisans’ song)
Memories of the past...

A patch of native land

The strongest memories are those of childhood. They haven’t faded from my memory. That patch of land where I was born, walked my first steps, the fields, the trees, the shrubs, the well, the house, the barn, where a lot of time was spent jumping around on redolent hay, the wood, all of this is Kaniukai (the Moletai district), native Lithuania. I feel like returning here, standing still, daydreaming, remembering... The most beautiful dream of childhood was interrupted by occupants. In exile, far away from Kaniukai, I always associated my motherland with the word Lithuania.

Here are the graves of old ones, mothers and fathers,
The spirit of ancestors here awaits for us all.
Return, oh let us return dear fellow compatriots,
For the native sky is the Eternal Light.

Julius Jurevicius

Dad’s worries

I could completely understand my dad, who lived with me in Vilnius but was always raring to go to Kaniukai. He would get ready beforehand, spruced up in a nice shirt, a tie and a better suit. He would say that he has a lot to attend to there.

But that ‘lot’ were memories from the past, which would surge while looking at the fields where so much work was done, at the meadows and leas. Dad was grateful to people who did not irrigate and destroy his and Antaniukas’s (this is how mum and dad called Antanas) planted garden. With his eyes he would fondle the apple trees, which were plentiful in Kaniukai. While he was living in Vilnius, he would often say:
‘If you can’t give me a ride, I will walk – I know my way to Kaniukai.’

He didn’t have to walk, we used to take him. In the car he would sit quietly, thinking something. After turning off the main road to Skudutiskis, he would come to life, his eyes would brighten up, he would start looking around and telling us who used to live where. As we got to the Kurminai Estate, he would already feel at home. Dad was always immensely happy to meet his acquaintances, relatives, few of whom were still alive. Then he used to start sharing his thoughts and worries with them, and it seemed as if he had never left. He loved his native countryside and its people, cared for what happened to them. Every time dad was delighted by fine spring crops and felt sad if the summer happened to be rainy as the potato harvest would be poor.

Dad was kind-hearted, very patient and a good listener. Right until the very last moment of his life he wistfully remembered his life in Kaniukai and hoped to find out where the body of his son is resting... Dad often wanted to visit his cousin Steponas Valys. He felt drawn to go there.

Every year he used to get ready to go to the Skudutiskis wake of the Holy Trinity. He enjoyed meeting his friends and acquaintances and tell them how he was getting along. Relatively a short while ago, on the 4th of August 1999 on his visit to the Skudutiskis parish church (that was his last visit) he was reminiscing that in 1939, as the church was getting restored, he delivered the logs himself.

His father Antanas Kraujelis, who died tragically, and his mother’s brother Jokubas Valys are buried in the churchyard.

All his life dad conscientiously fulfilled the duties assigned to him. Even in deportation his photo was on public honorary display at the factory. Already after his return from exile an article was published about him as a reputable and dutiful employee in the newspaper ‘The Evening News’.

Dad always managed to maintain his equanimity. Even on the dreadful day of deportation (the 20th of September 1951) he appeared to me calm as a child, although a little distraught. He was running to the cowshed, then back to the house, from the house to the barn and back again. Little time was given, everything had to be considered in a hurry.
Parfionas

Dad always tried to keep out of politics. He had a mild temper. He was reserved and reticent with Russian collaborators and the secret police, all his life he was wrapped up in the matters concerning farming. Every grain of native soil was precious to him, he was always occupied with farming jobs. Dad was a craftsman of yokes to harness horses. He used to make and sell them in the market and come back home with ‘bagels’.

I remember an event dad talked about before his death. After our land was occupied, Parfionas Kolpakovas was appointed as the representative of the Kaniukai district. He wasn’t liked around there. On one occasion dad had to give him a ride to the Alanta substation and had a chance to talk to him. Dad asked Parfionas to treat people decently and give up his gun but he took no notice of that.

On one occasion some partisans were notified that Parfionas was planning to transport some beetroot. They hid in a vacant house and waited for him to go past. As the cart with Parfionas and his wife sitting on the beetroots was passing by, a series of shots was heard from the house. The wife was shot on the spot but Parfionas attempted to retaliate. Then the door of the house opened and a series of shots was fired from an automatic rifle. Parfionas died instantly. The partisans took his rifle and hid in the forest.

The NKVD (the USSR People’s Commissariat of the Internal Affairs) soon found out about this event and in a few hours an army unit was sent to Kaniukai.

At the time when Soviet soldiers appeared in the village my mum was on her way to move the cows, which were feeding in granny Natalija’s (father’s mother) pasture. A Russian soldier ran up to mum and slapped her in the face so hard that she fell down covered in blood.

Shortly afterwards some locals saw the Pakeniai’s house in flames, which Russians set on fire out of vindictiveness.
The Premonition

During the last winter of his life (the year 2000) dad found that his legs were getting weaker, he had sore eyes, pangs in his heart were getting more frequent. But he was incredibly patient, he didn’t care for visits to the doctors or taking medicine. He would say: ’It’s nothing, it will pass!’

He didn’t want to bother or worry anybody.

A few days before his death a nurse came round to the house every day. And here he is, showing a picture on the wall to her and saying: “This is my wife. She is so pretty! I couldn’t find anybody like her neither in Suginciai nor Skudutiskis... only in Alanta. So pretty... And what a voice! See, for 13 years she was singing in the Alanta parish church. And my son...’ – he is pointing to a portrait on the wall. – ‘He was the strongest one in Kaniukai. He could throw a tree into a cart by himself’, – and he gets tearful.

It was rare for him to get emotional... Dad was reserved and he retained this trait until the last moment of his life.

Mummy for us and partisans

Mum was in charge of running the household. Dad used to bring his wages to her. She didn’t go out to work as she was raising the children, and there were many of them – ten, later only six of us were left. Mum took care of the home and was always busy with housework.

Having to deal with Russian collaborators and the secret police she used to get vicious answering them back. Mum would fight for every bite of food as the Russian collaborators were primarily interested in how to pinch some bard or some sausage. They wouldn’t leave anything even though the house was full of children. They used to take it all. Eventually, however, mum learnt how to hide some food from the uninvited guests and even managed to store some supplies.

She was feeding not only her own family but also the partisans who used to hide in our house or drop in for some food and clothing. Mum took care of them as if they were her own kids. Antanas Slucka-Sarunas, the chief of
Algimantas’s division, visited us with his wife on more than one occasion. Neighbours, who were trying to avoid getting deported, as well as partisans’ friends and families, persecuted by Russian collaborators, used to find refuge at our home.

Later, already far away from Lithuania, mum never gave up hope that the occupants would be forced out of Lithuania after all and we would be free again, and that Antaniukas would live to see it.

‘It can’t go on like this’, – mum used to say.

At all times, even in exile, she perceived herself to be a citizen of free Lithuania, a partisan’s mother.

Although mum did not receive proper schooling, she read newspapers, books, taught us to respect our language, she inspired love in our hearts for the Lithuanian song, for our native land. Thanks to her, even in our pre-school days we could put together words of prayer from the prayer-book and they stayed with us for the rest of our lives and calmed our hearts during the hardest years.

Mum was a fine village singer. Her songs could be heard everywhere: at church, by the cradle, at the table, at a folk dance party, in the prison huts of Siberia, at a funeral wake. Her beautiful soprano could be heard at a youth get together too. While we were living in Lithuania, mum used to take me with her when she went to the village to sing (I was 6–7 years old at that time). For the first time I heard from her lips ‘The Song of Youth’ composed by Juozas Naujelis to Maironis’s verse.

**The family in which I grew up**

My dad Steponas Kraujelis was born on the 8th of May in 1903 in Jaciai village (the Moletai district). His parents Antanas Kraujelis and Natalija Valyte had 3 children. The oldest one was Steponas. His sister Ona is two years younger than him (born in 1905) and is currently living in Florida, and his brother Pranas, who is eight years younger than Steponas (born in 1911), has already passed away in Canada.
My mum Anele Pagalyte was born on the 20th of July in 1901 in the family of Tomas Pagalys and Marijona Neciunaite in Kazlai village near Alanta (the Moletai district). There were 8 children in their family: Marijona (born around 1898), Anele (born in 1901), Stase (born in 1903), Petronele (born in 1906), Simonas (born in 1908), Povilas (born around 1909), Albina (born in 1911) and Leonora (born in 1913).

Mum’s father Tomas Pagalys was very good-looking but he loved his drink. He passed away early, and the children were left orphans. The family had only 3 hectares of land, therefore all the children had to go out to work. My mum had to work as a maid for 12 years even though her mother came from a wealthy family.

Dad told us that the Neciunai were related to bishop Kukta.

In exile, which lasted for 15 years, mum and dad often talked about their son Antanas’s path of life, reminisced about Lithuania. They felt a strong longing for their homestead and their native land. They often discussed Antanas’s and other partisans’, whom they knew, destiny and the importance of their resistance against the occupants. They remembered the people of Kaniukai village who were still happily living in their granges, raising their children, sowing and harvesting crops. But mum and dad themselves were far away from Lithuania and did not know whether they would ever return to their Motherland, get to rest in their native soil. But the will of the Almighty was fulfilled and they happily returned to their Motherland.

My parents shared a harmonious marriage which lasted 64 years.

Antanas was the second child in our family (born on the 28th of October 1928), the oldest one was Ona, Vitalija was two years younger than Antanas, followed by four younger sisters: Anele, Brone, Janina and Stefani as well as my brother Bronius, who passed away because of diphtheria before he got to the age of ten. The twins Konstancija and Alfonsas also passed away when they were 3 or 4 weeks old. Therefore Antanas was my parents’ sole support.

At home there were many mouths to feed but not many workers. The children needed to be provided for and looked after. This duty was amicably shared by the older adolescent kids. All the children of our family attended
the primary school of Kaniukai, but my parents decided to send only Antanas to study at the Alanta school. It didn’t happen straight away though, as he was expected to help dad at home when he got a bit older.

My sister Vitalija relates that Antanas was really dutiful and disciplined as well as a good student. He loved ball games, singing. Often he used to burst into song with my brother Bronius:

*When I grow up, I will be a man and befriend a steed
I will saddle him up and ride him to Vilnius
I will ride him to Vilnius to defend my dearest Motherland...*

“This was their frequently sung childhood song’, – my sister Vitalija reminisces.

Antanas was easy-going, very good with people. He used to treat his elders with respect, could find something kind to say to everybody. He couldn’t stand crooks, liars and traitors.

‘He had a very strong, simply iron will’, – that’s how remembers him Vitalija.

He used to say: ‘Every Lithuanian’s sacred duty is to fight for freedom, faith, the truth and his people. If you hesitate, you are not a man. Once you’ve chosen your path, follow it!’

After completing the 6th grade at school, in 1945 he wanted to go to Debeikiai (the Utena district) and work as a waiter in a restaurant, but the secret police did not allow him.

Following the incentive of the Soviet authorities, a club and a reading-room were started at our home. Antanas was appointed to be in charge of the reading-room. Frequent village youth gatherings, folk dance parties, singalongs were held at home, also attended by partisans.

Vitalija had already completed four classes at the elementary school with distinction and wanted to continue her studies. But she had no opportunity, – she had to help out at home. Four other sisters were growing up, and two of them had already started the elementary school.
Brother, sisters – partisans’ liaisons

As the Soviet occupants took over, people started feeling anxious about their and their children’s future. I remember how in the late autumn of 1949 or 1950 they began forcing villagers to collective farms. But nobody wanted to work there. So a meeting was called in which the villagers were shouting furiously that they wouldn’t join collective farms. Our family found themselves at a crossroad. What to do? They joined.

Representatives of the new government often used to come to our home. They carried guns, distributed leaflets indicating various obligations, summoned us to join the army.

Meanwhile some people were predicting dark times coming to Lithuania, as the country was being given away to bloody occupants without any resistance. Some were saying that America would liberate the country. Others were happy with the new rule.

The Soviets started trying to talk Antanas into joining the ranks of the people’s ‘defenders’. A little later he would have to make a decision whether to join the Soviet army. Many Lithuanian youths, hiding from the occupants’ army, disappeared in the woods, others agreed to become agents, party officials and commanders. Those who got scared went to the district, were taken to the army, later deserted and hid in the woods hoping for quick changes to happen.

By that time in the young Antanas’s heart a seed of patriotism had already begun sprouting.

Smart, able to keep his mouth shut, Antanas was soon noticed by partisans. He undertook many obligations given to him by partisans and performed various duties, transported guns and ammunition. He used to complete the tasks assigned to him independently. Antanas had a gun and was the partisans’ main liaison. Besides, my sister Ona was also a partisans’ liaison, her pseudonym was Ramunele (Camomile).

My parents were anxiously following the events. There was still some semblance of hope that the West would not leave Lithuania to the Soviet lawlessness. Partisans used to drop in to see us, Russian collaborators likewise.
Raids started at our home as some ‘do-gooders’ appeared pointing to the homestead where partisans could be found. More and more often dad would be taken away by the secret police of Moletai. He used to come back home on foot, sad and reticent.

Although dad was extremely hard-working, he didn’t work at the collective farm for meagre pay too long. He was dismissed from the collective farm because his daughter Ona was already in hiding and my brother Antanas was already seriously being ‘looked after’ by the secret police.

Very often their torches used to be shining through our windows at night, peaceful sleep would be interrupted by horrible banging on the door. The secret police were looking for bandits and demanded to be told where they were hiding. Dad used to be dragged to the barn and told to show the bunker. They would often surround our homestead and observe it from a distance.

Once Antanas and his friend Danielius Bruzas were sorting out some guns at home. My sister Vitalija noticed the chief Russian collaborator Lapatkinas entering the house. She rushed to the bedroom to tell Antanas about the ‘guests’. The men quickly hid the guns under the pillow. The collaborators were in a good mood, didn’t raid the house, only cheerily asked: ‘How are the lads doing?’

In 1948 Antanas together with Danielius Bruzas stole the decaying remains of the partisans Jonas Vyzintas-Svirplys and Bronius Steiblys-Marsas from the Skudutiskis mill right from under Russian collaborators’ noses. Our family laid them out and secretly buried them in the cemetery of Kaniukai village. It was forbidden to hold a mass for partisans, to sound church bells for their souls and, moreover, to bury them in cemeteries. If anyone did, they could find themselves in grave danger.

My sister Vitalija’s activities were also inseparable from danger and risks. She mentioned that together with a collaborator’s wife Zickiene they went to the education department of Utena where they took a table and some chairs for the library and on their way home she told Zickiene that they had to stop and visit some relatives. They stopped to see the partisans’ contact Pampuska
near Utena, had some tea and at that time the host reloaded their cart and laid a machine-gun on the bottom under some hay which they successfully delivered to the assigned place – at Pranas Jasiulionis’s, also known as Thunder, who lived in Mokyliai village (in the vicinity of Alanta).

Later guns had to be carried again. To avoid suspicion, they sat me, a six year old, on the top and transported the guns to the previously mentioned Jasiulionis.

House raids and interrogations, the bunker

Repressions in Lithuania were becoming more frequent. Antanas’s presence at home was becoming more scarce. His desire to see Lithuania independent was more important to him than his own life. He had a firm belief in free Lithuania. Antanas used to console parents saying that the occupation would come to an end, that Lithuania would be an autonomous state.

Mummy was very worried as Antanas’s activities were getting ever more dangerous.

He couldn’t stay at home any longer because a book from the reading-room, ‘After the Storm’ by Nikolaj Ostrovskij, was found in a rye field during one of the raids. Partisans read it and divided its pages with the string used for cleaning guns.

At that time my sister Vitalija was running the reading-room instead of Antanas. Therefore, as the person in charge of the reading-room, she was interrogated and beaten in her home by Lionginas Bakutis, the chief of the state secret police Moletai district branch, and Lapatkinas, a cop from Skudutiskis.

My sister Vitalija did not stay in charge of the reading-room for long as she also was a partisans’ contact Saulute (the Sun). She carried out many assignments. During one of the routine raids a book of partisans’ songs was found at home, so Vitalija and dad were taken to the Skudutiskis police station. As she was being interrogated, Vitalija said that she found the song book on her way from Skudutiskis by the warehouse where she used to slake lime.
She took it home as she was curious what was in it. The secret police didn’t believe her, of course, and continued grilling. Gediminas Ragauskas, the head of Russian collaborators, beat her, banged her head against the wall and split her lip. The secret police let her go as they couldn’t get anything out of her. At that time Vitalija wasn’t even eighteen.

Around 1947 a bunker was set up in the vegetable cellar of our homestead. It was a separate structure in the yard, approximately 30 metres away from the living quarters. Jonas Kimstas-Zalgiris, the chief of the Eastern Aukstaitija division, Henrikas Ruskulis-Liutas (Lion), Jonas Vyzintas-Svirlys (Cricket), Bronius Musteikis-Karvelis (Pigeon) and Juozas Sutinys-Paleckis were hiding there. The other hideout, used by Bronius Steiblys-Marsas (Mars), was in the barn under the hay. The hideouts were not found during raids.

When partisans stopped in the vicinity of our home, Antanas would let us know about it. He used our help for it as we, youngsters, were the least suspicious. We knew the signals which were used for warning of danger.

We used to be given errands by partisans to carry something to a designated place or fetch something back. We didn’t always know what we were carrying and if we did know, it was a great secret not to be told to anyone. Even among themselves my sisters did not discuss the tasks given to each of them.

We used to prepare and take food to the bunker, staying on strict sentry further away from home. We shared everything we had with partisans.
Homage and betrayal of the tricolour

‘I remember that Easter (28 March 1948) and won’t forget it for as long as I live’, my sister Vitalija says. ‘That Easter morning on the way home from church we noticed at our Russian collaborator neighbour’s empty homestead the tricolour flag fluttering in the wind. In the hideout at home were five partisans, including Zalgrisis, the chief of Vytautas’s partisan division. We told them what we saw. Straight away the chief ordered the partisans to be prepared to cover him should it be necessary, put on my dad’s old jacket and went out to bring back the flag. We were all watching as the chief, having taken down the tricolour, brought it back as if it were the greatest treasure and folded it out in the room where the Easter table was laid out. First, the chief knelt down, kissed the flag and burst into tears holding it. Then the rest of us kissed it. It was our family’s solemn oath which must not be forgotten. Sadly, there was nobody to capture the special moment.

Unfortunately, this great festivity almost turned into a terrible tragedy. Raising the flag turned out to be nothing but a traitor’s job.

After Easter, early on Monday morning, thick fog was hovering in the air.

Mum had got breakfast ready for the men, and we went out to look around before opening the bunker. Antanas was the first one to notice a commotion at our cousin Jonas’s Kraujelis’s homestead. Then Vitalija noticed on her way to see what was happening that our homestead was also being surrounded by Russian collaborators.

Mum and Onute had enough time to warn the partisans and cover up the hideout.

Antanas collapsed into bed and asked Vitalija to pass him a wet towel, wrapped it around his head and started coughing, pretending to be sick. The Russian collaborators left him in peace but raided the whole homestead, poking about with their metal rods. But God was merciful, – they found nothing.

Some partisans who were arrested later betrayed my sister Ona. So she had to stay in the hideout under some hay at our barn and afterwards at someone else’s place.
Our home was constantly being raided. They were looking for Antanas, so he moved out too.

‘I remained my brother’s main helper’, my sister Vitalija reminisces. ‘Parents knew everything but they didn’t tell me off’. Still, I overheard my mum saying to dad once that soon ‘we would lose the third one’. But dad answered back: ‘Gotta help, nothing can be done. If everyone’s scared, it will be no good.’ I worked a lot with Antanas. He trusted me. I used to run errands given to me. We were not afraid of dying in the slightest, we were only afraid of imprisonment.

Vitalija describes Antanas as a very intelligent, astute person of sharp wit who never complained about his hard luck. On his first meeting with someone he was usually able to read that person’s character and understand their moral values.

‘I saw him in all sorts of states: hungry, run down, dirty, with bloody wounded legs as he was fond of walking barefoot. But I never saw him broken. Antanas refused to be pitied. He would say: ‘Christ suffered far more. His cross is heavier than mine’. I often remember his words: ‘We don’t know what lies ahead, – an easy or a difficult path. What’s important – what footprints we will leave on this earth after us.’ I believed him wholeheartedly, he was an authoritative figure to me. I learnt a lot from him, he never hurt me. If he had some things to say to someone to teach them something, he would do it carefully considering that person’s feelings. He was gentle with the family, loved everyone dearly. ‘His memory is very dear to us,’ – Vitalija recounts. ‘It’s just that mummy would get anxious about his disappearances because he was never able to explain where he had been and what he had been doing when asked.’

**Partisans leave our homestead**

Partisans used to stop at our homestead frequently. They were often very tired. Here they would take a rest, tidy up their clothes, get washed – they were made to feel at home.
On one occasion partisans were having a wash with their clothes and guns put aside. A cop entered the house unnoticed. As soon as he saw the partisans, he ran outside slamming the door. Mum recognized that it was the neighbours’ son. The partisans got worried: ‘He will tell, the snake, and get the soldiers onto us, who knows what it will lead to’.

That cop ran home and told his mother that he will ‘sort out’ the Kraujelai. His mother got down on her knees and begged him not to do that as she was a decent woman and was in close contact with Antanas Kraujelis’s parents. That was Salomeja Vildziuniene, who later took our family in after we returned from exile.

After a while that cop returned to our home and threatened to inform the secret police to get us deported to Siberia. While he was at our place Antanas returned from the forest after chopping some wood. Mum tearfully complained to him. Antanas tossed his gloves on the table and gave the cop such a glare that he was stupefied with fear. ‘Don’t worry, I was just joking. Let’s drink a bottle instead’, – he offered amicably. Antanas told him to clear off and not to show his face again. He did just that and never showed up at our home again.

Russian collaborators started persecuting all the members of our family intensively. Some snitches used to write letters to Russian collaborators asking them to stamp out ‘the bandits’ nest at the Kraujelai’s. Once a postal worker, trying to warn the partisans who were hiding in our bunker, slipped my parents a note. Fortunately, the partisans’ hideouts were not discovered at our home but, following the chief Jonas Kimstas-Zalgris’s order, the partisans abandoned the hideouts and moved elsewhere trying to protect our large family.

The leader asked Antanas not to hurry to join the crew. To his way of thinking, Antanas could be far more useful as a partisans' liaison. Quick to establish contacts with Russian collaborators and the secret police of higher rank, he would extort a lot of important information from them.
The last stay in the native countryside. Steponas Kraujelis at his father’s grave at the churchyard of Holly Trinity church in Skudutiskis, 04/09/99
Steponas Kraujelis in exile. A photograph from the Maklakov (now Lesosibirsk) board of honorary display. 1963

Anele Kraujeliene in exile. Inga, 1956
Steponas Kraujelis, celebrating his 95th birthday. Vilnius, 1988

Anele Kraujeliene, celebrating her 80th birthday. Vilnius, 1983
Antanas in the first year of his childhood. In front is standing Kraujelis’s daughter Anciute (Ona). Middle row left: Anele Kraujeliene and Steponas Kraujelis with his son Antaniukas (Antanas) on his knees. At the back is standing mum’s sister Petronele. Kaniukai, 1929
Pupils of the Alanta school. Antanas is the first one from the right at the top. 1943
At the Kraujeliai’s homestead. Front row left: Antanas’s sisters Vitalija and Ona Kraujelyte. Back row left: Antanas Kraujelis. Kaniukai, 1946
Antanas Kraujelis – a liaison (in the middle). Kaniukai, 1946

A meeting in Kaniukai. From the left: Jonas Kazlas, Vitalija Kraujelyte and Antanas Kraujelis. 1946
Along the Windy Paths of Life

Antanas leaves home

Antanas could no longer stay at home because he had been betrayed by the arrested partisans and liaisons.

In 1948, as Russian collaborators and the secret police were spying more intensively and constant pressures to become a spy grew more frequent, he said goodbye to his dad, his mum and his sisters. Mummy cried a lot and pleaded him not to leave. Although she couldn’t see another way, she still implored Antanas not to get himself and the family killed.

Antanas joined the Mykolas Urbonas-Liepa partisan group. He chose the pseudonym ‘Pabaisa’ (Monster) and then called himself ‘Siaubunas’ (Harrier). Not accidentally either, – he was a brave, astute and fearless fighter, sneaking up on the enemy in the most unexpected circumstances.

Besides, Antanas wasn’t short of quick wit. He was well spoken. He could vividly depict visions of the future when people would be living in a free state with the countryside flourishing and farming growing. Antanas had such a strong belief in Lithuania’s victory that his optimistic speeches inspired those around him. He would never allow the conversation to turn sad even though he knew that the battle against the occupation regime was uneven.

Antanas acted as a partisan for more than a year without being detected by the secret police. The first record about Antanas by the USSR State Ministry of Security appeared only in 1950. It was at that time that Antanas Kraujelis’s (Pabaisa, Siaubunas) personal case-logbook was started. According to the official documents of the secret police, he was in ‘a gang since 1950’. 3–5

While he was still a partisans’ liaison, Antanas used to meet and collaborate with Jurgis Urbonas-Lakstutis, the chief of the Perkunas (Thunder) division as well as the chairman of the press and education department of the Algimantas district headquarters.
In 1949–1950 Antanas went to Merkine region to visit the partisans of Dzukija, where he had a meeting with the partisan chiefs. Antanas was sent as the representative of Eastern Aukstaitija to a conference where he was awarded a high military rank.\(^6\)

When Mykolas Urbonas-Liepa (July) was mysteriously captured by the secret police, he had already switched to the Henrikas Ruskulís-Liutas (Lion) group, which acted at the crossing of the Anyksciai, Utena and Molėtai districts. This group was formed in October 1950. At first a member of the Zerutis region partisan headquarters, eventually Siaubunas was appointed to be in charge of the intelligence division. Kraujelis-Siaubunas’s intelligence mission was particularly important in the history of his partisan activities, – to observe, find out and detect the enemy as well as inform the partisan leaders about it in time, to destroy important NKVD (the USSR state secret police) documents with the lists of persecuted persons to be deported to Siberia by KGB collaborators, to organise ambushes and liquidate Bolsheviks.

During the active partisan campaign partisan groups used to remove or liquidate representatives of the Soviet system and party leaders. They would disarm members of the NKVD because they were regarded as traitors. Partisans fought fiercely against the Bolshevik pre-election propaganda.

We used to wait for Antanas to come home but it was getting harder for him to visit the family as the house was constantly being raided by cops.

Dad had already been banished from the collective farm. Russian collaborators and the secret police often reminded him: ‘If you don’t show up here with your son, you’ll be taken where polar bears live’.

The whole family were in danger of being deported. Four under-age daughters were growing up in the family.

**The partisan’s supporters**

Antanas was loved and welcomed not only by the family members but also by our neighbours, whom he used to visit. In Aukstaitija he was based
in Gruopolis village, later – in Ancenai village near his place of birth, in the former Kaniukai township where he, as a partisan, spent his first year. In this village he set up a hideout at Bronius Jankauskas’s, who was a farmer of moderate means.

‘After the give away of the hideout the hosts were interrogated in the prisons of Utena and Vilnius for half a year. But they were released as their case was not compiled’, Jovitas Jankauskas recounts.

In 1952–1954 Antanas Kraujelis was being cured as he was injured by Edmundas Satkunas who was his best friend and a long-term supporter but got involved with the secret police as he was already working as a vice chairman of a collective farm. After arming him and showing him how to use a gun and which parts of the body to aim at, they sent Edmundas to meet Antanas. Not suspecting anything untoward he came to the meeting. Edmundas Satkunas brought a bottle of vodka and they had a friendly drink. Later Antanas related that Edmundas seemed somewhat off, – he was bothered and anxious. After talking for a while, Antanas said: ‘I’ll make a move’. As soon as he started walking, gunshots showered his back. Antanas realised that his chest was injured.

‘I thought it was soldiers. Suddenly, turning around I see Edmundas with his awful eyes, he was aiming at me. I fired my automatic rifle. He just had enough time to scream and he fell’, later Antanas was saying.

The secret police recorded in a protocol that Edmundas Satkunas was too drunk to kill a bandit.

The assassin’s failure was due to a strong wind which raised the tails of Antanas’s coat. Hence Satkunas failed to aim properly... Or his hand may have trembled. The bullet nicked his lungs, so he had to seek medical help.

A wounded Antanas was hiding in Baltise village, not far from Skudutiskis, at Aleksas Lapasauskas’s. Aleksas Lapasauskas’s oldest daughter Marijona nursed and took care of the wounded partisan.

Antanas never denied the fact that he shot his boyhood friend Edmundas Satkunas dead. He didn’t want to do it but was provoked. Antanas took his friend’s betrayal hard.
From the article ‘In the Name of Life’, written by Lionginas Bakutis, an officer of the USSR State Security Committee (later – KGB) from Moletai as well as from some KGB archive documents it becomes clear that Edmundas Satkunas requested a gun himself as ‘...he wanted to redeem himself for his association with Siaubunas’.

This event left no doubts that the secret police would resort to any measures trying to kill or arrest Kraujelis. Antanas had to be even more careful and rely only on himself.

‘For many years Antanas used to visit Napoleonas Kezys in Keriobliskis village regularly’, – Jovitas Jankauskas reminisces. ‘At first he used to drop by with Vladas Petronis-Nemunas who usually stayed outside to keep lookout. Later he would come by himself from the Girele forest only after dark. I see him as clear as day with his long, wavy hair down to his shoulders, wearing his uniform cap. In summer he used to walk barefoot, moving carefully, as if on the prowl.

Most often Antanas would be taken care of by people of good will, who provided him with food, clothes, medication and other stuff. For a while Antanas was hiding at sisters Zidonytes’s in Mockėnai village.

From 1955 to 1959 Antanas was hiding with the Petroniai family in Antaninava (Dubelka) village (the Utena district). He set up his hideout under a bed. His chosen place for hiding was good as the owners of the place were poor and would be suspected less. Besides, the homestead was out in the sticks. The landlady was very religious and her four children used to serve in church during holy mass.

Here Antanas met his future wife Janina. Zofija Petroniene was her aunt from the father’s side.

From 1959 to 1960 Antanas was hiding at the brothers Juozas and Voldemaras Ruzgai’s homestead in Smaltiskis village (the Anyksciai district). In 1959, on our family’s return from exile, we met with Antanas at their place. Juozas Ruzgus told us that his father came across a listening device on the ceiling under some chaff.
From 1960 to 1965 Antanas lived with his wife in Papiskiai village (the Utena district) at Antanas and Ona Pinkeviciai’s house, where he set up a hideout.

**Antanas’s manhunt**

From 1952 Antanas and Vladas Petronis-Nemunas were hiding together. Dozens of Russian collaborators and agents from Anyksciai, Utena, Moletai were after Antanas, laying ambushes for him. They were offering large sums of money for betraying him.

Antanas’s liaisons and supporters were getting arrested, any means could be used trying to force them to cooperate with the secret police. Relatives were constantly being spied on. Trusted secret police agents were being armed with pistols and instructed how to kill Antanas, albeit in vain. 4–5

The conditions for the partisans’ warfare were deteriorating. The secret police and Russian collaborators were getting more sophisticated. They intimidated people with cunning, bribes and treachery but they were not having any luck. The secret police received notes from the partisan, stating: ‘... I categorically refuse to accept that Lithuania voluntarily joined the Soviet Union’.

The partisan used to deal with the secret police directly too. Cousin Jonas Kraujelis recounts: ‘Antanas met Liemezys, the chief of the Skudutiskis secret police, in person at one villager’s house. Antanas was hiding at someone’s place. He was lying at the fire place when the cop walked into the house without any warning. Antanas suddenly blocked the door and said: ‘Put your rifle in the corner’. He took the bullets out and told him: ‘Get lost. The bullets will come in handy’.

On more remote roads Antanas used to often stop a car and ask for a lift wearing a Russian soldier’s uniform. That way he could move away from dangerous places.

It is common knowledge that many tried to shoot Antanas, including Bronius Kalytis-Siaubas (Horror), the chief of the Kalnai branch. He was involved with the secret police and murdered many partisans of Aukstaitija.
As a secret police agent, Bronius Kalytis-Siaubas persuaded some partisans from the Liutas group to shoot four residents of the Anyksciai district who sympathized with the Soviet authorities, thus getting them into a trap. The agent provocateur himself disappeared from Aukštaitija region, and the secret police avenged the partisans. Out of the partisan group of 14 only Antanas Kraujelis-Siaubunas, Justinas Apacianka-Viesulas (Storm) and Henrikas Ruskulis-Liutas (Lion), who was betrayed later, remained alive. He was hunted by 230 soldiers. At the end of 1951 he was injured in his leg, couldn’t escape and was captured alive.4–5

After a while, Vladas Petronis-Nemunas joined Antanas Kraujelis-Siaubunas and Justinas Apacianka-Viesulas. However, soon only Antanas remained from the partisan group. Then Bronius Kalytis-Siaubas started visiting the people whom Antanas had met previously. Antanas knew about it and informed his close allies, telling them to warn others.

Once they were both walking along a footbridge over the river, Antanas in front, with Bronius Kalytis following him. Suddenly Antanas heard Siaubas pull the trigger of his ‘tenner’. Turning around Kraujelis saw Bronius Kalytis-Siaubas aiming at him. Antanas could react very quickly and would have shot Siaubas, but at that time the latter managed to jump into some bushes.9

Here is what a resident of Antatiskiai village (the Moletai district), Jonas Tutinas, remembers:

‘I knew Bronius Kalytis-Siaubas from the times when partisans started coming round. Mykolas Urbonas-Liepa used to come with him a lot. When I got arrested, there were hardly any partisans left. I was sentenced to 10 years. I returned home after the rebellion in Vorkuta.

Once a certain Kalytis came to our home at night. Soon after that he showed up again, pretended to be looking for partisans. But I ignored him. I said: ‘You know, buddy, rats didn’t last long in the Gulag. You’d better watch out it doesn’t happen to you.’ He had nothing to say and left. He didn’t show his face after that.

After a while I went to Moletai to register. I was told at the local militia branch that they wouldn’t register me as they didn’t have authorisation from

At the militia station I saw Kalytis sitting next to some man in a military uniform. They asked me: ‘Did you know Kraujelis?’ – ‘I did.’ ‘How to capture him?’ I answered: ‘I don’t know – it is your business! Aren’t you paid to do that, and I have nothing to do with him’. Kalytis said: ‘Help us in our work’. I said I’d rather go back to the mines than turn into a rat.

After that the secret police stayed at my place for about two weeks every night waiting for Kraujelis. Kalytis was with them too. Later they stopped coming. Their efforts to catch Kraujelis were in vain.

Acting alone, Antanas changed his tactics. He wrote warning letters to some Soviet activists demanding them not to harm people.

He was respected for his fairness. Those who knew him assert that Antanas wouldn’t wrong anybody, he would always ask for food and shelter if necessary. He could get along well with some chairmen or foremen of collective farms. He would take some food and breadstuffs from them but would leave a signed note not to get others into trouble. In his frequently left signed receipts he used to claim taking more than just for himself, – saying that others needed to survive too. He signed as Siaubunas, never hiding his identity.

Antanas used to say: ‘When freedom comes, bad deeds will not be pardoned, they will have to be accounted for. A partisan is someone who has no right to make mistakes!’

People referred to him as a daring defender of the nation’s freedom, a consolation of the wronged. These spoken legends were passed on and, of course, made the KGB party leaders greatly alarmed. Undoubtedly, a lot of it was exaggerated and made up by people.

There were some crooks who used to demand for money under Antanas’s name. A few could find a note in the morning demanding a certain sum of money to be taken to the designated place at the appointed time. These cases are confirmed by the materials found in Algirdas Siukscius’s archives as well as some accounts by living witnesses. According to some facts, more than one
of these crooks were arrested by the secret police. They didn’t get prosecuted though. They were often hired to look for the hiding partisan.

The secret police often discussed their plans how to wipe out Kraujelis even with Moscow.

His criminal case, started in 1964, contains many accusations of murder and acts of terrorism. His comrades, who got arrested, gave themselves up and became legal, cast the blame on Antanas Kraujelis. The arrested Liepa, Liutas and other partisans testified against him in their attempt to alleviate their own alleged guilt. The KGB workers knew how to get people to confess...

Many articles\textsuperscript{10-20} appeared in the Soviet press about an outlaw, supposedly marauding in the Utena, Moletai and Anyksciai districts. Undoubtedly, the recorded facts were considerably distorted. Besides, petty thieves used to act under Antanas Kraujelis’s name. If the partisan had been quietly spending his days in a safe place, the hunt certainly wouldn’t have been carried out on such a great scale.

People from the most remote villages, chairmen and foremen of collective farms were regularly questioned, were obligated to report any information or rumour concerning the partisan. Granges and homesteads were raided but the relentless searches were fruitless.\textsuperscript{21}

Antanas was very cautious and incredulous, he could sense imminent danger and get away in time.

In the archival case\textsuperscript{3,22-24} Antanas is accused of murdering ten people, but usually the statements given by the arrested or surrendered partisans were contradictory.\textsuperscript{7,21} Antanas’s wife Janina, who spent ten years with him, doesn’t recall an instance where Antanas intended to murder somebody.

Algirdas Siukscius has collected the most stories and reminiscences about Antanas, and based on documented evidence thinks that he may have caused the death of three or four people. Additionally, the case contains the liquidation protocol of Pranas Gecas and his wife Leokadija, who betrayed eight partisans: Siaurys (Northerner), Aukstaitis, Lapinas (Fox), Trockis, Aidas, Klaunus (Wanderer), Paleckis, Zumeris. It is signed by the partisans Liepa and Pabaisa.
Vladas Petronis about Antanas

Around 1952 the partisans’ ranks were totally scarce.

In the spring of 1954 Vladas Petronis-Nemunas surrendered to the government. From Anykščiai it was urgently reported to the secret police in Vilnius. Vladas Petronis himself soon received a passport and was employed in the unit Spartacus.

The secret police had high hopes that Vladas Petronis’s information would be especially valuable trying to locate Siaubunas, but they didn’t materialize. Quite possibly Antanas had kept a lot back from his comrade as a precaution. The secret police were disappointed as their expectation had been much greater.

That’s how Vladas Petronis characterized Siaubunas during questioning: ‘He is very cautious, – he hides in deserted buildings. In winter he ventures out of his hideout only once. He travels in the fields, not on the road (at night or before dawn). In summer he hides in some bushes, barns, saunas. Siaubunas never makes arrangements for food or money in advance. If he senses that he’s been noticed, he disappears elsewhere without a trace. He talks with his helpers without any witnesses and avoids everyone who’s been summoned by the KGB as he thinks they may be recruited. He doesn’t stay in disused bunkers because of the rheumatism in his legs. He has a short-barrelled gun which allows him to walk around during the day. His staple food is lard and bread. In 1953 he used rivanol to cure himself after being wounded by the agent Edmundas Satkunas. His wound became septic. Siaubunas recuperated with the Aleksas Lapasauskas family’.25

Algirdas Siukscius found a thank you letter addressed to Aleksas and Veronika Lapasauskai written and signed by Siaubunas.

Vladas Petronis betrayed Siaubunas’s helpers, whom he used to talk to without witnesses. He revealed lots of names, pointed out the homesteads where Siaubunas used to hide but it did not help the secret police to trace Antanas Kraujelis.
Antanas starts a family

Antanas was like the rest of us. He also wanted to have a life, love, raise a family... While Antanas was still in hiding, he started a family. He had a son, whom we learned about only on our return to Lithuania in 1959.

His wife Janina told us that they were married by a priest in the forest near Smaltiskiai. He blessed them saying: ‘You are a family from now on’. As a security precaution Janina’s surname remained unchanged and their marriage was not recorded in the church register.

Janina was hiding her pregnancy while she was expecting her firstborn. At that time she couldn’t prove to anybody that in the eyes of God she was Antanas’s legitimate wife. She was living at her aunt Zofija Petroniene’s. That woman pretended that she was expecting another baby although she was already raising a few kiddies. When Janina gave birth to a boy on June 26, 1956 only very few people knew who his real parents were. Antanas and Janina’s son was named Antanas and given the surname Petronis. At that time the baby’s father Antanas Kraujelis was also staying in the hideout of the Petroniai’s home. That way he could look after his son and be with his wife.

After Antanas’s death Janina was prosecuted and did her time in prison in Panevezys. Their son named Petronis was taken in by a children’s home in Vilnius. The secret police knew full well whose son it was. After three years and four months’ imprisonment Janina went to the orphanage to meet her son but could only get him back through the courts.

In the autumn of 1968 the court of Utena acknowledged that Antanas Petronis is Janina Snukiskyte’s son and he was given the surname Snukiskis. However, he was officially recognized as Antanas Kraujelis’s true descendant by the court only in the year 2000. As a security measure, Antanas and Janina’s son’s birth was not recorded in any documents. The child of almost ten years of age didn’t know that he had another mother – not Petroniene, and another father – not Petronis. But in his personal documents he went under the name Petronis. This ambiguous situation continued until the day of his true father’s death, and the surname Petronis was changed much later.

Antanas reminiscences about his childhood:
“The night before it happened Russian collaborators had surrounded and raided the Petroniai’s home. Then they drank all night and were lying around drunk until noon. Meanwhile, Kraujelis was some 100 metres away in the shrubs. In the morning Petroniene’s daughter took me out for mushrooms. I knew that there were no mushrooms there, – they don’t grow in places like that. I saw there was a man standing close by, – he was wearing a long whit- ish overcoat. ‘Here’s daddy!’, – said Petroniene’s daughter. He lifted me up and kissed me. I felt how close and familiar he was’.

At that time Antanas Kraujelis had an inkling that the KGB suspected that he was hiding at the Petroniai’s. He noticed that someone close was hiding a pistol and understood everything. He had to look for new patrons and a new hideout.

In 1960 Antanas moved to stay with Antanas Pinkevicius, a dissident who resided in Papiskiai village, the Utena district. Here a hideout was set up when the house was being built. Antanas settled in there with his wife Janina. There was very little space there (according to the measurements by the secret police – $94 \times 132 \times 69$ cm).

Apart from worrying about staying alive, Antanas also had to think of his family. He had to make sure that his hosts wouldn’t get into too much trouble on his and his family’s behalf.

In the meantime, the secret police were getting anxious to find Antanas Kraujelis’s whereabouts and disrupt the partisan’s activities. They resented the fact that the search was fruitless, that instead of laying low, the partisan was getting more and more active and famous among people.

**Acting alone**

KGB document pages are full of recruited agents’ names, surnames and pseudonyms. Almost every name has the same reference attached: ‘Directed to Siaubunas’s investigation. In the 1953 account by the KGB branch of the Utena district it is stated that ‘Vilkas (Wolf), Katia, Maryte, Drasus (Brave), Spokas (Blackbird), Tolimas (Distant), Juska, Akmuo (Stone), Gusevas are
employed to investigate Siaubunas. (...) Sautuvas (Gun), Vytautas and Kacin-
skas follow but no positive results have been achieved yet. Drasus is watching
Cizas’s estate and meets him regularly, but there are no results’. Throughout
the years records were being entered in the KGB documents that, apart
from the secret police staff, around 20 agents were looking for Kraujelis in
every nearby district.

In Antanas Kraujelis’s case there are some remaining records which state
that from 1954 Siaubunas was getting by ‘robbing collective farms, shops
and individual collective farmers’. He would warn collective farm leaders or
foremen to record workdays fairly, not to cheat villagers. The case contains
receipts, such as ‘1 ton of rye and wheat taken. Local partisans’.

Siaubunas also signed having taken 11 sheep and, later, an additional 6
from a collective farm. According to the same KGB documents, all the sheep
were distributed among the residents of Pakalniai area.

Even now the secret police remember the note which was found after
breaking into a shop in Pakalniai area: ‘Please do not hassle the owners,
you are innocent. Their blame is the same as yours. I consumed the goods.
Kraujelis-Siaubunas’.

A KGB (State Security Committee attached to the Cabinet) report of
1961 states that Antanas Kraujelis used to extort payments from people. A
few residents are named, whose homes were used for ambush. Some agents
who received guns from the secret police are also mentioned: ‘Silva was in
contact with Kraujelis. According to the 9th article, he was given lottery tic-
kets worth 4900 roubles. He received operational technical devices. The same
happened with Gaidys (Cockerel). Sakalas (Hawk) was armed to arrest or li-
quidate Kraujelis independently’.

Every year the KGB confirmed their ‘Planned measures to arrest or liqui-
date Kraujelis’ but they failed to carry out these plans as Antanas would man-
age to elude the meticulously thought out and organized ambushes. People
tell a lot of stories about his flair for absconding. It has been said that once
Siaubunas had dinner with the secret police, that in a hopeless situation he
howled like a wolf, scared the cops and got away, that once he saved himself
by diving into a lake with an oxygen tube.
Even left on his own Kraujelis provoked terror and hopeless rage among the secret police. For seventeen years the mighty KGB with their huge numbers of agents and sophisticated technology could neither arrest nor kill one person who didn’t even have a secure abode. Many joined the hunt for Antanas with high hopes for big money and awards by the Soviet state.

Even though he was hiding, but he was also vigorous in his activities. Frequently Antanas would show up in the surrounding towns: Pakalniai, Skiemonys, Alanta, Utena and Leliunai. They didn’t recognize him in many places as he would wear women’s clothes. He had long hair and gentle features and used that to his advantage successfully. His wife Janina told us that Antanas would go fishing with his gun hidden in the bushes or help out with housework dressed as a woman. Apart from farming jobs, he knew how to string nets, weave and spin thread on a loom.

Occasionally he would change into a Red army artillery officer’s uniform, so even cops saluted him.

In those days even his name made more than one activist apprehensive and the secret police could not rest.

Those who knew Antanas confirm that he was getting more and more cautious as the years went by. The KGB workers who are still living to this day do not deny it. In an attempt to trick them he started a rumour that he was leaving Lithuania. Apparently, this rumour somewhat appeased the persecutors.

Antanas used to send misleading letters to local KGB branches. Unfortunately, these letters have not been found. Sergejus Tichomirovas, a former KGB officer at the Utena district branch, related that Antanas Kraujelis would provoke them by sending announcements expressing his wish to arrange a meeting with the secret police in Skudutiskis, indicating a particular day and time. On the designated day the secret police would punctually arrive in Skudutiskis. As Antanas Kraujelis failed to show up, they realized that they had been tricked.

Hiding was getting increasingly harder for Antanas. He had to think of food, clothing as well as shoes and, most importantly, a shelter. As a result
of being constantly out in the damp and cold, his legs became afflicted with
rheumatism.

Juozas Ruzgus remembered one dangerous occasion. On that day Antanas was having breakfast with them. A traitor’s wife noticed it and informed the secret police who appeared in their car, followed by a truck full of soldiers and Russian collaborators. Antanas left his camouflage gear and ran off whereas Ruzgus, attempting to conceal the evidence, ran with the gown and dropped it out of fright. The piece of clothing got entangled in the branches of a willow, and the secret police started shooting at it. Ruzgus was caught by their dog. The chief of Anyksciai secret police ran up to him and started beating and interrogating him why he was carrying that camouflage gown. Having failed to capture Antanas, the persecutors were swearing in Russian and yelling disappointedly that the wounded bandit ran off to the woods of Kaniukai...

Some facts show that the secret police were puzzled why they could not annihilate the only bandit left in Lithuania.\(^5\)

**The last bullet**

The KGB have a four volume case on Antanas Kraujelis (Pabaisa, Siaubunas), the last active partisan of Lithuania who did not give up his gun right until the moment of his death. The arrested partisans’, their liaisons’ and the ‘unbiased’ witnesses’ interrogation reports indicate that Antanas Kraujelis was a robber and a murderer who deserved to be condemned by Soviet people. One cannot but wonder why, based on these crimes, a political and not a criminal case was made against him.\(^4\)

In 1992, as I was reading the fabricated case against Antanas, I found that already in December of 1964 there was operational data stating that Antanas could be hiding at the Pinkeviciai’s in Papiskiai village.

Antanas Pinkevicius had married Ona, the sister of Antanas’s wife Janina. Antanas Pinkevicius had been sentenced to ten years at a labour camp for his support of partisans.
Antanas Kraujelis’s wife Janina told us that on Christmas Eve a lot of soldiers, Russian collaborators and secret policemen arrived at the Pinkeviciai’s homestead. Antanas Kraujelis was expected to show up on that day whereas he was lying low in a hideout under a fire place. During the raid the secret police did not find the hideout. The house was bugged, and the secret police heard what family members were talking about, but Antanas was not discussed.

– On Boxing Day Antanas left and stayed away for the whole month, – Janina says.

Antanas showed up only in the spring of the following year, stayed for a month and intended to leave again as he knew that during a raid the secret police had found a magazine of a gun. In his case a record appeared: ‘New information has been received that he is hiding at Pinkevicius’s place.’

Antanas made a seemingly small but fatal mistake in the evening of March the 16th, 1965. He asked his wife to bring a pair of skis which were hidden across the road under the snow by a spring which the Pinkeviciai sometimes used for getting water from. The spring could be seen through the front windows of three side-by-side houses from which the secret police could observe the Pinkeviciai’s homestead. The skis betrayed him...

Antanas wife remembers a dream which she had on the eve of Antanas’s death:

– I dreamt that the earth was black even though there was lots of snow that year. I dreamt three stones. One of them had a white patch of snow on it, the others were black. I prepared food for Antanelis* and told him about my dream. Antanas said: ‘So I will be surrounded and killed.’ And that’s what happened. Antanas Kraujelis was killed, Antanas Pinkevicius was wounded and died in hospital. The white patch on a stone was probably me as I survived. – Janina adds. – Just after eating we saw armed soldiers surrounding the homestead and secret policemen running towards the house. They searched the shed, the byre, poking around everywhere with their bayonets

* a diminutive form of Antanas
and rods. Perhaps they thought that the house had a secret exit or something. Then Sergej Tichomirov and others came into the house and started tearing off floorboards around the fire place. They had an inkling where the hideout might be but perhaps were unsure whether Antanas was in it. Only one corridor wall and the fireplace itself were not touched. They started wondering what was underneath and noticed that the base of the fireplace was different. Then they started knocking down the wall which wasn’t solid but made up of separate planks of timber. They got an axe into a gap and tore it open. Then shots were heard from Antanas’s hideout. In the meantime a soldier was guarding me in the kitchen and I don’t know what really happened. I only saw how Antanas Pinkevicius was carried out unconscious covered in blood, – Antanas’ wife Janina sighs.

That’s how it really happened: having found the hideout, the secret police told Antanas Pinkevicius to open it as Antanas fired a series of shots with his automatic rifle. The landlord was hit by the first bullets. He was wounded. Then Antanas was taken to a hospital in Utena. He was later transferred to the hospital of the Lukiskiai prison and operated on. But one bullet was left in his body. Gangrene set in and Antanas Pinkevicius died on the 5th of April, 1965. Vytautas Zukevicius, a senior sergeant, and Rimas Kublickas, a junior sergeant, were also wounded, but slightly.

Antanas threw a grenade but it did not explode. Scared of the grenade, everybody leaped out of the house.

Experts with gas were urgently asked to arrive from Vilnius. The KGB workers decided to intoxicate Antanas and take him alive.

Antanas used that chance and jumped out of the hideout. At that time the secret police were surrounding the house more closely. Antanas asked his wife how many of them were there. There were many.

Antanas resisted for a while with his gun. He thought of running away dressed as a woman. But the battle was uneven, many soldiers were gathered to fight him. Janina implored: ‘Stop shooting, that’s enough! Give yourself up or something...’

He gave his wife a bundle of documents and told her to burn them so
that the secret police don’t get hold of them. He stirred the ashes himself. Nobody knows what was written there.

Russian collaborators handed Antanas Kraujelis a note via Ona Pinkevičienė proposing him to surrender and lay down his gun and promising him to be pardoned. He took the note, read it and smiled: ‘Yeah, yeah, I am just about to give myself up to the Russkies!’

– I thought for a moment, relates Janina, – that maybe he will really give up, maybe everything will end well?! He turned round and says to me: ‘I will never give up to the Russkies. Don’t worry, nothing will happen to you. Take Antanas and look after him. I didn’t get to see freedom, but people will.’

He went upstairs with his automatic rifle. His steps were heard followed by a gunshot, as if something heavy fell down on the ceiling. I climbed up there and there he was, lying covered in blood, no longer alive. I still touched his hand, kissed him, took off his watch and put it on my own wrist. I took a pistol to shoot myself with and put it under a mattress.

Then I went outside and said: ‘Stop shooting, he already shot himself.’ Then three of them pointed their automatic rifles at me and told me to go back in, go upstairs and drag him to the edge of the stairs. They followed me with their guns pointed at me the whole time. I went downstairs after I moved him to the specified place. Then one of them punched me in the face. I nearly fell down.

They grabbed a sheet off the bed and moved Antanas downstairs.

I had no strength left. I was sitting on the bed feeling totally broken.

Somebody from the secret police came up to me and says: ‘If you want to go and say good bye, go out.’

I went out, I see, they are all standing around looking at him. And I felt calm in my heart that Antanas’s troubles had finally ended. As for me, whatever will be, will be. I haven’t done anything wrong. I haven’t stolen anything, haven’t murdered anybody. He didn’t kill anybody in front of me either.

I went to the cowshed and fed the cattle. If I’d wanted to, I could have run away. I thought for a moment: ‘I will take my son and run. I will tell him that he is mine.’ But it was clear to me that I would be going to prison.
Somebody from the secret police came up to me and says: ‘Get ready, you are under arrest!’

I look, sleighs have been pulled up to the Pinkeviciai’s homestead. Antanas was taken in one of them, I was told to sit in the other. One soldier leaned on me with his back and kept laughing.

I was taken to Utena and locked up in a room of the secret police, – remembers Janina.

Antanas died when he was getting to nearly thirty seven. The war after the war ended in Papiskiai.

Marijonas Misiukonis, 5, a junior lieutenant and the strategic representative of the Anykščiai district KGB (the State Security Committee), attached to the LSSR Ministry Council (further – the LSSR MC), was in charge of the identification operation of the body at the place of the incident. Additionally, Sergejus Tichomirovas, a lieutenant-colonel and the strategic representative of the Utena district of KGB, of the LSSR and the following officials from Vilnius participated in the operation surrounding Antanas Kraujelis: Sergej Veselov, a major and the senior operational agent of department 2 bureau 2 of the KGB of the LSSR; lieutenant-colonel Nachmanas Dusanskis the chief of department 2 bureau 2 of the KGB of the LSSR; Vaclovas Vyte a lieutenant-colonel and the branch chief of the 2 bureau 2 of the KGB of the LSSR; a captain and the senior interrogator of the KGB of the LSSR; Major V. Rocka, an agent of the Anykščiai district of the KGB of the LSSR; Rimas Kublickas, a junior sergeant of the Moletai district of the KGB of the LSSR. Nachmanas Dusanskis was in all charge of the operation. Vaclovas Vyte was in charge of the search.

The secret police recorded everything in minute detail in the search protocol. The search started at 9 o’clock and finished at 14.35. Everything that was found in Antanas’s hideout and in his pockets was extensively described, indicating even the length of a pencil. According to the protocol, a comb, a handkerchief, a holy medallion with a pin and ‘a small piece of cloth with some breadcrumbs’ were found. The ‘breadcrumbs’ were St. Agatha’s bread.
Additionally, the following items were confiscated: a uniform kit, camouflage gear, a German rifle No 6726A, an automatic rifle PPS No 13955, a cartridge-pouch for a rifle magazine, a military compass, a pocket torch, tins in which Antanas used to keep gunpowder, air rifle pellets, one grenade RG 42, a pistol made overseas, a small knife, a fork, a camera, a sheet, a plane table, two photos (one of Janina), a tricolour patch to be sewn onto a uniform with the writing ‘My work and strength are for the good of Homeland Lithuania’ on it.

Antanas’s ammunition equipment and his personal belongings found during the search were presented to the Vilnius Revolution Museum. In 1992 they were exhibited on a special display. Currently these items are stored in the repository of the National Museum. They are now invaluable historical relics of the resistance period.

A model of Antanas’s hideout was used as a teaching aid at the Feliks Dzerzhinskij higher KGB education school in Moscow.

The secret police pursued and spied on Antanas for seventeen years but he did not give in and did not betray Lithuania. At the age of twenty he went off into the forest, sacrificed his youth for battle, gave his whole life to it and ultimately won as the secret police failed to arrest and destroy him even though they audaciously lied that they had killed Antanas Kraujelis.

On the 31st of March 1965 the final pages of newspaper editions No 75 of the ‘Tiesa’ (‘The Truth’) and No 39 of ‘The Farmer’s Newspaper’ contained short articles ‘Bandit Liquidated’ 27–28. The articles claim: ‘Antanas Kraujelis was marauding the Utena district for a long time. He repeatedly attacked people and extorted payments from collective-farmers. The security apparatus traced the robber. A. Kraujelis resisted getting arrested with a gun and was killed during the fire-fight.’

Antanas Kraujelis’s wife was arrested and accused of possessing a gun and assisting the partisan to escape. She was later sentenced to four years’ imprisonment. The punishment was reduced and Janina returned earlier. Her son Antanas was already nine at that time26.
I remember how after the second exile during the long autumn and winter evenings my mum and dad used to talk about their son Antanas’s fate hoping to get to see their son rightly appreciated and to find out where he is buried.

As it happens, my sister Brone went to Utena after Antanas’s death and asked the secret police to show her the whereabouts of his body and allow her to bury him. The secret police replied: ‘You should have looked for him while he was alive!’

Neither mum nor dad were given any explanation by the secret police even though my dad got to live for ten years in the independent Lithuania. Sergejus Tichomirovas, Marijona Misiukonis, Nachmanas Dusanskis didn’t disclose the secret either, therefore flowers are laid on Antanas Kraujelis’s remembrance tomb.
Antanas Kraujelis-Pabaisa on the left. 1948.
A conversation with the chief. From the left: Liepa and Siaubunas, 1949
Partisans of Kaniukai. From the left, Antanas Kraujelis-Pabaisa with his friend Danielius Bruzas-Atlantas, 1950
Partisans Antanas Kraujelis-Siaubunas and Bronius Raskevicius-Tauras (Bull), 1950
Partisans of Aukstaitija (Highlands). From the left: Henrikas Ruskulis-Liutas, Antanas Kraujelis-Siaubunas and Danielius Bruzas-Atlantas, 1950
Partisans of Vytautas's Division. From the left: Steponas Jakucionis-Ausra (Dawn), Steponas Satkevicius-Gintvytis, Vytautas Gobuzas-Viesulas (Tornado), Bronius Kalytis Siaubas (Horror) (from the 22nd of December 1951 a KGB agent – militiaman) 7, Antanas Kraujelis-Siaubunas, 1948
Partisans of Vytautas’s Division. From the left: Antanas Kraujelis-Siaubunas, Justinas Apacianka-Viesulas (Tornado) (deserted the Soviet Army and perished near Anykščiai), Bronius Kemeklis-Kerstas (Revenge) (captured alive), Henrikas Ruskulis-Liutas (Lion) (the chief of the group, captured alive in 1951), Mykolas Puodziunas-Valteris, Danielius Bruzas-Atlantas (perished on 17 December of 1951 near Skudutiskis), 1950
Partisans of the Lion group. Sitting from the left: Bronius Raskevicius-Tauras (Bull), Antanas Kraujelis-Siaubunas. Standing from the left: Justinas Apacianka Viesulas, Henrikas Ruskulis-Liutas, Danielius Bruzas-Atlantas and Bronius Kemeklis-Kerstas. Around 1950
A meeting. From the left: Siaubunas and Bronius Kemeklis-Kerstas, 1951
Partisans of the Lion group, Vytautas’s Division. From the left: Siaubunas and Viesulas, 1951
The tactical layout of the gunfight between Antanas Kraujelis and Edmundas Satkunas, 1952

DIAGRAM of Edmundas Satkunas’s Klemas’s murder location at 11 pm on 22 December 1952. Agreed signs: 1. the location of meeting; 2. Satkunas’s position from which he fired at bandit ‘Siaubunas’; 3. bandit ‘Siaubunas’s’ position; 4. traces of blood; 5. E. Satkunas’s body.
Antanas Kraujelis-Siaubunas, around 1955
Janina Snukiskyte, 1955
On the armed nationalist gang ‘Liutas’ (Lion), which acted in the territories of Anykščiai, Moletai and Utena and belonged to the gang of the ‘Zerutis’ district, ‘Vytautas’s’ division.

The objective of the gang is to fight against the Soviet government in Lithuania: to terrorize Soviet party activists, to carry out anti-soviet propaganda, to pillage Soviet enterprises, to rob Soviet people, to terrorize residents and neutralize the measures employed by the Soviet authorities and to restore the bourgeois system.

The ‘Liutas’s’ gang consisted of:


2) Antanas Kraujelis, Steponas’s., alias ‘Siaubunas’ – the reconnaiss- sance chief of the gang, born in 1930, Kaniukai village, the Moletai district, in the gang since 1950.

Gang members:

1) Mykolas Puodzius, Juozas’s., alias ‘Valteris’, killed in 1950
2) Danielius Bruzas, Antanas’s., alias ‘Atlantas’, killed in 1951
3) Bronius Musteikis, Juozas’s., alias ‘Karvelis’, killed in 1950
4) Liudas Kepalas, Pranas’s., alias ‘Primetinis’, killed in 1951
5) Bronius Raskevicius, Steponas’s., alias ‘Tauras’, born in 1929 Balti- sava village, Anykščiai district, killed in 1950

6) Justinas Apacianka, Mykolas’s., alias ‘Viesulas’, arrested in 1952
7) Vilius Sabaliauskas, Povilas’s., alias ‘Slapukas’, killed in 1950
8) Stasys Podziunas, Juozas’s., alias ‘Aitvaras’, killed in 1950
9) Gintaras Grigas, Stasys’s., alias ‘Valtelja’, killed in 1951
На территории Аникчинского, Волетского и Утенского районов действовала националистическая вооруженная бандгруппа "Лотаса", входившая в бандрайон "Айкутис", округа "Витаутаса".

Бандгруппа ставила своей целью ведение вооруженной борьбы с Советской властью в Литве за восстановление буржуазного строя, путем террора над советско-партийным активом, проведением антисоветской агитации, грабежей и разгрома советских учреждений, предприятий и ограблений советских граждан, терроризируя население и срывая мероприятия, проводимые Советской властью.

В состав банды "Лотаса" входили:

1. Главарь банды и бандрайона "Айкутис" — РУЖУЛС Генрикас с. Людвикас, уроженец дер. Сунтуки, зарадзинского района, дезертир Советской армии, по кричке "Лотас", в банде с 1947 года, арестован в 1951 году.


Рядовые:

1. ПОЖУНАС Миколас с. Йозас, по кричке "Вальтерис", убит в 1950 году.

2. БРУНАС Данилос с. Антанас, по кричке "Алантас", убит в 1951 году.

3. МУСТЕЙЮС Бронис с. Йозас, по кричке "Карвялис", убит в 1950 году.

4. КИПАЛАС Людас с. Принас, по кричке "Приметис", убит в 1951 году.

5. РАШЯВИЧЮС Бронис с. Стапас, 1929 года рождения, урож. дер. Балгушава, Аникчинского района, по кричке "Таурас", убит в 1952 году.

6. АПАЙЦКНА Астинас с. Миколас, по кричке "Бесудас", арестован в 1952 году.

7. САБАЛУСКАС Вилюс с. Пуялсас, по кричке "Слапукас", убит в 1950 году.

8. ПОЖУНАС Стасис с. Йозас, по кричке "Атворас", убит в 1950 году.

9. ГРУТКАС Гинтарас с. Стасис, по кричке "Балтега" убит в 1951 году.

10. ПЕТРОНИС с. Йозас, по кричке "Нарутис", убит в 1951 году.

The list of Henrikas Ruskulis-Liutas's partisan group members
11. КУРКИС Лёнгинас с.Пранаса, по кличке "Гитлерис", убит в 1951 году.
12. ВИЛЬДУНАС Римас с.Владаса, по кличке "Дайнис", убит в 1951 году.
13. ПЕТРОНИС Владас с.Раполаса, урож.дер.Диктарай,Анникчяйского района, по кличке "Нямунас", в банде с 1951 года.

Из остатков разгромленной банды "Лотаса", позже, сформировалась бандгруппа "Слабунаса", в составе:
1. Главарь "Слабунас" - КРАУНЛИС Антанас с.Стяпо и
2. Рядовой "Нямунас" - ПЕТРОНИС Владас с.Раполаса. Бандгруппа действовала до марта 1954 года.
11-го марта 1954 года участник бандгруппы ПЕТРОНИС Владас с.Раполаса в аппарате КГБ при ФМ Лит.ССР в Анникчяйском районе пролетел легализацию и сдал оружие - винтовку и боеприпасы. КРАУНЛИС продолжает находится на нелегальном положении.

УПОЛНОМОЧЕННЫЙ КГБ ПРИ СМ ЛИТ.ССР В АННИКЧЯЙСКОМ РАЙОНЕ

26 " июля 1964 г.

Antanas Kraujelis, around 1960
11) Lionginas Kurkis, Pranas’s s., ‘Hitleris’, killed in 1951
12) Rimas Vildziunas, Vladas’s s., alias ‘Dainius’, killed in 1951
13) Vladas Petronis, Rapolas’s s., ‘Nemunas’, born in Diktarai village, Anyksciai district, in the gang since 1951
‘Siaubunas’s’ gang was formed from the following remaining members of the annihilated gang ‘Liutas’:
  1. Antanas Kraujelis, Steponas’s s., ‘Siaubūnas’ – the leader.
The gang was acting until 1954.
On 11 March 1954 trooper Vladas Petronis, Rapolas’s s., legally registered in the KGB agent’s apparatus in Anyksciai and gave up his gun and ammunition.
Kraujelis remained an outlaw.

Commissioner, major of the Anyksciai district of the KGB of the LSSR, Signature / V. ROCKA /

26 June 1964
Partisans’ respite. From the left, Henrikas Ruskulis-Liutas sitting, Antanas Kraujelis-Siaubunas standing, Danielius Bruzas-Atlantas sitting, 1951
Antanas Kraujelis-Siaubunas, the last active partisan of Vytautas’s Division, 1956
A warning to Gasparas Ramelis, the chairman of the Skudutiskis collective farm
To Gasparas Ramelis, the chairman of the Skudutiskis collective farm

It’s impossible for me to meet you in person as you are too degenerate. We’ll only meet in the future to clear the air about the mistakes of the past.

You’ll find it’s the last warning in this note. After this warning you’ve got to cease slandering the past of independent Lithuania, its customs and religion immediately. You have to leave the party, give up the gun and only then you’ll be able to live your life in peace as a Lithuanian, either staying as a chairman or whatever. Enough of living treacherously! The mistakes that have already been made have got to be the last. If you don’t cease and don’t comply, you will be shot by the new year (1956) for sure. This will definitely be carried out!

As a proof of your life change, on the 30th of this month (June), to be more exact, by 12am of the 30th, you will have to deliver 3000 roubles for our disposal to Povilas Laucius’ sauna in Kaniukai. You will place the money securely sealed in an envelope in a clearly visible place on a bench in the sauna. The money has got to be down to a rouble by the indicated date. The landlord (of the sauna) is not aware of this and mustn’t find out.

Focus, think it over and make a choice, ‘either, or’, I will comply by the truth, according to partisans’ instructions and my own given word!

6, 1965

Partisans

Siaubunas
(Kraujelis)

P. S. I am warning you, if you show the slightest provocation, it will only harm yourself. I remain prepared for anything. Strictly secret.
A receipt for the secret police in Skiemoniai

Antanas Kraujelis, around 1956
To the chief of the Skiemoniai
secret police branch,

We are letting you know that we took about one ton of rye
and whe at for bread from foreman Anicetas Adkocius on the
1st of February 1952.
(the rest is illegible)

With thanks
Local partisans
A photocopy of the Liquidation report
Liquidation report

This year in the evening of November the 5th we liquidated Romas Gecys together with his wife Leokadija Geciene for betraying eight partisans: Siaurys (Northerner), Aukstaitis (Highlander), Lapinas (Fox), Prockys, Aidas (Echo), Klaunus (Wanderer), Paleckis and Liepa (July) (survived).

All the neighbours witness his betrayal with clear evidence and those who worked with him in the same rural district guarantee that, while he was there he was becoming more relaxed with communists. We cannot record all the evidence as there is a lot. We can note the following: before dawn the partisans paid him a visit, took some food and told him the exact location where they would be stopping. After they went to sleep, he left for Utena. Four hours after his departure the army surrounded the partisans. When he found out that Liepa was alive, for some reason he started behaving very cautiously. He started imploring the neighbours for Liepa to leave his children alive, not to shoot them even though at that time nobody, except Liepa, did not suspect him of anything. He also started covering his tracks, choosing alternative routes home from the district, at times surrounded by bodyguards. Before offering the partisans a place to stay, he started asking Siaurys and others questions, not appropriate for someone living a life of a civilian: who will be responsible for liquidating communists in the event of a government change? Siaurys and Lapinas responded: ‘Local partisans will’. The local partisans Siaurys and Lapinas were expected to be executed.

We can provide more evidence like this if necessary. He was a former partisans’ liaison, his pseudonym was ‘Klevas’ (Maple).

He betrayed on the 28th of November, 1949 at 11.30.

Took part in Gecys’s case

Liepa

Pabaisa

The original of this document is in M. Urbonas archive criminal case No 25117/3
The original: Senior Investigator of the State Security Committee (the KGB) investigation Department
Signature (VYTE)
A thank you letter to the family of Aleksas and Veronika Lapauskai
Thank you in writing to the Lithuanians, fighting for the freedom of Lithuania and partisans’ survival.

To Aleksas Lapasauskas, the son of Vincas,
Living in Baltise village, Skudutiskis, Moletai

TO THE HOSTS,

Today we, partisans, can say a sincere thank you to our host Aleksas Lapasauskas, his wife Veronika Lapasauksiene, their daughter Maryte Lapasauskaite and son Vincas Lapasauskas for their kind patronage to the Lithuanian partisans, for hiding them, offering food, nursing the wounded, participating in operational activities with partisans as well as various other, always sincere support during the two year period while putting his own family and personal freedom at risk.

In the event of the living partisans failing to see the dawn of Lithuania’s freedom, we request the political representatives of Lithuania to offer total political trust to this family, who fought along partisans and shared the same ideals with them, and appropriate future support to them. We, surviving partisans, promise to take this family into our care or offer support to them at our own expense.

We had to move out because of the traitor Vladas Petronis, living amongst the partisans.

Date: 14th of May 1956

LITHUANIAN PARTISANS

Signature of the host Surviving partisans
Lapasauskas Siaubunas (Antanas Kraujelis)
Antanas Kraujelis, around 1950
Photo dedicated to Aleksas Lapasauskas. From the left Siaubunas and Nemunas. Around 1952
Antanas's family. Antanas Kraujelis, his wife and son Antanas, 1956
Antaninava. Petroniai’s homestead, where Antanas with his wife were hiding in 1955–1959, stood at this place. Their son Antanas was born here.
Joy. Antanas Kraujelis, his wife Janina Snukiskyte and their son Antanas. Antaninava, 1956
Antanas’s son Antanukas, 1960

Antanas’s wife with their little son Antanas, 1957
Request by the special branch of the Soviet army unit stationed in Tbilisi, where Antanas Kraujelis’s son was serving, for the KGB to send any available information on his mother Janina Snukiskyte, 1976
We are investigating the soldier of military unit 54350 – Antanas SNUKISKIS, Antanas’s son, Lithuanian, born in 1956 in Antaninava village, the Moletai district, Lithuania whose mother Janina Snukiskyte, Edvardas’s daughter, born in 1939. 47457/3 – Snukiskyte’s case.

according to the data of the Utena district Department of the KGB of the LSSR cohabits with bandit-terrorist A. Kraujelis and will be prosecuted after his liquidation.

We request any information available on SNUKISKYTE J. E.’s to be sent to our address.

Our address: To the Commander of the Unit, Military unit 64485, City of Tbilisi-88

COMMANDER OF SPECIAL DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY UNIT 64485 OF THE SSC ATTACHED TO THE CABINET OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS LIEUTENANT-COLONEL – Signature (BOJKO)

Signature illegible Stamp: The KGB attached to the LSSR Cabinet
29 May DEPARTMENT 10
No 0921
29 01 1976

Stamps: one is illegible, the other – Special Archive of Lithuania Department of Lithuanian Archives
Cover letter attached to Janina Snukiskyte's case, sent to the military unit in Tbilisi where her son Antanas Snukiskis was serving, 1976
STATE SECURITY COMMITTEE
Attached to the Cabinet of the LSSR
DEPARTMENT 10

February 1976
No 10/3-47457/3

Vilnius

To COMMANDER of Special Department,
military unit 64485 lieutenant-colonel of
the KGB attached to the LSSR Cabinet
comrade Bojko
City of Tbilisi-88

On 23 February 1976 to No 7/0121

We are sending Snukiskyte’s J. E. archive investigation case
No 47457/3.

The case must be returned to our archive within 30 days of the date of receipt
with investigation results entered on the control page.

A d d i t i o n : case in 2 volumes.

The Chief of the KGB attached to the Lithuanian SSR Cabinet
Lieutenant-colonel / Surname illegible

Stamps: The Special Archive of Lithuania, further – illegible.
Heraldic – The Special Archive of Lithuania Department of Lithuanian Archives

Returning the material, please quote our number 47457
Antanas Kraujelis, around 1959
Antanas reunion with his mother, who returned after her first deportation, 1960
Antanas Kraujelis with his wife Janina, 1956
Partisan Siaubunas in his camouflage gear, 1956
Partisan Antanas Kraujelis-Siaubunas, 1956
Antanas Kraujelis with his wife Janina, 1956
A receipt for the chairman of the Maryte Melnikaite collective farm, 1956.
To Grigas, the chairman of the Maryte Melnikaite collective farm, the Anyksciai district

We hereby inform you that we, partisans, are taking six sheep from the sheep farm for our sustenance, guarded by M. Tamosiunas in the collective farm, which you are in charge of.

Comrade Grigas, you are being warned by the partisans to deal with this matter quietly, without alerting the secret police, generally, not drawing this to public attention. If you do not fulfill these demands, you will be shot!

Siaubunas

October the 10th, 1950 The Partisans of Lithuania
Antanas Kraujelis-Siaubunas, the spring of 1955
Antanas Pinkevicius and Antanas Kraujelis, 1960
Antanas Pinkevicius’s house, where Antanas Kraujelis was hiding. Papiskiai, 17 03 1965

After the fight. The house where Antanas Kraujelis died. Papiskiai, 17 03 1965
The body of the last active partisan of Vytautas’s division, Antanas Kraujelis. In the place where the partisan is lying a monument stone was erected on 13 06 1965. Papiskiai, 17 03 1965

The last photograph. Papiskiai, 17 03 1965
From the left: Janina and Ona Snukiskyte after the tragic event. Papiskiai, 17 03 1965

The hideout in Antanas Pinkevicius’s house.
Antanas Kraujelis-Siaubunas’s belongings, found in the hideout.

Partisan Antanas Kraujelis’s guns
The Exile

The fateful morning

Let us go back in our thoughts to the time when Antanas was still alive and all our family were living our customary, albeit turbulent life in our beautiful homestead in Kaniukai.

Having received the news about the possibility of being deported, dad wouldn’t spend nights at home, he used to hide at our neighbours’ or in a haystack. But on that fateful night everyone was at home except for grandmother (dad’s mother) who had gone away for a few days.

– On the eve of the fateful event we were picking ‘antaninis’ * apples together with Danute Andrijauskaite, – remembers Vitalija. – It was sunny, we were in an excellent mood, talking about our plans to go to an annual religious festival in Suginciai.

But very early (on 20 September 1950) the following day, still at dawn, there was a terrible fog and our estate was under siege. Lieutenant Gediminas Ragauskas from the secret police together with his aides stormed into the house, made mum and dad sit at the table and read out that we were being deported from Lithuania for the rest of our lives.

We were all devastated, lost, sleepy having just been turned out from our warm beds. We suddenly realized that it’s our last morning at our beloved home.

Mum, in a state of shock, didn’t do anything, just cried saying she didn’t want to live. The most hurtful thing for her was the fact that her son was staying back in Lithuania and there was no knowing if she would ever see him again. The Russian collaborator couldn’t take her heart wrenching cries and fetched a blow to her head to shut her up. Mummy, overpowered by terrible grief, fell down onto the bed and continued to weep loudly.

* a kind of apple grown in Lithuania
Scared Anele and Brone were consoling her. I was standing outside by the corner of the house, crying. Crying, like I’d never cried before. I was aware that we were being taken god knows where, to a strange country, and everything would be left behind in the motherland: the house, the cowshed, the barn, the garden, the well and the graves (my sister’s and my two brothers’). Who would tend to them? Grass would grow over them and they would disappear.

Around the Russians and the Lithuanians were swearing and ransacking the place.

Dad, seeing what was happening, was aware of having to make sure that the kids had enough to eat during the journey. We were being taken to the unknown after all! He slaughtered a sheep, Vitalija milked a cow while a Russian collaborator was guarding her with a gun, making sure she doesn’t run off. The dog was howling as it could sense trouble while the Russian collaborator was poking at it with a stick trying to get it to stop.

Nobody can describe the pain and hopelessness of that morning! Nobody will understand unless they’ve been through it themselves. It was awful. The same questions were going round and round in my head: ‘Why? For what?’

Neighbours’ carriages pulled up, some things were placed inside. We were herded into a cart and taken away. While Vitalija was getting into the cart, a Russian collaborator hit her in the side and made a sneering remark: ‘Tell us where Antanas is, – and we will not take you away’.

Antanas was in the Kaniukai cemetery at the time and saw everything.

‘It was very hard, – later Antanas told. – If I had shot myself – the thought did cross my mind – I don’t think my parents’ deportation would have been delayed’.

Our cart was stopped by the Andrijauskai estate. Neighbours had brought some flour, fat bacon, lard and a loaf of bread for the journey. People were crying when saying goodbye as it was horrifying to see a cart full of under-age girls being taken away from their home. Those who helped us at that time, took a serious risk. We were a ‘bandit’s’ family.

We were taken to Skudutiskis where other families who were also be-
ing deported had already been brought. They were checking our things for about an hour. Some stuff was taken away, they kept it to themselves. It was raining.

After that we were made to sit in a lorry which took us to Svencionelai. We were then shoved into a wagon for transporting animals. It had no windows. We put our things in the corner. Through a gap in the wagon we could see a large group of people, being pushed around by Russian collaborators.

The train got moving before the sunset. There was a commotion in the wagon, some people were crying, others – praying. Those who came to say their good byes, were running after the train shouting out surnames, looking for their dear ones. The journey started...

A woman with her very young son was in our wagon. He kept crying and asking for milk, but there wasn’t any. Later the tiny deportee died while being transported to Marasai (in the Irkutsk area) in an open lorry. Apart from this boy, five other children without their parents were in the wagon. The youngest girl was approximately six months old. She also died in the lorry on the way to Marasai.

Russian collaborators found my oldest sister Ona after one year (she was living at auntie Albina’s in Stirniai with her family) and deported her to Siberia along with her husband’s mother and her two young daughters. Her husband was deported separately. Ona was taken to the Kemerovas area (the Kazachinsk district). We found out about that much later.

Her mother-in-law died in Siberia.

The new home

We were carried to Cheremhov (the Irkutst area) by train.

Around the 12th of October 1951 in the evening we were herded out of the wagons and transferred onto open lorries. It was a dark snowy night and it was terribly cold. Lights could be seen in the distance. We needed warmth so badly! All our remaining clothes were taken out of the sacks and used to cover the little ones to keep them from freezing. We were on the road all night – 75 km South west from Cheremhov to Golumet, from there – 30 km more.
In the morning we arrived in the settlement of Inginsk, which was in a forest clearing on the left shore of River Bolshaya Belaya (a basin of the Angara) in the valley of the Eastern Sayan Mountains. The settlement was part of the Cheremhov forest industry. 24 Lithuanian families with at least one partisan member were brought here.

We found ourselves in the taiga. There were two long barracks made of logs standing there. The wall gaps were stuffed with moss. The barracks were teeming with bugs.

Lithuanian labourers brought here to work from Novostroika (19 km from Inginsk) were living in one barrack. They came to meet us as they had been told that some more Lithuanians would be brought to the area. We felt calmer and more reassured knowing we were not alone. Besides, the Rainatai and the Pilkauskai from Birzai were already living here. They had already built their own homes.

When ‘burzhuikos’ (hand-made ovens) were lit in the barracks, blood sucking bugs swarmed in through the walls in large numbers, fell down from the ceiling and feasted on the inhabitants. People walked about covered in bloodied bite marks. There were so many bugs that later the strongest insect-powder, which was carcinogenic, was used to get rid of them.

There were no beds in the barracks. Everything was used commonly. There were no toilets at all. A while later the men built tables and 2 metre high partitions from wooden boards. Two smaller families occupied one partitioned area.

The commandant issued a document to sign, which stated that we were brought here for life. We had to register every month. Our passports were taken away.

It was a hard period. People were infested with lice, covered in scabs and bug bites, dirty and hungry.

In our family only dad and Vatalija worked. Mum used to walk 7 kilometres to Inga to look for food. She would bring back potatoes but they were often frozen like stones. Later some Buryats used to arrive with their leashed dogs bringing frozen potatoes and diluted frozen milk.
The barracks were terribly messy. In deep, cold (down to -40°C and colder), dry winters the barrack windows used to freeze up completely. Not only the windows, but the door was often also under the snow, so in the mornings we had to dig our way outside. We would melt snow to get water, and there was no shortage of that.

Later we found out there was a spring 500 metres away. We used to bring water from there carrying yokes, made by my dad. Most often mum would bring water as dad and Vitalija and later Anele as well as Brone, younger under-age girls, were working in the woods. The deportees built a sauna near the spring.

**Antanas’s letters**

The hard trials affected mum’s health. Constantly she used to talk of Antaniukas and fearfully wait for the news from Lithuania.

Antanas used to write letters signing as Padirbonis or Antose. We would open the newly received letters terribly anxiously with shaking hands – will there be some horrific news of Antanas... Having gathered in the evening we often read the letter several times, analyzed every sentence and destroyed the letter as our place could be raided at any time.

Antanas asked after everyone’s health. There was nothing suspicious for the secret police to latch onto.

One Antanas’s letter, addressed to Brone Kraujelyte in Siberia, was confiscated by the secret police. The letter contained Antanas’s photograph, but in the criminal case, drawn up by the secret police, only the letter remained.

**Interrogations of the family members**

The secret police didn’t leave us in peace in Siberia because of the son and brother either.

In freezing weather some Buryats took Vitalija on their sledge to Galum-ete 30 km away for interrogations as Bronius Kalytis-Siaubas had betrayed
her back in Lithuania. He said that the Kraujeliai’s homestead had bunkers and five partisans were hiding in them. He disclosed their surnames and Vitalija’s alias. Vitalija was interrogated by a secret police employee, who arrived from Vilnius and introduced himself as Korsakas.

— I was promised to be sent back to Lithuania and given a flat. They promised everything to get me to spy on my brother, – Vitalija relates. – I wasn’t given any water or food for three days. They wouldn’t let me sleep, just kept pulling at the rosary which I had around my neck until it broke. Then they threw it away. A cleaner found it in the bin and returned it to me. I was imprisoned in a very hot room. I was kept there for eight days and then released.

My under-age sisters Anele and Brone were also brought for interrogations in the freezing cold. They lied to Vitalija that her sisters testified against her as she was receiving letters from Antanas.

Our home was raided. Although Antanas’s photos were not found, they took our family’s photos.

**Christmas in exile**

The post office was in the Inga settlement, 7 km away from the barracks. At first we used to receive very few letters, whereas only my dad’s mother, who was not deported, was allowed to send us parcels.

She returned home a few days after our deportation and decided to stay in her son’s homestead by herself. But she didn’t live in the empty home for long. Russian collaborators knocked down and flattened all the buildings and offered grandma to follow her son to Siberia or get lost. She chose the latter – she stayed with various people, did odd jobs and sometimes would send us fatty pork or apples. I haven’t been able to find apples that smelt like that anywhere!

The first Christmas in exile in 1951 was very sad. Those of us who were not working, laid a huge table for everyone to sit around. Everybody brought what they had, whatever they had received from Lithuania. Our kindest grandma had sent us sweets, God’s cakes and dried apples.
After the common prayer we took a piece of God’s cake from the elder’s hands and were eating it with tears in our eyes, remembering Lithuania and wishing each other to be back there for Christmas Eve the next year.

In the morning we were all made to go to work, whereas in Lithuania people were hurrying to church. We felt deeply sad, cold and alienated. After work we gathered again at the deportee Bielinis’s place to pray. Emilija Raišyte, a former organ player and a teacher, read a gospel. There was not even an orthodox church in Inginsk. The orthodox church in Golumet (30 km away from Inga) was converted into a warehouse for corn.

There was no primary school in Inginsk either. There was one only in Inga. During the first winter I couldn’t attend it as it was far, I needed warm clothes, which I didn’t have. I was approaching my ninth birthday. I decided to go to work looking after a local Russian’s kids so I could earn some money for food and clothes.

We were looking forward to the spring and dreaming of returning to Lithuania.

After settling in and calming down, the Lithuanians started taking care of their livelihoods. They started building cattle-sheds using wooden boards. They would fill the gaps between walls with sawdust to keep the animals warm. They also started growing vegetables.

Every May we would organize religious public festivities. We would bring flowers from the forest, set up an altar and pray. We celebrated other important religious holidays too.

**The deportees’ toils**

The deportees did various jobs in the forestry industry: cut down trees with chainsaws, pruned branches, cleared the forest (burning branches) and tapped trees (particularly hard work usually done by women).

Anele (14 years old) and Brone (13 years old) tapped trees, but started fainting at work because of bad nutrition and excessively hard labour. There was a shortage of vitamins and medical supplies, which were necessary to restore their emaciated bodies.
The few local Russians from Inginsk were watching the hard-working newcomers with fascination. Later, however, following the Lithuanians’ example, they started raising cattle themselves. In a couple of years the living conditions slightly improved. The local Russians started to realize that we were not bandits or fascists as they had been told, but decent people.

Dad sorted, carried and stacked firewood near a narrow railway. Sometimes I would also be taken along to help out.

A few years later dad and my sisters Vitalija, Anele and Brone worked at the railway, connecting Inginsk and Inga. It was used for transporting logs, which were later moved along the River Bolshaya.

Accidents used to often occur while working in the forest. My sister Vitalija suffered the worst injuries, – a falling tree top cracked her skull. She spent a long time in hospital recovering. Later her leg was cut with a hand saw.

School in the taiga

In 1952 I started attending a primary school in Inga. Later, in 1954, my younger sister Stefanija joined me. I used to walk to school along the railway in the taiga. It was very cold and eerie in winters, whereas in summers there were lots of snakes basking on the hot rail. I was terrified of them.

Summers are short and dry in that part of the world. The taiga is then rich with berries, various creatures, irritating flies which can sting very painfully even through protective netting. Flowers in the taiga are very pretty! One summer osiers burst into pink blossom near the spring. It only happened once, they didn’t blossom again! The deportees picked and dried the flowers.

Bird cherries used to blossom in spring. Their ripe berries are tasty and larger than in Lithuania. ‘Cheremsha’ (a hybrid of garlic and onion), black currents, cranberries, blueberries and cedar nuts strengthened the deportees’ immune system and kept various illnesses at bay.

Forest fires were frequent. It’s a terrible sight and a great loss.

The Sayan mountains are located approximately 100 km away from Inga. On a sunny day their silvery peaks could be seen. In spring the River Bolshaya
overflowed because of melting ice from the mountains. Sometimes even our settlement got flooded.

I don’t recall how I learnt Russian but I completed my primary school with good marks. I had to go to Novostroika to continue to the 5th grade.

My parents were faced with a dilemma, – should I be allowed to continue with my studies or should I work? I really wanted to study. Mum backed me up, and in the autumn of 1956 I crossed the River Bolshaya Belaya on a log raft and walked 12 km across the taiga to Novostroika. In winter a Lithuanian family in Novostroika put me up.

I was overjoyed when they decided to build a seven grade school in Inga. It had to be built by the parents and pupils themselves. Thus I completed my seventh grade in Inga.

Moving to a settlement

In 1956 all the deportees where transferred from Inginsk to Inga as forest clearings were moving towards it. In Inginsk everybody was moved out of the barracks to sheds, built by the people themselves from wooden boards. There was no heating, so it was freezing. There was no warm food, people were getting ill. We lived in the sheds for 3 months (from August to October) until the same barracks were brought back and assembled in Inga. To be fair, our conditions here were a little more modern – each family had a small kitchen and a room. The ‘burzhuika’ was replaced by a regular stove. My parents slept in the kitchen while five of us occupied the room. We felt much better in our new abode as it was much more spacious than the old place.

We knew very little of our brother during the eight years of exile. Occasionally, Antanas sent us letters. We also used to get anonymous announcements of his death. More than once we mourned his death and then received his letters again. We were aware that the resistance had been pretty much crushed by the occupation regime. Stool pigeons and traitors were everywhere, partisans were considerably fewer.
The homeland did not welcome

In 1959, after the eight years of the first deportation, mum, as a mother of a large family, managed to obtain the permit to return to Lithuania. The documents issued to my parents by the USSR did not indicate that Steponas and Anele Kraujelai were being released from deportation without the right to enter Lithuania.

On return to the motherland my family could not find anywhere to stay. My dad, being a decent man, expected to find work and a shelter as the home he had built with his own two hands was flattened. Our former neighbours and relatives avoided us because they were afraid of the secret police. They knew that not only the Kraujeliai but also those helping them would have no peace. The occupants took an awful lot from us: our home, our land and our relatives.

The only person who was brave enough to take us in was a mother of two Russian collaborators. Salomeja Vildziuniene, a resident of Kaniukai village, offered us a place to stay at her home. This woman’s husband, my godfather, was shot by partisans whereas her two Russian collaborator sons had escaped to the Kaliningrad area. She occupied half of the house herself and kept animals in the back. We cleaned out the manure, laid the floor and wallpapered the place with old newspapers and delighted in having a shelter.

We lived there in our native Kaniukai for almost a year but dad didn’t get work. He appealed to the authorities at the time requesting to be registered and employed. The government of the Soviet Lithuania issued a negative response, barring us not only from employment, but also residing in the territory of Lithuania.

‘Bring your son, and you will be given work’, these are the words my dad heard many times.

My sister Anele wasn’t offered employment either.

My sister Brone returned from the exile earlier with her family. They were renting half a room from a Polish family in Dvarcioniai near Vilnius.

The youngest sister Stefania joined the fifth grade in the Skudutiskis school whereas I attended the eighth grade in the Moletai school. I was liv-
ing at my sister Vitalija’s, who had bought a shoddy hut with her family near Moletai (in Moletunas).

My sister Ona was living in Moletai with her family. But the secret police stopped her from getting employed too.

The secret police wanted to use the family to lure and capture Antanas somehow. Salomeja Vildziuniene’s estate was constantly surrounded – the secret police were waiting.

Antanas knew that the secret police were terrorizing my parents and sisters on their return from the deportation. He asked everyone to be careful, but once he came to Salomeja Vildziuniene’s to visit us himself. He greeted everyone and says: ‘How come bandits are living with Russian collaborators?’

She was a wonderful woman, very spiritual and a true believer. She took care of our family for almost a year even though everyone else around avoided us.
Dearest ones,

Greetings to you all, dad, mum and the girls and congratulations with the joys of summer. I wish you a lot of joy and good health.

I haven’t had any news from you for a long time, which worries me. I am concerned about your health and well-being (unclear, smudged document). Please write more about yourselves, at least a few words. I would also like to know how other Lithuanians are coping.

I am doing OK. My circumstances are not too bad now. I am pleased to say, I am living fairly freely. I have recently had some news. If the law is not changed, you will be returned to Lithuania before too long. Some deportees from other areas are already being released. Political prisoners will also be freed. I would just like to warn you not to get involved in politics as I have heard.
Antanas’s letter, which was sent to Siberia and confiscated by the KGB
The photogram of Antanas Kraujelis's identification
PHOTOGRAM No 1

Attached to the inquiry protocol No 134 in October 1960.
This photogram contains a photograph of an anonymous note, starting
’Do not harm the hosts...’

Do not harm the hosts, they are innocent.
Their guilt is just the same as yours.

I consume the goods
Kraujelis (illegible)

June 1960

To Russkie chaps

Expert (signature)
FOTOGRAMA Nr. 9

Pris tarybos skts Nr. 134 il 1926 m. spalio mėn.
šieje fotogramoje patraukta atsirinkt
vieta anonyminio laiko, pristatancio
žodžiui, skydelių ir bet приминкui...

...-meni tiesi, pavyzdį priminomų
i savo duotį išdėstę.

Priežasčių

-″...″

(....)

...į pradoję ir nužymuodą procese
poblinkiu, tėvą patraužanci, atsižvelgiant
...vandens... 2

profesoriai... 

...by

...fakto..."..."

...į pradoję ir nužymuodą procese
poblinkiu, tėvą patraužanci, atsižvelgiant
...vandens... 2

...į pradoję ir nužymuodą procese
poblinkiu, tėvą patraužanci, atsižvelgiant
...vandens... 2
PHOTOGRAM No 2

Attached to the inquiry protocol No 134 in October 1960.
This photogram contains a specific part of an anonymous letter, starting with the words ‘To the chairman of the Skudutiskis collective farm.’ following the truth according to the partisans and my own given word.

Partisans
Siaubunas
(Kraujelis)

...for the slightest (illegible) you will only harm yourself. I am prepared for anything. This is in the strictest confidence.
The last one. If you don’t cease and don’t comply, by the New (1956) year, truly!
As a proof that you have changed, on the 30th of this month (by the 30th, 12 am) have ready and bring along 3000 roubles to Laucius’ sauna in Kaniukai for us.

To meet you in person
it is possible as there is too much..
we will meet only to
the mistakes of the past

Expert (signature)
Natalija Krauželiene (1881–1973) – Steponas Krauželis’s mother
The barracks in Inginsk (Irkutsk area, the Golumete district) where Lithuanian deportees lived, 1951–1956
The altar where deportees prayed. Inginsk, 1952–1956
The Kraujelai family in Inga. Mother and father sitting in front, standing from the left: Janina, Vitalija, Brone and Stefanija, 1957

*Partisan Ziukas’s surname was Russified in Siberia
Pentecost in exile. Inginsk, 1956
The workers of the Ceremchov forest industry. The front row from the left: local Russians and Ukrainian deportees. The second row from the left: Rainatiene is the second one, the others are local Russians. The third row from the left: Vladas Pilkauskas, Vanda Klevaite, Brone Krajelyte, Maryte Jukneviciute, Veronika Raisyte, Vlada Bitautaite, Vanda Buivydaite. The fourth row from the left: Vitalija Krajelyte, Vale Martinenaite, Balys Ziukas, a local Russian, Aleksas Bruzas and two Ukrainian deportees. Inginsk, 1953
Work in the forest. From the left: Balys Ziukas and three local Russian women. The second row from the left: Maryte Jukneviciute, Prima Kurkyte, Vlada Bitautaite, Brone Kraujelyte, Ona Mockute and a Belorussian. Inginsk, 1954
The seven grade school built by parents and students themselves. Inga, 1954

Third grade students. Front row from the left: a Ukrainian deportee, the director of the primary school, the class tutor, the principal, Janina Kraujelyte. The second and third rows: local children and Ukrainian deportees. Inga, 1954
Students in deportation. Front row from the left: the second one is Jonas Juknevicius, the class tutor and Balys Klevas. The second row from the left: two Ukrainian deportees, a local Russian, Petras Buivydas, Janina Kraujelyte and two Ukrainian deportees. Back row from the right: Julius Ramanauskas. The others are local children. Inga, 1956

Deportees. From the left: Janina and Stefaniya Kraujelyte. Inginsk, 1952
The River Bolshaya Belaya near the settlement Inga. From the left: Janina and Stefaniya are sitting on a log, 1957

The settlement Inga. From the left: Anele and Stefaniya Kraujelyte, 1957
Wedding. Front row from the left: Stefanija and Janina Kraujelyte. Sitting on the second row from the left: Steponas Kraujelis, Anele Kraujeliene and the groom’s parents Ona Telksniene and Rapolas Telksnys. The back row from the left: the groom’s brother Juozas Telksnys and the newlyweds Vitalija Kraujelyte and Pranciskus Telksnys. Inga, 1958
Notification of departure from the deportation location, addressed to Anele Kraujeliene, 05 06 1958
NOTIFICATION OF DEPORTEE’S DEPARTURE

FROM SPECIAL DEPORTATION
(to be underlined as necessary)
Personal follow up case No ...

1. Surname Kraujeliene
2. Name Anele
3. Father’s name Tomas’s daughter
4. Date of birth 1901
5. Place of birth Kazlai vilage, the Moletai district, Vilnius region, the Lithuanian SSR
6. The basis for deportation following resolution No 14 by the Special Meeting of the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics Cabinet on 27 February 1952.

Is currently in the Golumetsk district, Irkutsk region.

Following the resolution of the USSR Cabinet on 24 November 1955 exonerated from special deportation and departed on 12 May 1958.

The notification data checked with the recorded data of the Bureau of Internal Affairs Special Department No 4 of Irkutsk Region and necessary amendments made on the card of the BIA department 4.

Vice Commander of Special department 4 of the BIA Irkutsk region

Colonel Signature (Mirosnicenko)

5 June 1958 872
Notification of departure from the exile location, addressed to Steponas Kraujelis, 05 06 1958
Criminal case No 33281/5
signature illegible

Confidentially
Irkutsk region May 1958

Bureau of Internal Affairs (BIA) Addition No 1 to accountability of movement

Stamp (illegible)

NOTIFICATION OF DEPORTEE’S DEPARTURE

FROM SPECIAL DEPORTATION
(to be underlined as necessary)

Personal follow up case No ...

1. Surname Kraujelis
2. Name Stepas
3. Father’s name Antanas
4. Date of Birth 1903
5. Place of Birth Jaciai Village, the Moletai district, Vilnius region
6. The basis for deportation following resolution No 14 by the Special Meeting of the Cabinet of the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics on 27 February 1952.

Is currently in the Golumetsk district Irkutsk region.

Following the resolution of the USSR Cabinet on 24 November 1955 exonerated from the special deportation and departed on 12 May 1958.

The notification data checked with the recorded data of the Bureau of Internal Affairs Special Department No 4 of Irkutsk Region and necessary amendments made on the card of the BIA department 4

Vice Commander of Special department 4 of the BIA Irkutsk region

Colonel Signature (Mirosnicenko)

5 June 1958 872
Notification by E. Svarcas, militia major and deputy chairman of the 1st special section of the MIA (the Ministry of Internal Affairs), the LSSR, refusing Steponas Kraujelis, Anele Kraujeliene and Vitalija Kraujelyte the right to settle in the territory of the LSSR, 05 02 1960
criminal case No 6/3/13–33281/5
5 February 1960

CONFIDENTIALLY
2 copies

TO THE HEAD OF DEPARTMENT OF
The Moletai DISTRICT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

City of Moletai

Regarding No 01796 27 October 1959
I notify that following Resolution No 24 by the LSSR Cabinet on 10 January 1960

Kraujelis Stepas, Antanas’s s., born in 1903
Kraujeliene Anele, Tomas’s d., born in 1901
Kraujelyte Vitalija, Stepas’s d., born in 1930

are refused the permit to take up residence in the territory of the Lithuanian SSR.

The purpose of the information presented above is taking appropriate measures regarding the listed persons following directive No 37 clause 2 of the MIA of the LSSR on 24 November 1959.

VICE COMMANDER OF SPECIAL DEPARTMENT 1 OF THE MIA OF THE LSSR, MILITIA MAJOR –

/E. SVARCAS/

Original document signature illegible
Summer. Antanas’s wife Janina and son Antanas, 1959
The second deportation. Steponas Kraujelis is sitting at the front. Squatting from the left: Pranciskus Telksnys with his little son Jonas, Janina Kraujelyte. Rima Budryte is standing behind them. Standing from the left: Vitalija Telksniene, Ona Budriene, Anele Kraujeliene, Melanija Lisauskaite, Anele Kraujelyte and Ona Zazirskaitė.

Maklakov (now Lesosibirsk), 1961
Deportee. Vitalija Telksniene's son Jonas.
Maklakov, 1961
Sitting from the left: Steponas Kraujelis, Anele Kraujeliene. Their daughter Stefaniya is standing. Maklakov, 1963
4-kl. 

Isinamūsios ir isinamūsio pil. Gešio Juozo, Prano s., pašto-telegrafo korespondencijos areštą ir jos panašų sankcijasuoju:

LITUVOS TSR PRASIDĖMAMS

Valstybinis įstatymų patarėjas

(V. GALINAITIS)

1964 m. liepos mēn. d.

NUTARIMAS

(uždėti areštą pašto-telegrafo korespondencijai)

I964 m. liepos mēn. Vd. 

Vilnius

Valstybės Saugumo Komiteto prie Lietuvos TSR Ministrų Tarybos Tardymo skyriaus vyr. tardytojas kapitonas Vyta, išmokojęs baudžiamosios buv. Nr. III medžiagą dėl padarytų Kraujelio Antano, Stepno s. nusikalčimų.

NUSTATĖ:


Pravestu byloje parengtiniu tardymu nustatyta, kad Kraujelis I950 m. vasario mēn. įstojo į įginklų gaują, kurioje būdamas padarė eilę sunkių nusikalčimų. Nuo gaujos likvidavimo momento Kraujelis slapstosi.

Iš esamo byloje duomenų yrapagrindo man y, kad Krauje, gyvenamas nelegaliojo padėtyje, susirašinėjo su savo gimininkais, gyvenamiomis Krasnojarsko srityje, panaudodamas tam
I endorse the right to withhold and confiscate citizen Gecys Juozas’s, Pranas’s son’s, incoming and outgoing postal-telegraph correspondence:

V. GALINAITIS
The prosecutor of the LSSR
State Justice Advisor of the 2nd rank
The 15th of July 1964

RULING

(to withhold and confiscate postal-telegraph correspondence)

The 14th of July 1964

Vilnius

Vyте, captain and senior interrogator of the KGB Interrogation Department of the LSSR inspected the material of criminal case No 181 regarding Antanas Kraujelis’s, Steponas’s son’s, committed crimes and

STIPULATED:

On the 12th of May 1964 the KGB of the LSSR opened a criminal case against Antanas Kraujelis, Steponas’s son, born in 1930 in Kaniukai village, the Moletai district, because of the crimes committed according to the CC (criminal code) of the LSSR Article 62 part 1, Article 64 part 1, Article 70 and Article 92 part 2.

During the preliminary interrogation carried out in the case, it was established that in February 1950 Antanas Kraujelis joined an armed gang in which he committed a number of serious crimes. Kraujelis has been hiding since the liquidation of the gang.

Some data found in the case provides enough evidence to assume that Kraujelis, residing illegally, corresponds with his relatives, who live in Krasnoyarsk region using Gecys Juozas’s, Pranas’s son’s, address in Spieciunai village (the Moletai district).
The State Security regulation to withhold postal-telegraph correspondence
Taking into consideration that citizens’ Gecys Juozas’s and his wife’s Elena’s correspondence may contain data which would be helpful tracing Kraujelis Antanas, following Article 196 of the Criminal Code of the Lithuanian SSR,

RESOLUTION:

1. To withheld incoming and outgoing postal-telegraph correspondence, except newspapers and magazines, from citizens Gecys Juozas, Pranas’s son, and Geciene Leonora, Julius’s daughter, from Spieciunai village, the Moletai district. To examine the correspondence and, if necessary, to confiscate it.

2. To forward a copy of this document to the head of the postal service department, suggesting to him to withhold the correspondence mentioned above and immediately inform the commissioner of the State Security Committee of the Cabinet of the Lithuanian SSR for the Moletai district regarding the examination and confiscation of it.

Captain and Senior Interrogator
of the KGB Interrogation Department of the LSSR
Signature (Vyte)

APPROVED BY: Colonel and Director of the KGB Interrogation
Department of the LSSR
Signature (Kisminas)

Colonel and Director of the KGB of the LSSR
Signature (A. Randakevicius)
Janina Snukiskyte’s and Antanas Kraujelis’s son Antanas, 1964
Terror of the secret police

Secret meetings

Unbearable terror of the secret police started. Dad’s and older sisters’ interrogations continued, but to no avail. Antanas would not be tricked.

In spite of the tighter security surrounding our family, all of us managed to meet Antanas in the forest or other locations at various people’s places. The people who helped Antanas used to arrange our meetings even though he was sought after by the secret police from all the surrounding districts. The secret police workers sent from Vilnius backed them up.

I remember our meeting with Antanas in the forest. He was a handsome, tall, smiling man with long, wavy hair. He was barefoot. He was just the same as he used to be in the native Kaniukai of his childhood. He was wearing jodhpurs and a linen shirt. Antanas didn’t complain about his life. He showed his guns and asked me not to touch them. He said we were safe there. He introduced me to his wife Janina. I found out he had a son Antanas, who was over three years of age.

Antanas urged me to take care of the parents and their health, also to study. He was hoping that at least one of his sisters would get an education. He knew what the parents had to go through. At that time I was not to know yet that both my parents would end their days under my care.

My brother was pleased with my intention to study. We talked about the newly published articles in the press slandering the partisans of our area. He brought and showed the letters he wrote himself to the editor about some lies being spread. He could only defend himself in that way even though his letters were not published and did not reach any readers. Better educated Lithuanians did not believe the Communist propaganda. It was common knowledge that the partisan movement had been undermined by various scumbags, criminal offenders, agents of the secret police acting under the names of partisans.
Later Antanas assigned me and Janina to deliver some documents to Vilnius. Janina was telling me that Antanas was gentle, courteous and a good singer. She said that he was typing up proclamations on a typewriter truly believing that Lithuania would be free... She also added that Antanas was a good mushroom picker and a fisherman, that he got a lot of housework done but would disappear from home for long periods of time as he had to be in hiding.

Following Antanas’s instructions, Janina bought some fabric for a dress for me in the city. I chose blue material, made the dress myself and wore it often. Antanas used to say: ‘You are studying, you need to look prettier.’

**Offers for legalization**

We met Antanas a few more times.

In our family gatherings we often wished that Antanas could be with us, free and not persecuted! But those were only dreams! The secret police put forward offers for legalization to Antanas more than once. He knew their tactics very well indeed. He said that’s what they got paid for, and told us to ignore it and just say that we would try to talk him into it should an opportunity arise. I really wanted him to be with us and for the nightmare to end. We asked him to look for a way out of the situation, to try and become legal. Mother would often say: ‘Maybe nothing will happen to him, he’s done nothing wrong after all...’

Everyone in the family wanted peace, but the secret police were not to be trusted.

‘There is only one way out, if that’s what you want – I can shoot myself right now, – Antanas said. – I’ve got nothing to say to the Russkies, and that’s that. I am determined not to give up, not to kneel down, but to fight until Lithuania is freed from the occupants. I may not live to see it, but you will. I know there are many of you. Please find my remains and bury them properly’, – Antanas asked us before the second deportation.

Antanas believed that Lithuania would be free, even though it seemed totally impossible at the time.
Back to Siberia... Kurundusy

In the spring of 1960 dad and Vitalija’s husband Pranciskus Telksnys were the first ones to be deported for the second time. They settled in Kurundusy (the Zavyavlovsk district, Novosibirsk Oblast). Although the area was incredibly poor, after two months there, having lost hope of finding a more attractive location, they invited us, five women and Vitalija’s five month son to join them.

Our things had to be packed, taken to the station, unpacked again and loaded onto the carriage. We could have done with a man around to help us. My sister Anele took care of everything.

The journey was long and tiring. Vitalija’s little son Jonas fell ill.

We reached Novosibirsk. Kurundusy is only a few kilometres away from there. It was May. We waded through mud in sleet. We were disappointed with what we saw in Kurundusy: the house with the windows almost down in the ground was rotten. There were local drunken Russians hanging around.

Dad with his son-in-law were already starting to farm. He herded cows and used to get milk for his work in the evenings. We, the newcomers, were offered to work as dairymaids or pig farmers.

There was no school.

We gave the situation some thought and decided to look for a shelter elsewhere, especially since our luggage was still at the station.

We had Ona Zazirskaitė’s address in Kaniukai village. She and her mother had been deported to Maklakov. We sent them a telegram trying to find out whether it was worth our while going to Maklakov too. They told us that it was possible to set up a home and find work in that settlement. This message determined our decision, and after three weeks’ stay in Kurundusy we found ourselves in Maklakov (now Lesosibirsk, the Yenisejsk district, Krasnoyarsk Oblast). Here we were greeted and taken care of by Lithuanian deportees. We started working straight away as our savings were running out while wandering in the Siberian vastness.

I was still under-age but I had to work too. While working I completed the evening secondary school. I was preparing myself to study medicine. My
mother wanted me to study in Lithuania. Consequently, in 1962 I returned to Lithuania with one Lithuanian family. I stayed with my sister Brone but I could not get registered.

The bandit’s sister – a student

I passed the entrance exams to the Medical Institute of Kaunas but I was not admitted as my parents had been deported to Siberia. It felt as though the carpet was being pulled from under my feet. A Georgian girl who I was taking the Institute entrance exams with took me to the Veterinarian Academy as she had studied there herself. Later she transferred to the Medical Institute. I was admitted to the Veterinarian Academy as the thirteenth or fourteenth candidate although the entrance exams had already finished. They recognized the entrance exams I passed at the Medical Institute. For a while I was almost happy.

After the first year of studies I visited my parents and relatives in exile. They were delighted I was doing well in my studies and that Antanas was alive.

But my peaceful days in Lithuania did not last long. In the second year the secret police started bothering me terribly. Anonymous letters written by the secret police started flooding the rectorate of the Veterinarian Academy. They were asking in the name of the people for Janina Kraujelyte to be expelled from the Veterinarian Academy of Lithuania as she is taking the people’s children’s place. It was written that her character is like her brother’s, that she meets him regularly and supports him morally and financially.

The secretary of the party organization and the head of the Marxism-Leninism department were stirred up. They assisted the secret police and would come up with various scenarios with them: they demanded that I should renounce my parents, sisters and brother in writing, arrive to the place designated by the secret police for my internship, meet Antanas there and persuade him to give himself up, ask others to talk him into starting the legalization process. I was threatened with expulsion from the Academy and another deportation to Siberia should I refuse to comply. I was told
that that’s where I belonged. I was surrounded with spies so that I wouldn’t meet anybody.

I did not write. I thought – I will go back to Siberia. Vice rector and the dean tried to encourage me and urged me to write that I renounce my family. The head of the Marxism-Leninism department along with some zealous students would not leave me in peace.

Antanas knew about that and abhorred the constraints which were applied to his family.

I left for Ukraine to complete my internship. I was writing my dissertation for almost a year near Moscow, at the Science Research Institute.

I learnt about my brother’s death unexpectedly from a student who was relating to others the news that bandit Kraujelis had been shot.

The warning by the secret police

In 1965, already after Antanas’s death, the secret police arrived at the Veterinarian Academy, where I was studying, to explain ‘some truths to me which I didn’t know yet’. They said: ‘You could be prosecuted for lying to us for almost a year. Now we know you had regular meetings with your brother, carried out his assignments, that you knew his wife and that Antanas had a son. This is enough to lock you up in prison’.

I was sitting there, thinking: ‘What next? It was only Antanas who knew about that’.

Finally the secret police added that they did not intend to arrange any identification, but history would not forget it.

I thought: ‘Could this be all?’

I left the room not seeing anything around me...

The secret police would remind of the past

In 1976 my parents and sisters returned to Lithuania. It wasn’t all that easy to settle after the deportation. Even my appointment to work at the Institute of Zoology and Parasitology of Academy of Sciences was not recognized by the first department of Academy of Sciences.
I am sincerely grateful to Albertas Peciukenas, a habilitated doctor at the Institute of Zoology and Parasitology of Academy of Sciences at that time (now the Institute of Ecology of the Vilnius University), for his great help in the process of my employment. There is no knowing how everything would have turned out if not for his kind support.

We felt insecure for a long time to come.
Commemoration of the Partisan’s activity

Antanas’s work evaluated

The fighters who sacrificed their lives for our freedom and independence are not forgotten in Lithuania. Antanas Kraujelis-Siaubunas, the last actively operating armed partisan from Aukstaitija, is also among them.

On the 10th of October 1994 Antanas Kraujelis-Siaubunas was posthumously awarded for his merits to Lithuania with the Cross of Participation in the Resistance. The award was presented to my dad by professor Vytautas Landsbergs. This event in our family was of great importance. Unfortunately, my mum did not live to see her son’s appraisal. She died in 1989.

On the 19th of March 1995 the 30th anniversary of Antanas Kraujelis-Siaubunas’s death was commemorated in Utena for the first time. Holy mass was held in the church of Jesus’ Ascension to Heaven, commemoration meetings took place at the music school and by the monument stone in Papiskiai to mark this occasion. Detailed accounts of the partisan’s life and activity were read by Algirdas Siukscius and Antanas Stasiskis, a member of Seimas.

Outside the local government building in the Moletai district there is a monument stone with a notice, dedicating the monument to the partisans who died for the freedom of Lithuania between 1949 and 1965.

In 1988 in the cemetery near Lake Dauniskis, Utena, a cenotaph was consecrated during the commemoration of Antanas Kraujelis-Siaubunas’s seventieth birthday. On the 7th of May 2005 in the Rasu Cemetery Juozas Tunaitys, the bishop of Vilnius, consecrated two cenotaphs dedicated to those who died for freedom of the Motherland and the Catholic faith. On one of the cenotaphs, ‘The Lithuanian Partisans’, the partisans who died between 1956 and 1965 are listed. Antanas Kraujelis-Siaubunas is also among them.
On the 23\textsuperscript{rd} of July 2000 a commemoration board with the names of local partisans was installed on one of the walls of the school in Alanta. They had all studied at the school. Antanas Kraujelis-Siaubunas’s name was engraved among them.

On the 14\textsuperscript{th} of August 2001 in the churchyard of the Holy Trinity Church of Skudutiskis parson Gintautas Janciauskas consecrated the memorial dedicated to the unburied post-war communist victims. Jovitas Jankauskas designed it and it was erected because of his initiative by Juozas and Gediminas Klimanskai.

**The last stay in Kaniukai**

Dad was constantly worried that many jobs still needed doing, that the garden wasn’t tidy yet in Kaniukai. After all, the trees needed pruning, some apple tree branches needed to be propped up as plentiful harvest was weighing them down. He was glad that at least the apple trees planted by Antaniukas hadn’t been cut down and destroyed.

His last trip to Kaniukai was especially meaningful. He really wanted to take part in the installation of a state memorial board in the partisan’s native estate. After being asked if he was going, he answered: ‘How could I not?! I know that window of the house, where Antanas used to stand and watch the garden. We both planted the garden and grafted on the trees. Antaniukas probably cared for that garden more than me. Only I know the place where the house had been, so we will mark it’.

That was on the 26\textsuperscript{th} of August 1999. I knew that my dad was unwell but as soon as he entered his own estate, he really brightened up, as if rejuvenated – he was running around the trees, wiping the sweat off his face, touching the branches, stroking every single tree. His eyes were caressing the remaining foundation stones of the house.

He also brought with him his son Antanas’s award – Vytis’s Cross, which was presented to him by the president of already free Lithuania, his Excellency Valdas Adamkus on the 22\textsuperscript{nd} of May 1998. He showed it to the crafts-
men who where working on the state memorial board and told them that his son had been awarded for his merits to Lithuania. Dad was happy that his son was finally appreciated. He was joyful that Lithuania was changing and that life was getting better.

All the daughters, his daughter-in-law Janina, grandson Antanas and many others arrived to celebrate dad’s 95th birthday. To mark this occasion the Defence Vice-minister Edmundas Simanaitis, Colonel Lieutenant Riman-tas Gasperavicius and the Chairman of the Utena district visited and con-gratulated him.

Antanas Kraujelis’s 70th Birthday was honourably commemorative that year. My dad together with professor Vytautas Landsbergis, the Chairman of the Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania at that time, planted an oak in Papiskiai.

‘I hadn’t seen a celebration like that in my life. Eminent people making speeches about Antanas in Papiskiai and in the Culture House in Utena, lots of songs... I was awarded a Certificate for Participation in Freedom Fight- ing’, – dad was happily telling our neighbours.

Dad could no longer attend the commemoration of Antanas’s 35th death anniversary in the year 2000 even though he really wanted to be at the place where his son had died and to hear people talking of him once again.

Professor Vytautas Landsbergis, the Chairman of the Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania at the time, spoke in the meeting. Dr Arvydas Anusauskas, the Head of the Genocide and Resistance Investigation Department of the Lithuanian Inhabitants’ Genocide and Resistance Investigation Centre and General Jonas Algirdas Kronkaitis, the Chief of the Army of Lithuania, talked about the partisans’ role fighting against the occupants. Algirdas Siu-kscius talked about partisan Antanas Kraujelis’s activity. Antanas Kraujelis’s son reminisced about his childhood...

I remember professor Vytautas Landsbergis’s words from that meeting: ‘We have a wealth of songs about partisans but none celebrating Russian col-laborators. Here’s the real judgement, and it will go on...’
Decades later

To commemorate Antanas Kraujelis-Siaubunas’s 40th death anniversary on the 9th of April 2009 an event was organized in Papiskiai village and in Utena by the local council of the Utena district, the Utena branch of the Homeland Union (the Conservatives of Lithuania), the Utena district branch of the Volunteers’ Union of the founders of the Army of Lithuania as well as Vytautas’s Division partisans’ council of Restored Lithuania and the Lithuanian Inhabitants’ Genocide and Resistance Investigation Centre.

An exhibition about Antanas Kraujelis-Siaubunas was organized at the Utena Regional Studies Museum. It presented a short but meaningful visually illustrated history of the life and battle of Aukstaitija’s last partisan.

Monsignor Alfonsas Svarinskas held Holy Mass for Antanas Krauje- lis-Siaubunas and Antanas Pinkevicius-Dobilas in the Church of the Divine Providence of Utena.

After the Holy Mass a meeting was held near the estate in Papiskiai village where Antanas Kraujelis-Siaubunas died and Antanas Pinkevicius-Dobilas was wounded. Here, by the memorial stone, Antanas Stasiskis, a member of Seimas, reserve General Major and the former Chief of the Army of Lithuania Jonas Algirdas Kronkaitis, Algirdas Petruševicius, the Head of the Volunteers’ Union of the founders of the Army of Lithuania, Edmundas Simonaitis, a volunteer and Presidential Advisor of the Republic of Lithuania, Monsignor Alfonsas Svarinskas and others made speeches to a large gathering of participants of the meeting. Partisans songs were sung during the event. Reminiscences took us back to the tragic day, the 17th of March, 1965.

After that from Papiskiai village everyone went to the Music School of Utena, where the meeting continued. Here Balys Juodževičius, the former long-term Director of the Regional Studies Museum of Utena, read the last announcement. The speaker talked about the last partisan’s of Aukstaitija unconventional personality, discussed his methods of fighting, his ability to disguise and remain this peculiar ambassador of freedom, inducing anxiety and terror among the occupants.
Professor Euro-parliamentarian Vytautas Landsbergis also shared his thoughts of the partisans’ meaningful sacrifice, defining the freedom fighters’ mission as a vivid reminder to everyone that Lithuania will be free, that their, partisans’, existence is the embodiment of the continuing faith in the freedom and independence of Lithuania. Professor Vytautas Landsbergis performed the piano ‘Prelude’ by Mikalojus Konstantinas Ciurlionis dedicating it to the memory of partisans.

Dalia Kuodyte, the Head of the Lithuanian Inhabitants’ Genocide and Resistance Investigation Centre, mentioned in her speech that it is insufficient to know the former partisans’ and their chiefs’ names and aliases. Deeper awareness and understanding are needed, so that perhaps monuments will be built and appropriate books will be written.29

**Only the hut remains**

Antanas hasn’t been amongst us for several decades now. Nevertheless, the hut where he lived with his family is still standing. Nobody lives there now. The house harbours a lot of memories from those days – it could become a memorial museum, reminding younger generations of the people who cherished their land dearly and sacrificed their lives in the name of Motherland Lithuania. After all these years the verse written by Antanas Kraujelis’s wife Janina still echoes her heartache:

> Grass will cover pathways where we walked together  
> And just a dream will tell that you and I ever were...

On the motorway from Vilnius to Utena there is a sign with a notice: ‘Partisan Antanas Kraujelis’s place of death – 1.5 km.’ A windy road leads to Papiskiai village.

Following the initiative of the Political Prisoners and Deportees Department of Utena on the 13th of June 1992 a memorial stone was solemnly uncovered and consecrated by the house in Papiskiai village where Antanas
tragically died. It was designed by Vytautas Giedraitis and has the inscription: ‘Antanas Kraujelis-Siaubunas, the last partisan of Lithuania, died in this estate on the 17th of March, 1965.’

Uncovering the monument near the house where he tragically died, a volley of shots was fired. But those were not the shots bringing death, but a symbol of regard for the man who gave his life for the freedom of Lithuania.
Memorial stone being consecrated by dean parson Petras Adamonis. Papiskiai, 13 06 1992
Partisan's father Steponas Kraujelis. Papiskiai, 13 06 1992
Commemoration of partisan Antanas Kraujelis-Siaubunas's 30th death anniversary. Partisan’s sisters and his father by the memorial stone from the left: Ona, Brone, Janina, Anele and Vitalija. Papiskiai, 19 03 1995
Meeting to commemorate partisan Antanas Kraujelis-Siaubunas’s 30th death anniversary. Algirdas Siukscius, a researcher of Antanas Kraujelis’s life, speaking. Utena, 19 03 1995
Uncovering the memorial board on a wall of the school where Antanas Kraujelis studied. Consecrated by priest Pranciskus Sabaliauskas. Antanas Kraujelis’s sisters from the left: Janina, Ona, Vitalija and Brone. Alanta, 23 07 2000
Partisan Antanas Kraujelis’s ammunition, clothes and personal belongings exhibited on a special stand at the National Museum of Lithuania. Vilnius, 12 01 1992
Following the decision of the Committee representing the resistance members’ rights of the Lithuanian Inhabitants’ Genocide and Resistance Investigation Centre (the 12th of December, protocol No 4)
Senior Lieutenant ANTANAS KRAUJELIS (military rank, name, surname) is posthumously certified as a VOLUNTEER FIGHTER
General director of LIGRIC
A. V.
Chairman of the committee representing the resistance members’ rights
22nd of December, 1997
First from the left: Antanas Kraujelis-Siaubunas’s cenotaph. Utena, 1988
Priest Robertas Mikalauskas from the Holy Trinity Church (the Skudutiskis parish) is consecrating the memorial board dedicated to partisans. Antanas Kraujelis’s family and friends taking part. Kaniukai, 07 07 2001
Antanas Kraujelis-Siaubunas’s (posthumous) award. Valdas Adamkus, the President of the Republic of Lithuania, and Steponas Kraujelis, the father of Antanas Kraujelis-Siaubunas, who was awarded the Vytis’s Cross medal (posthumously). From the left: Antanas Snukiskis, – the son of the awarded, his niece Zydre Syvokaite and sister Janina Syvokiene. Vilnius, 22 05 1998

The Vytis’s Cross medal, the decree and certificate awarded (posthumously) to Antanas Kraujelis-Siaubunas by the President of the Republic of Lithuania. 19 05 1998
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA
DECREE
Extract: REGARDING VYTIS’S CROSS ORDER AWARD
19 May 1998. No 72
Vilnius
1. article.
On the 50th anniversary of the Great deportation and the 54th anniversary of armed resistance for dedication and endurance defending freedom and independence of the Republic of Lithuania
I award
VYTIS’S CROSS ORDER
to the following participants – volunteer fighters of armed resistance and resistance freedom fighters:
order of the 3rd degree
Antanas Kraujelis
(Siaubunas)
(posthumously)
the chief of Zerutis district headquarters, Vytautas’s division

2. article.
The decree is valid from the date of signature.
THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC VALDAS ADAMKUS
Daddy among the family on his 95th birthday. Sitting from the left: Janina Snukiskyte (daughter-in-law), Steponas Kraujelis and Janina Syvokiene. Standing: dad’s cousin Veronika Valytė (a former political prisoner), his daughters Stefanija Ivanauskiene, Anele Tauginiene, Vitalija Telksniene, Ona Budriene and Brone Zukiene. Vilnius, 10 05 1998
Steponas Kraujelis being congratulated on the Lithuanian Army Day by Edmundas Simanaitis, the vice minister of the Ministry of Defence of Lithuania and colonel lieutenant Rimantas Gasparavicius. Vilnius, 19 11 1998
Commemorating the date of partisan Antanas Kraujelis Siaubunas’s 70th birthday. Antanas Kraujelis’s wife Janina is speaking. Papiskiai, 25 10 1998

By the newly planted oak. First row from the left: Steponas Kraujelis, the Chairman of the Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania professor Vytautas Landsbergis and Janina Syvokiene. The second row from the left: Benjaminas Syvokas and Rimantas Dijokas, the Head of the Utena district. Papiskiai, 25 10 1998
Presenting the Freedom Fighter’s certificate. From the left: the partisan’s father Steponas Kraujelis and Eugenijus Rimvydas Stancikas, the Chairman of the Committee protecting the Resistance Participants’ rights of the Lithuanian Inhabitants’ Genocide and Resistance Investigation Centre. Utena, 25 10 1998

Commemorating the date of partisan Antanas Kraujelis Siaubunas’s 70th birthday. Member of parliament Antanas Stasiskis making a speech. Sitting from the left: Algirdas Siukscius and Edmundas Pupinis, the Mayor of Utena. 25 10 1998
Partisan Antanas Kraujelis Siaubunas’s son Antanas Snukiskis making a speech. Utena, 25 10 1998
'Let's preserve the memory.' Antanas Kraujelis’s son Antanas Snukiskis performing a song. Sitting from the left: Algirdas Siukscius and Edmundas Pupinis, the Mayor of Utena. 25 10 1998
The mixed choir of the Academy of Sciences are performing in the meeting to commemorate Antanas Kraujelis’s 35th death anniversary. Utena, 18 03 2000
The exhibition to commemorate Antanas Kraujelis, the last partisan of Aukstaitija, at the Utena Regional Studies Museum. 09 04 2005
Holly mass to commemorate partisan Antanas Kraujelis-Siaubunas’s and Antanas Pinkevicius-Dobilas’s 40th death anniversary in the Church of Divine Providence. Utena, 09 04 2005

The participants of the meeting dedicated to commemorate partisan Antanas Kraujelis-Siaubunas’s and Antanas Pinkevicius-Dobilas’s 40th death anniversary. Papiskiai, 09 04 2005
The participants of the meeting dedicated to commemorate partisan Antanas Kraujelis-Siaubunas’s and Antanas Pinkevicius-Dobilas’s 40th death anniversary. Utena, 09 04 2005

Reserve General Major and the former Chief of the Army of Lithuania Jonas Algirdas Kronkaitis making a speech. Papiskiai, 09 04 2005
Partisan Antanas Kraujelis’s wife Janina and son Antanas. Papiskiai, 09 04 2005
40 years later at the place of Antanas Kraujelis’s death. Antanas Kraujelis’s sister Brone by the monument. October of 2005
By the uncovered cenotaph at the Rasu Cemetery, Vilnius, 07 05 2005
Reminiscences by Antanas Kraujelis’s contemporaries

Reminiscences by Antanas Kraujelis’s wife
Janina Snukiskyte

I was born in Papiskiai village (the Utena district) on the 30th of July 1938. I grew up in a family of five children. My mother died when I was two years old. The following year my father brought my stepmother. She was the one who raised us.

I completed the Kvikliai primary school but I couldn’t continue my studies because of the circumstances.

The Russians came, collective farms were being founded. For three years I tended to cows at the collective farm with cowhand Pinkevicius from Strazdakalnis village.

When I was 12 years old, I was taken to Kaunas to work as a maid in Nijole Linkeviciene’s family. She was my stepmother’s sister’s daughter. I looked after their little girl Ritute. They wouldn’t pay me for that. I lived with them as a member of their family for five years until 1955, when I turned 17.

I really wanted to return home as during that time I didn’t get to go to my village. My father and stepmother came to see me only once. They didn’t have money to come more often.

In 1955 my employers gave me some money, and I went home. I visited my relatives together with my sister. We went to the wake in Skudutiskis where we met my father’s sister Zofija Petroniene, who was living there. She invited me and my sister to her place and treated us. When she was seeing us off she asked when I intended to go back to Kaunas. Later she went to see my father and offered to take me in.

From then on I stayed with my aunt Zofija.
Two days later a man came to see my aunt, whom she welcomed as a
guest. He came back again the following evening. That time my aunt offered
him food again. The guest sang some songs really well. He had a truly beau-
tiful voice. When he was leaving he took my hand, we talked for a while and
agreed to meet up again in the evening.

My aunt told me that he was working at the dairy. She also told me to keep
quiet about his visits. That’s how my acquaintance with Antanas began.

We were dating for a month until one day he told me that he was be-
ing persecuted and that his parents had been deported to Siberia. I felt re-
ally sorry for him.

When I saw him with his long hair down, he looked even more hand-
some to me. Usually he would hide his hair under his cap.

Antanas showed me the hideout under my auntie’s bed. Inside I saw
some guns, – an automatic rifle and a pistol. He had been hiding there for a
year already. Antanas had a radio, which we used to listen to together. Once
he took a photo of me and we had a photo taken of us together.

All was well, I was carrying it all in my heart without saying a word of it
to anyone. Aunt Zofija would have liked me to be more open with her about
it. She got on well with Antanas.

My aunt had four children: Jonas, Bronius, Lionius and Zene. Her hus-
band Petronis would say: ‘What are you doing, woman?! Let her go back to
Kaunas.’

She would snap back at him: ‘Don’t interfere, freedom is nearly here, let
them see each other!’

So we were seeing each other. Later our relationship became more
intimate.

Once Antanas invited me to the woods. He had already arranged it with
a priest, who got us down on our knees, made the sign of the cross and mar-
rried us in the forest.

I was expecting a baby. Antanas told aunt Zofija that I was already preg-
nant. Aunt decided to cover me and, pretending that she was pregnant her-
self, walked about with a pillow tied to her stomach.
During the childbirth she was the one to deliver the baby, sort everything out and call for a nurse as though she’d had the baby herself. In those days most women would give birth at home. The nurse issued a note that the baby had already been born and it was too late to take the mother to the hospital.

However, rumours started spreading, the secret police started coming around and it was necessary to move out.

Antanas had a chat with my sister Ona’s husband Antanas Pinkevicius, who agreed to take us in.

Antanas Pinkevicius, a former partisans’ liaison, had been imprisoned for anti-soviet activities. He bought an old barn, which he dismantled along with his sauna and used the timber to build a small house in Papiskiai.

My Antanas helped him to build the house and set up a hideout under the stove. They both got on and worked really well together. My Antanas helped him out a lot: laid the floor, put in the windows and the door.

We moved there.

Our son Antanas stayed with aunt Zofija. I used to visit him there. He would call me ‘nanny’ or Jane. Petroniene was mum for him, Petronis was his dad and Kraujelis – daddy. I used to bring my son to Papiskiai. Antanas loved his son dearly, would always make the sign of the cross on him.

After a while the secret police started paying visits to Papiskiai too. Then Antanas would write various misleading notes for the secret police. I had to rewrite and post them.

One evening the secret police called me out there and said to me: ‘You are living with Kraujelis’. I denied it. They gave me a piece of paper and told me to write that I didn’t know Kraujelis and had no child by him. That’s what I wrote.

I told Antanas what I was made to write.

Antanas used to instruct us what to do, how to behave and what to say. ‘Whatever they make you do, however provocative their words may be, don’t be frightened. Even if they bring my dead body’, – he advised.

To avoid possible prosecution, it was decided to change my date of birth and make me under-age, hence I am one year younger in my passport (I was born on the 30th of July 1939).
I used to help Antanas a lot. I would carry food for him. If I noticed anything suspicious, I would let him know about it.

Once I was taking his clothes and some food on a bicycle and I was chased by the secret police on a motorbike through the Veteikiai village. I dodged them and escaped. I was a suspect. It cost me so much anxiety and tears that I cannot describe it!

On Christmas Eve 1964 there was a raid. Our home was already being surrounded during the day. A lorry with a Christmas tree was going past and then stopped, – it sort of broke down. They were fiddling with it until the late afternoon. Antanas realized that it was a set up and that the house was being watched. He was in his hideout.

In the evening the secret police swarmed into the house and ordered to put out the kerosene lamp. They were sitting around the stove waiting for the bandit, who was expected to come for the Christmas Eve dinner. In the meantime Antanas was praying to the Almighty in his hideout: ‘If you were born tonight, help me please. Once I leave, I will never be back here!’ He held his breath and stopped his watch.

The secret police spent the whole night at our place. We were totally numb, just waiting to see what would happen.

Morning came. After a superficial check, – they tore one board back in the corridor and poked around a bit under the stove where the hideout was. They made a report that nothing was found and left.

Antanas left the house in the late afternoon. We agreed to meet in a month. There were no more raids during that time.

I met him at the time we had arranged. He said that the Pinkeviciai’s estate had to be searched but as it was still cold and snowy, they wouldn’t bother. Unfortunately, he was wrong.

Antanas meant to leave. He asked for his skis to be brought. But the following morning, which was the fateful March the 17th the house was surrounded and raided from 9 o’clock. They poked around everywhere, examined all the floors until they found the hideout. Those minutes waiting for it to happen were horrific.
When they found the hideout, they pushed my brother-in-law to the entrance gap. A shot was heard and my brother-in-law fell. Then the secret police ran outside.

Then I see Antanas is walking around. He asks: ‘Are there many?’ I answer: ‘Many…’ He asked me to pass him a dress. He wanted to escape. ‘Maybe they won’t fire at a woman?!’ – he was thinking.

He also tried to shoot their dog – he fired twice. I implored him to stop shooting and in the meantime my sister Ona brought a note, which said: ‘Kraujelis, give yourself up and you will be pardoned’. He smiled and says: ‘Yeah, I am giving myself up to the Russkies in a minute’.

I hesitated for a moment, thinking that maybe he would agree?

He turned around to me and says: ‘Don’t worry, nothing will happen to you, that much is clear. Take Alvydukas (our son had two names: Antanas and Alvydas), and I will give myself up in a minute’.

Antanas burnt some documents and leapt upstairs. A shot was heard and something fell down.

I ran upstairs. I see him lying covered in blood. I shook his hand and saw he was no longer alive. I kissed his hand and went downstairs.

I told my sister that Antanas shot himself. She started crying. I said: ‘I am going to tell them that he shot himself’. I told them.

Three policemen, pointing their rifles, told me to go first. They shoved me upstairs and told me to pass them the rifle and drag Antanas to the edge. Then they went upstairs and told me to go down.

When I got down, I took strength from his last words: ‘Nothing will happen to you’. ‘Get lost, I haven’t done anything wrong!’ – I thought to myself.

The secret police were dragging him, trying to get him downstairs.

I went out to the cowshed to feed the animals.

One of them came and said to me: ‘You are under arrest, get ready!’

I was taken to the secret police office. Antanas was also taken to the main road, where several cars were waiting. The secret police sat in them and went to Utena.
I was imprisoned in a cellar for three days, then taken to Lukiskes in Vilnius. I was kept in solitary confinement, then with a spy, then back in solitary confinement until the 3\textsuperscript{rd} of September 1965. They interrogated me, demanded documents and photographs. I told them where they could find a few family photos. They brought them to me and said: ‘Missing already?’

I looked at the one with the three of us, kissed it and took it. The warden grabbed the photos and didn’t show them to me again. The interrogator and the prosecutor lit their cigarettes. I was told that 8 photos would be attached to the case and kept in a museum, and the others would be destroyed. They also asked me if I would like to meet my sister. I said I would.

My sister Ona arrived with some food the following day. The prison warden promised to give me the food later on my way to the cell.

My sister passed me a note, saying that she was sent there by the secret police and that they had paid for her trip. My sister then tried to question me, she asked to reveal where the documents were. She mentioned that I would be released if I disclosed that information. I said to her: ‘You saw him burn the documents before he shot himself, I don’t really know anything else’. I swallowed her note.

One hour later the prison warden saw that we were not really talking with each other openly, so he stopped our meeting.

The food wasn’t given to me.

They called for me soon again. I heard Sergej Tichomirov’s voice. Again he keeps asking me: ‘Tell us where the documents are, tell us and you will get your parcel. Where did Kraujelis use to stop by?’ – ‘I don’t know, and you have already found what I was trying to hide!’ – I answered. ‘Why were you hiding the bandit?’ – Tichomirov interrogates. – ‘He was my husband – I loved him and I was hiding him!’ – I answered. – ‘What husband?! You were only living together!’ – Sergej Tichomirov shouted.

I felt stronger because the priest had blessed us and said that our life was sacred.

After the interrogation ended and the case was drawn up I was told that the trial would be held on the 3\textsuperscript{rd} of September, 1965. During the trial they
didn’t have that much to be busy with. A commission arrived to write off some worn out chairs in the courtroom. Finally they read out that there was sufficient evidence for conviction. So I was convicted. Some people close to me also testified against me half-heartedly. It was announced that I would carry out my 4 year sentence in the prison of Panevezys.

I was working as a seamstress while I was in prison. I also completed two compulsory classes. My photograph was displayed in an honorary stand for my good work. Half-way through my sentence they wanted to release me, but the commission asked me: ‘How many people did Kraujelis shoot?’ I said: ‘Not one. During ten years of our life together he didn’t intend to shoot anyone’. – ‘We are not letting you out!’ – that’s all they said.

Later an amnesty was announced and my sentence was reduced by 8 months and 9 days. I returned from prison on the 10th of November 1968.

I was called out by Sergej Tichomirov and promised employment at a hosiery factory. I accepted. I worked there for 12 years. During that time I obtained a flat.

As my health deteriorated, I was transferred to an appliance plant. I worked there for 14 years. Later I worked at the company ‘Skalba’.

Now I am a pensioner.
Antanas Kraujelis and me were contemporaries.

I was born in the Utena district, Saldutiskiai settlement (now the Molėtai district), in the nearby Ancenai village.

I spent a few years of my childhood in Kaniukai, where together with Antanas we attended the elementary school which was opened in Antanas Niaura’s house in the village centre. This house is still there, subsiding into the ground and failing to receive the necessary attention from the local government as an object of cultural heritage. All four grades of the school as well as the teaching aids fitted in one room at that time. Vegele, the principal of the school, also had a room there.

70 years on, not many memories of Antanas remain from those days. He was a friendly, conscientious and neat pupil.

Antanas Kezys’s family lived near the Kraujeliai’s estate at that time. I was friendly with their kids: Jonas, who was two years older than me, Gene and Antanas. I used to visit them quite a lot.

Jonas Kezys, along with many other youths of the draft-age from Kaniukai, were hiding in an attempt to evade the military service in the Red Army and got killed with some other partisans in the Jonava-Pakalniai forests.

As the Soviets occupied Lithuania for the second time, Antanas Kraujelis immediately got involved in the resistance movement against the occupation as a partisans’ liaison and a versatile supporter.

On a summer’s night in 1948, before becoming a partisan, together with Danielius and Jonas Bruzai he brought back the partisans Jonas Vyzintas-Svirplys’s and Bronius Streiblys-Marsas’s remains to the Kraujeliai’s estate from the Skudutiskis mill, which was near the cops’ post. Serapinas Rinkevičius, a resident of Zibeciai village, along with his son Daniu, made the coffins while the whole Kraujeliai family laid out the bodies and buried them in the Kaniukai cemetery.
Kraujelis left home to become a partisan in 1948, when many youths from Kaniukai village had already lost their lives for the freedom of Lithuania. Apart from the previously mentioned Jonas Kezys, Antanas Lasys, brothers Stasys and Vladas Pakeniai and Antanas Pakenis lost their lives from 1945 to 1946.

All of these Kaniukai partisans, still being very young, sacrificed their lives for the freedom and independence of Lithuania. All of their homes were wiped out, not a stone was untouched, whereas their family members were deported to Siberia and the Gulags or lost their health and died early because of constant persecution. Those who returned to the Motherland were still oppressed by the Soviets.

The occupants’ brutality, his friends’ deaths and suffering not only did not deter Antanas to choose a partisan’s life but, on the contrary, galvanized him.

After becoming a partisan, Antanas Kraujelis was hiding close to home in the Alanta settlement, the former township of Kaniukai. First of all he was based in Ancenai village, bordering Spuliai village, at Bronius Jankauskas’s estate, where a temporary partisans’ camp was set up. Bronius Jankauskas was a poor farmer.

Before becoming a cop, Jonas Pakalnis, a resident of Ancenai village, was living at teacher Antanas Krizanauskas’s home. The latter had been deported from Kaniukai on the 14th of June 1941. Jonas Pakalnis disclosed Antanas’s hideout but the secret police failed to capture him. The owners of the place where the hideout was set up were interrogated for half a year in the cellars of the Moletai and Vilnius secret police but were released as no case was drawn up.

On the 17th of December 1951, at night partisans Antanas Kraujelis, Gaidelis (I have forgotten his full name) and Danielius Bruzas were attacked by the secret police at Savickas’s home near Skudutiskis. Danielius Bruzas-Atlantas’s legs were injured during the shoot-out. Not being able to run, he disguised himself in a gravel pit and covered his friends shooting. Sacrificing his own life, on that occasion he saved Gaidelis’s and Antanas Kraujelis’s lives.
On the 22nd of December 1952 Antanas Kraujelis’s close friend Edmundas Satkunas, who had been recruited by the secret police, wounded him during an attempt on his life. After that Antanas Kraujelis set up a hideout at Aleksas Lapasauskas’s in the remote Baltise hamlet. He lived one kilometre away from the Skudutiskis cop station. Here the wounded partisan was looked after and nursed by the senior daughter Marijona in particular.

Later Antanas was hiding in Mockėnai village at the sisters Zidonytes’s and only later – according to the record in Part 10 of ‘The Archive of the Freedom Fights’ – at Antanas Petronis’s, a resident of Antaninava (Dubelka) village. It is noted that the families, who helped out Antanas, were unable to stay in their homes because of the Communist persecution and had to change their places of residence.

During all those years, whenever I returned home for holidays from my studies, Antanas would frequently come to our estate at Napoleonas Kezys’s in Keriobliskis village.

More often than not he would come with Vladas Petronis-Nemunas, who would stay on guard outside. But in 1954 after Vladas registered for legalization, Antanas would only come by himself after dark from the Girele forest.

He would have a quick chat with my parents, and after that we would talk for ages about the domestic and international situation of Lithuania, the chances to survive, the current affairs. It was evident that the West were not in a hurry to liberate us, and we couldn’t get out of the country by land, water or air. Therefore we analyzed endlessly and in detail the long-term possibilities of hiding in the Homeland.

During one of our meetings Antanas said he had something very important to discuss and wanted to do it in private, without my parents being around. We went out of the house to the sauna and continued our conversation. Antanas asked if I would like to work with him, to act together. I had just returned from the Gulag and told him that I was determined to continue my studies. Antanas seemed to be somewhat disappointed because of it but did not show his discontent. We continued our close friendship. On the 31st of July 1953 he gave me his photo with a note.
A couple of years later I left for Kaunas to study. Since then our meetings became less frequent. Later Antanas moved further away from Keriobliskis and we lost touch altogether.

Providing the nearby living partisan with food, press, communication and medical supplies caused worry not only to the house owners but also all the surrounding people of good will. It was everyone’s duty and responsibility. There were constant organizational and common every day problems to be solved.

Here is one of the memorable occasions, previously mentioned and now related in detail by Napoleonas Kezys, a 91 year old elder living in Vilnius.

While I was still in the Gulag, Napoleonas was in charge of a pig farm at that time, which was at Antanas Gudonis’s estate in the Kaniukai collective farm. During his meeting with Antanas Kraujelis Napoleonas promised to ‘organize’ bacon for the partisan’s needs. Two fatlings were selected for that
purpose and taken to the nearby pigsty at Antanas Vilutis’s estate, and two new small piglets took their place in the accounts records. Napoleonas appointed the farm workers Eleonora Bartišiute, Stase Jankauskaite from the Ancenai village and locally living Maryte Vilutyte to take turns taking care of the fatlings. They are still living in the Kaniukai village.

One of the fatlings was for the workers for their risky work and keeping the secret. The food for the fatlings was taken from the farm. Despite enormous risks, the fully grown hogs successfully got to those who they were intended for.

Napoleonas was invited to Valerija and Vaclovas Jankauskai’s estate, which was in Ancenai village before the irrigation. Antanas Kraujelis also showed up there, thanked for all the help and got a bottle out. Vaclovas Jankauskas’s brother Jurgis, who was living nearby, also came. He is the father of one of the workers, Stase. All the fellows had a quick drink, started a song and then went home.

Satkunas was the head of the auditing commission in Kaniukai village. He was living in Zibeciai village near Lake Vastapas, known as ‘Slaninis’.

The news of the illegally raised fatlings got to the district later after all. Some officials from Moletai arrived to interrogate Napoleonas and the farm workers. They checked the farm and counted the animals. They failed to find any evidence of a crime committed. Napoleonas, the head of the farm, got demoted and had to work as a security guard. Everything ended well on that occasion because of the neat auditing books but, as it turned out later, the secret police don’t easily give up their suspicions...

When I finished my studies in Kaunas, I moved to Vilnius, and since the beginning of 1962 I worked in the department of technology of the Machine manufacturing design and construction management bureau (PKB), which was located on the shop floor of one of the drill plants of Vilnius.

One day the head of the personnel department Senderovic phoned me and asked me to come by. I went to the administrative unit of the plant. Besides her, in the office there was also a man who spoke Lithuanian with a strong Russian accent. After we greeted and had a quick chat, he asked the
head of the personnel department to leave us alone. It became obvious that an NKVD – or the secret police – worker was standing in front of me.

He began his questioning by checking my personal data and complained that they went to such great lengths trying to find my place of work as I wasn’t registered in Vilnius due to the fact that I didn’t own property there. Later it became clear why the secret police was so intent on finding me.

It turned out they already knew that I was Napoleonas Kezys’s stepson. He and his mother Antanina, who passed away in 1956, helped out some partisans of Lithuania with food. Napoleonas Kezys was still allegedly supporting Antanas Kraujelis-Siaubunas, who was in hiding.

I categorically denied all that, while the secret police agent maintained his own assertions. During the questioning I repeated a few times: ‘If you have enough evidence to prove that Napoleonas is guilty, go ahead and arrest him’. This long and monotonous questioning went on for two hours until he was finally convinced that he wouldn’t get anything out of me. Then the secret police agent started appealing to my, soviet engineer’s and reserve army official’s, conscience and demanded to be informed of anything I may find out about the hiding partisan in the future. The questioning ended on that and, thank God, this topic was never again discussed with the secret police.

After this questioning I realized that a lot of effort was being put into tracking down the only remaining partisan of Eastern Aukstaitija. This manhunt ended in tragedy on the 17th of March 1965.

I see Antanas with his long fair hair falling down to his shoulders from under his uniform cap as if it is still today. In the summer he used to walk carefully barefoot, as if prowling. He was a tall handsome man, therefore not short of young ladies’ attention. But it was visible that his young body was wasting away as he was living in hideouts. His life was dedicated to partisan fights for the freedom and independence of Lithuania.

This fight of his was not meaningless!

The only photograph, preserved in my album throughout all the post-war hardships, reminds me of all that.
The Last Mohican of Independent Lithuania

Dr JONAS NAGINEVICIUS

In March it will be 28 years since partisan Antanas Kraujelis, having fought for the independence of Lithuania, lost his life in his hideout surrounded by Soviet occupants. In those days I was working as a doctor radiologist at the Moletai hospital. Everyone in the district was talking of the partisan. He was brave and devoted to Lithuania without a blemish. He hated the Soviet government. He was respected for that. Antanas Kraujelis was hiding, but used to appear in public too. He arrived at the X-ray unit of the Moletai hospital, which is located near the militia station and the KGB post, twice during the day. This, as a witness, I would like to confirm.

The partisan arrived at the X-ray unit without any referral. In those days I admitted all the collective farmers without a referral at that time as it was often difficult for them to get to Moletai due to the lack of transport. Buses were not running. Collective farmers didn’t have their own horses as they had all been already appropriated by collective farms. There was a shortage of fodder, and many horses died of starvation. Those still alive could hardly move. It was next to impossible to get a horse to go to the doctor’s. On one occasion, taking an X-ray of one such patient without a referral, I noticed that he was very well armed. It is very easy to see metal things when taking an X-ray. He had two grenades, a revolver and a knife attached to his belt. Even the patient himself noticed that I was looking for his lungs where they could never be found. He didn’t object to that, he even remarked jokingly: ‘Alright, alright, have a good look...’ I thought that behind the screen was standing some cowardly Russian collaborator. Issuing the results of the X-ray, I found out that the patient’s family name was Kraujelis.

He came for his second X-ray of the lungs after he had been injured with a bullet. A dark spot, the size of a 20 cents coin, was visible at the top of his left lung. It was very difficult to examine the patient well. His muscles were very tense, and he refused to move. While taking an X-ray of his lungs, the patient had to be constantly asked to turn in different directions, to which
he objected violently. When I asked him to relax his muscles and yield so that I could examine him better, he suddenly shouted out: ‘I will not give in, I will not give in’ and went for his gun. The patient must have thought that I was suggesting to him to give himself up to the militia. I told him that there was miscommunication between us at that time.

Those words calmed him down, and we cleared the air. I asked him not to tense those steely muscles of his as that made it difficult for me to see his lungs. He made sure I was telling the truth flexing his muscles a few more times. That kind of behaviour and his distrust are totally justifiable because, as far as I know, he was shot at by his close friend. He kept asking me if his lungs were injured at the front or more at the back. The dark spot on his lungs was bigger from the spine side. After the X-ray I followed the usual procedures and issued the result. A paramedic saw him out. She came back very excited as he left through the window instead of going out through the door.

One woman, my former patient Sakalauskiene (I can’t recall her first name), arrived the following day and asked for some medicine for Antanas Kraujelis’s lungs. In those days it was hard to get medicine of better quality. I managed to get hold of 40 biomicin tablets and gave them to her. This medicine had only recently become available in the drug stores and was reasonably effective. The same woman was telling me that Antanas Kraujelis had a radio transmitter and maintained connections with overseas. She asked if it was dangerous, and if the partisan’s whereabouts could be discovered during the transmission. I told her that it was very dangerous indeed as it was not difficult at all to ascertain the location of the transmitter. Quite possibly, the transmitter itself was from none other than the KGB.

Quite a lot of time had passed but I was not called for questioning about the partisan’s visit at the X-ray unit. I expected things to continue running smoothly, but I was mistaken. One day a Russian collaborator came with a piece of paper and asked for a sample of my signature. I asked him what kind of signature he wanted, – the one I used at the bank or for prescriptions.

The Russian collaborator got flustered and said that it was up to me to decide. I also got suspicious of a citizen who arrived for an X-ray without a
referral note. He tried hard making out that I didn’t want to admit him for an X-ray without a referral but I made him stand behind the screen and X-rayed him. Soon after that I had to explain myself why I X-ray bandits without demanding them to produce a referral note. It wasn’t difficult to explain myself. I couldn’t see by taking an X-ray who was a good man and who was not. It wasn’t my fault that bandits are out on the loose in the city.

I was lucky that time as I wasn’t prosecuted. The interrogator helped me a lot, he suffered from tuberculosis of the lungs and I was treating him. It has to be noted that they did not stop me X-raying collective farmers after this incident. I couldn’t say whether or not the partisan had that radio transmitter, but soon after the conversation with the woman mentioned earlier partisan Antanas Kraujelis was surrounded by Russian collaborators and lost his life. I don’t know how the KGB found out about the partisan’s visit at the X-ray unit either. I think that the partisan could have sent the result of the X-ray with my signature on it to Russian collaborators himself just to make fun of them.

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Petras Laguckas, a former KGB worker, reminisces

We were two children in our family – my sister and me. My parents were hard up, – they only had 10 hectares of land, which was just gravel of poor quality. During the post-war years my dad was a foreman (an assistant to the village head who was in charge of setting up substations for laying roads and forestry jobs from 10 estates), which was very unpopular among some circles. There were those from the Krasauskai who didn’t like to be forced to the substations following the instructions from the village head, so they grassed to some bushwhackers.

I was a school kid and there wasn’t much that I understood. Father told us that bushwhackers showed up at night and said that soon we would see ‘a red rooster’ (they will set the house on fire). ‘Throw out whatever you have of any value through the window’, – the bushwhackers ordered.

I was worried that my books would catch fire, so I threw them out.

They got my dad down on his knees and beat him to a pulp with the butt of the gun. He could hardly crawl into bed. It took him a long time to recover. My dad didn’t recognize them as they were not local.

When I was studying in the secondary school, they were selecting candidates for a school in Vilnius, which trained the secret police. The agitators said: ‘Bushwhackers beat the living daylights out of your father – join this school’. The Rokiskis KGB branch were recruiting at the time. They reminded me that I had been wronged.

I liked the military uniform with epaulettes. Others from poorer families were talked into it too. Someone else from my class was also persuaded. That was around 1951–1952.

They gathered us, and we left for Vilnius. Here I was put through an intensive Russian language course. We studied at the KGB school on T. Kosciuska Street for a couple of years.

After the internship in Kaunas I was posted to Siauliai region, later – to the Dotnuva district. I was taken care of by a Russian official.
At that time the MGB was changed into the KGB.

We were assigned a district in the village. There were already agents in villages. Demicevas, the assistant to the director, was in charge of capturing nationalist gangs as well as choosing local agents. He was responsible for planning operation strategies, assisted also by party members.

Zolota arrived from Leningrad (now St. Petersburg). He was a Lithuanian, trained there as one of the ‘national’ cadre. My in-laws were living in the Dotnuva district. They had a long house. Some defenders of the people set themselves up at one end of the house. They used to eat there, having got some fatty pork from the village. Their chief was officer Kuginis. When an operation needed to be accomplished, they would be the first ones to go and do the dirty jobs. The officer was in charge, he would plan attacks and where to send each group. Later they would bring back the dead.

The largest numbers of bushwhackers were near Ariogala and Krakiai. Lenartavicius was active there in the woods. On their return the officers used to talk about the operations, but I didn’t take part in them as I was still too young.

There were all sorts of defenders of the people: some really had ideals and followed them, others just went along to evade work, get some bacon and steal something. Others didn’t want to join the army. Some old man would be bullied: ‘Bring some bacon, fry some eggs up!’

We were mostly active in villages. Villagers were frightened – bushwhackers show up at night, cops – during the day. So they didn’t even know who you were – they could just see you were carrying a gun. And those poor things needed to survive...

During the elections we were sent to guard the election post. You have your pistol, mooch around, go and have dinner, have a drink... One time my pistol was snatched away from me in Slapberze. There was somebody at the editing office – just meant it as a joke. At that time I was a junior lieutenant. After 3 days of custody I was fired.

Then I worked as the chairman of the Dotnuva district. I had completed two years of a degree course in law by extramural learning.
On one occasion I arrived in Kupiskis. I had some five agents with me. Around the 1960s there was no active resistance movement left.

I happened to take part in arresting someone from around Simoniai. He was not registered, thus illegal. He had to be punished for that. During the night he used to work in some allotment or somewhere like that. During the day he would be hiding somewhere around the house, behind the oven maybe. We were signalled that he comes out at night, but we couldn’t find him during the day even though we found out about the estate. We set up a trap and the operational group arrived. He was arrested. He was brought to Kupiskis in a lorry.

Later I worked in the Pandelys district. At that time I was already a senior lieutenant. After two years of working there, I was offered a job in Vilnius, at the department of cadres.

There was somebody called Matulaitis in Vilnius. He began to collar me: ‘It’s necessary to go to Utena, one employee of ours has left’. Matulaitis says: ‘Go to the Prof. Union House, there is a convention being held there now. Speak to Petkevicius, he is there now. He’s the one in charge of our people there’.

Petkevicius was the assistant at that time. I agreed to move to Utena. I was assigned the Uzpaliai zone – maybe one third of the district.

Loginovas was in charge of the city and its public domain.

Tichomirovas says: ‘Don’t let it get you down, it’s good you are here. I am a hunter, I will give you a hunting gun’. Tichomirov was working as the chairman then, he was a kind-hearted person. His wife, Rudyte, was from Krekenava. He was very good at the operational side of things. We called him ‘an old-timer’. He is a Lithuanian Russian, originally from Zarasai. Tichomirovas lived in Utena for a long time – until his retirement.

Tichomirovas was in charge of hunting Kraujelis down, that case was his.

Kraujelis was a very clever man, they called him the last Mohican. He could dupe the communists, but he, himself, was born under a lucky star. Thus he managed not to get caught, although those who were hiding or acting together with him were either wiped out or sent to prison.
When he remained alone, it was hard to work and look for him. Kraujielis wouldn’t tell anybody where he would be or go.

If he had more associates, we would try to get one of them to work for us. They would buckle and agree to help out. Then they would return to the gang, carry on together with the bushwhackers but would pass information onto our operational worker. Then the secret police would organize a set up and would capture partisans alive or shoot them dead.

Kraujielis continued to elude us. I happened to read some material about him, but Tichomirovas was in charge of his arrest.

Kraujielis used to stop by to visit some people at a collective farm near Pakalniai. Our agency informed us that he had been there but how and where he went it wasn’t clear. They could describe his appearance, – that he had long hair and so on, but that was it. Having received this information, the secret police would send their workers out, but they failed to find anything.

We found out he cohabited with a certain Janina Snukiskyte. We knew he visited her, we would wait and unexpectedly show up at night, but we never found him.

We were informed that he was active in three districts: Utena, Moletai and Anyksciai. So we kept looking for him in these three areas with the help of some communists and activists, who would provide us with information. There were those who would offer information to us as well as to Kraujielis. How else did he know our work methods?! Our staff didn’t give information to Kraujielis, but among our agents there were those who did. We would give an assignment to an agent, sort of, do this and that, talk to so and so as Kraujielis might meet him, but very often Kraujielis already knew about that.

He wasn’t a heavy drinker. He would have a drink only with those he trusted, and wouldn’t drink much. Just has a shot to whet his appetite and never stayed around for too long.

Once a bottle of vodka with sleeping medicine was prepared, and the agent was instructed to pretend that he couldn’t drink. We were hoping that the sleeping medicine would start working quickly, then we would come and capture him upon receiving the signal.
Everything used to be thought out. There were no defenders of the people left at that time, only the operational staff.

He wanders around the three districts here, there and everywhere, whereas we had to write on a piece of paper if anything needed to be done. Then the chief looks at it and we could go ahead with the operation if he approved.

Kraujelis, however, needed the secret police of Anyksciai and Moletai to know about his presence in those districts. He used to say: ‘Although I am alone, I have my people among the secret police. They inform me of everything, that’s why I go where I like and nobody arrests me. I know their agents, but I feel sorry for them’. Hearing him talk like that, many avoided recruitment by the secret police as they were scared of him.

Once Kraujelis was at a farmer’s place near the Pakalniai forest (later we found out whose place it was). He says: ‘I know the secret police’, – and started naming them. ‘It’s hardly a secret! I have people who inform me all about them, that’s why I haven’t been caught. I can prove it to you if you like. On such and such a day between 12 and 1 o’clock a car will pull up and stand on the hill’.

That’s exactly what he did. Kraujelis wrote a letter to us (we knew his handwriting), where he explained that he wanted to register for legalization. According to the letter, there were no guarantees that he wouldn’t be shot. He told us to arrive by the forest and park the car with the operational worker. He indicated that it would be better if the worker wore a uniform.

The letter was received a week in advance. So it was possible to think it over and discuss it. People were informed about that and there were articles in the press. It was announced that Kraujelis wouldn’t be given a death or prison sentence should he register for legalization. We sat down to talk it over – we thought there was nothing to lose.

I was driving the car. Security was organized in case Kraujelis tried to shoot me. We checked the place first, making sure he wasn’t there.

Armed with a pistol, I got into the car, arrived, parked the car and I am waiting. And nothing! Three hours passed – and neither hello nor good bye!
Two collective farmers went past, looked at the car very intently and walked off. Perhaps they should have been checked? Later the chief asked why I didn’t stop those people. I replied that I hadn’t been instructed to do that, I was told only to sit waiting. Thus Kraujelis proved to the ‘collective farmers’ that ‘his own people’ from the secret police arrived to meet him. He led the people to understand that he really had connections with the secret police.

So our operation ended on that. We simply wanted to teach Kraujelis a lesson, to convince him to give himself up. We knew that it would be very difficult to arrest him.

Later people started refusing to be recruited. They would say: ‘Rumours would have it that he’s got connections with the secret police. We don’t want to, we don’t agree.’

You try to explain to them how much trouble he’s caused, that it’s better to stop him ‘roaming’. They would answer back: ‘He doesn’t bother me, doesn’t hurt me. Why should I interfere’.

The Communist Party Committee kept questioning us: ‘What kind of work are you doing here as there are no results?’

In those days Kraujelis was extorting ‘payments’ from people. Mostly from foremen, also from those in charge of farms. He comes along and says: ‘Prepare such and such amount for me. Having prepared it, leave it at such and such a place’. But he never tells when he is coming. He just makes sure the stuff if ready, so that he is not told that there is nothing for him.

There was no way we could track him down. We continued working, kept sending letters to the places he visited, well, more or less. We knew where he arrived, we were informed of that. But, usually, we got: ‘He’s been and gone, don’t know where’.

We order: ‘If he comes again, give him this letter’. We come up with a letter trying to get him to register for legalization, saying that there are letters of guarantee from the Government, which indicate that no punishment will be carried out for his past even though we didn’t know ourselves whether he would be pardoned or not... Maybe the death sentence wouldn’t be applied but still... But he wasn’t convinced by these letters of guarantee.
He wasn’t a stupid man. We had a lot of respect for him for not getting caught.

His first cousin was recruited by the secret police, he was even given a pistol. Seeing as it was his cousin, Kraujelis had more to drink with him. But the cousin was drunker than Kraujelis. As he was going out through the door, the cousin shot at him but missed. I don’t recall whether Kraujelis was injured or not, but he survived. Kraujelis stopped trusting his close relatives after this.

It was true, sometimes he would dressed up as a woman. He would even take a stroll during the day dressed like that. Even those close to him, who knew him well and would inform us about him, couldn’t recognize him. They would say: ‘How come I didn’t recognize him?’ Kraujelis would say: ‘I saw you walking right past me, you didn’t recognize me.’ ‘It was some old woman walking!’ He would hunch up, leaning forward. ‘That was me’, – Kraujelis would say.

That’s why people didn’t betray him, he wasn’t harming anyone. ‘As far as I am concerned, he can walk about as long as he likes’, – they would say.

There were operations when it was necessary to carry out a search at someone’s estate indicated by the agency. There was a chance, Kraujelis might stop by there.

One officer was supposed to be present in each set up.

Misiukonis was working in Anyksciai at that time. He was still young. He used to say: ‘I am bored being stuck around here, I want to move to Vilnius’.

One ambush after another were organized in the yard, waiting outside for Kraujelis to come. The others were staying inside. That was Misiukonis’s activity.

Kraujelis would never show up on time. He always came either earlier or later.

Now regarding the last operation. He and Snukiskyte had tied the knot (got married in a church). We used to call her out for chats – perhaps we could convince that woman he was living with. She also had a son by him.
We wanted to clarify things – so we sit and talk. Tichomirovas goes on for a while, then it’s my turn. It gets boring to talk all day. She just sits there, blushing. It’s obvious she is nervous. We try to explain that such is life, that we know there is a son.

‘I don’t know, I’ve heard of Kraujelis, but I have no idea where he is,’ Snukiskyte would reply.

Snukiskyte had an aunt. This aunt of hers tied a pillow around herself to look as if she was pregnant. She was quite a bit older already. People started talking: ‘How come these old ones got a child?’ Snukiskyte (the real mother) was staying at her sister’s. She was hiding there until the baby was born. Snukiskyte’s son was given the aunt’s surname. So the aunt raised that child under her own surname.

Ambushes were laid at Snukiskyte’s aunt’s place but to no avail. If there was no danger, to warn Kraujelis visiting Snukiskyte, family members would hang a bucket at an agreed place.

Ambushes would be laid at Snukiskyte’s, the woman Kraujelis lived with, too. But that Kraujelis just doesn’t show up. What good is it waiting, if she puts a bucket where he can see on his way to her that there is an ambush.

So you sit there waiting for nothing. The secret police from Vilnius and from other districts would also arrive but that didn’t get any results at all.

We found out for sure that he is at a certain place. We had to deploy a large force to carry out the operation. Therefore Dusanskis arrived from Vilnius too. They organized a group from three districts – there were quite a few of them, armed with rifles. There was a prosecutor sanction – everything had to be followed precisely. Tichomirovas was in charge of the case.

When the operation had to be carried out, the operational workers would be placed around in case of a shoot-out. Some would be standing behind the cattle-shed, others – at the neighbours’ on both sides. But I didn’t take part anywhere at that time as I’d been injured – I had a surgery after a car crash and I could only use my left hand.

Raids started in the morning. Dusanskis walks around, giving instructions. ‘How come he is not here?’
Snukiskyte is standing by the stove blushing, obviously nervous. He seems to be around but she says nothing. We say: ‘We’ll go through everything, there will be a shoot-out’. But she doesn’t budge, just keeps standing by the stove.

The sister’s kids were taken to the neighbours’. We all were talking to the sister’s husband during the raid: ‘Just tell us where he is, nobody needs to get hurt! We are going to find him, we do know he is here after all. There’s a hideout in your house, that much is obvious’. That man says nothing. Only Snukiskyte and her brother-in-law were in the house.

They’re all having a discussion: Tichomirovas as well as everyone else. ‘Shit, how is it possible, maybe we should go and look in the cow-shed’. There’s nothing there either.

We started raiding through the barn – there’s nothing there either.

Dusanskiis is talking it over again: ‘How is it possible, maybe we got a duff signal?’ Perhaps there has been a mistake – doubts start arising.

But just before we got back in, our men mentioned they heard some buckets rattling from the side of the porch.

How cleverly that hideout was set up! On one side of the stove there was a small entryway, the other side was used for burning fire.

We took those buckets down from the bench on the porch. Whoever it was, Dusanskiis or someone else, says: ‘Pull that bench back!’ But it’s impossible to move it – it’s nailed to the wall. It’s got to be ripped off. I think it was the militiaman from Moletai (there were some militiamen from elsewhere too) who ripped that bench off by force (he was injured later). We see, there’s a cut-out. The bench had been placed there to conceal that board. It was obviously an exit hole.

Dusanskiis says to the owner of the house: ‘Tell, tell Kraujelis to come out of there’.

We move to the side quickly, if he’s found, he’ll start shooting for sure. The owner of the house says: ‘There’s nothing there. I know nothing, and that’s that’. He keeps singing the same tune: What are you looking for here, why are you making such a mess?’
So Dusanskis replies: ‘Stand here, but if he starts shooting, you’ll be the first to die. Everywhere else is covered by the stove, that’s the only place to pelt’.

Dusanskis handed him a crowbar and told him to break the board open. ‘What’s the point?’ – he asks while doing it.

Later one of the other men took over with the crowbar whereas the owner of the house is being made to stand in front. While he was still breaking that board – ack ack – shooting started from the inside. We all ran away. It was planned that I should stay by the estate as he was expected to hold out until dusk, and then it would be hard to detain him.

When the gun went off, the owner of the house, who was still standing there, got injured.

Snukiskyte stayed inside.

There was an interrogator from Vilnius, Vyte (Vyte was a Jew, so it’s not as if he would put his head under a bullet). A shoot-out took place. Roof tiles were flying about. One operational worker heard somebody walking upstairs. He goes up, fires his gun, then goes down again and shoots through the window. As Snukiskyte was telling us later, Kraujelis’s plan was to wound one of our workers and the dog to make it easier for himself to escape wearing women’s clothes.

Time was passing slowly, dusk was already approaching but they were still shooting. Tichomirovas was only armed with a pistol. Cikeliovas, a member of the KGB from Anyksciai, was involved. He was very active. Later he was boasting that it was only thanks to him that Kraujelis ‘went up to the attic’. In the meantime, Vyte retreated behind the cowshed.

It was already getting dark, Tichomirovas or Dusanskis seemed to have made a decision: ‘We have to pass a note to Snukiskyte that we won’t let him go, that the house will be set on fire and he will come out of there with smoke himself’.

We wrote the note. We called her out behind the cowshed where we were and gave it to her. She took the note inside and everything went quiet after a while. There was no reaction at all during that time. I can’t remember if he wrote a reply.
According to Snukiskyte’s story, he was waiting for the night to come. He was aiming to hold out until dark and then escape. There was also a pair of skis there still, he said he would use them. But first he wanted to cause panic among the secret police by shooting someone dead or wounding somebody. Then he would try to save his own people and run away. Kraujelis injured only the militiaman from Moletai and also killed the dog.

The note didn’t make any difference, there was another shoot-out. It was Cikeliovus from Anyksciai who did most of the shooting (perhaps he had been in the war or somewhere that he was so active).

When Kraujelis went up to the attic, he got wounded. Then he realized that there was no escape for him left. He gave his pistol to Snukiskyte asking her to pass it onto their son as a keepsake.

Kraujelis had a few guns. During the commotion the pistol was taken to the cowshed, we found it later. It had been placed inside a bucket to avoid suspicion.

Kraujelis said farewell to Snukiskyte: ‘Look, live your life, take care of our son, raise him!’ (the son was no longer a baby).

Then he pointed his rifle at himself and fired it.

But we were not sure if he was wounded or not. Then Snukiskyte came out to the yard and said: ‘He’s gone already, gone!’

We still don’t believe it. Dusanskis says: ‘Why should we take a risk going in if he starts shooting from the inside. Tell us if he is really dead, how are things there?’ – ‘He is really no longer alive... lying dead, he shot himself, he said good bye’.

After a while we all went inside and found him in the attic lying on his back. The stronger men got hold of him and dragged him down. We collected his guns, Vyte, the interrogator from Vilnius, wrote a report listing the events and we started getting ready to leave. The brother-in-law’s wound was bandaged and he got lectured too: ‘See, what happened to you, we did say there’d be a shoot-out, so you got hit’.

He and the wounded militiaman from Moletai were both taken to the hospital of Utena.
Then we took Kraujelis away in a lorry. We asked Snukiskyte: ‘So why did you keep quiet, didn’t tell us the truth?’ – ‘He is my husband after all’. – ‘What husband, your surname is different, did you live with him?’ – ‘In my heart he is my husband, I have a son by him, how could I inform you’. – ‘Why didn’t he believe what we wrote in that note?’ – ‘I won’t give myself up alive!’ – Antanas said.

Later the body was taken to that garage in Utena. Some people from the local government came to look at Kraujelis. The ones from Vilnius dealt with it all, we didn’t do much... After all the procedures (the post-mortem examination and other formalities) nothing was explained... They buried him somewhere by the side of a road, and that was it.

The brother-in-law was badly injured. Even if he had managed to survive, he would have had to go to prison for covering up.

I am sincerely thankful to Romas Kaunietis and Algirdas Siukscius for the presented material.
Sources and literature

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8. A. Kraujelis’s family members’ deportation case, Archive No 33281/5.
24. (LYA, f. K-1, ap. 3, b.51, 29.).
Additions
Literature about Antanas Kraujelis-Siaubunas, the last partisan of Vytautas’s Division (28 10 1928–17 03 1965)
Compiled by ALGIMANTAS JAKIMAVICIUS and JANINA SYVOKIENE


1965


1975


1988


1989
In this literature written between 1960–1965 Lithuanian partisans are referred to as ‘bushwhackers’, ‘bandits’ and so on, some historical facts are distorted. However, the articles from Soviet newspapers are included in this list of literature as Antanas Kraujelis, the last partisan of Lithuania, is also mentioned there.

**1990**


**1991**


**1992**


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32. Siukscius A. The Last One Lost His Life Honourably // The Deportee. – 4 April 1992 (No 8), p. 3: group photograph.

**1993**


1994


40. A Lithuanian’s Calendar / [Compiled also by the editor D. Balsyte]. – Vilnius: Metskaitliai, 1994, p. 25.


1995

51. A Lithuanian’s Calendar / [Compiled also by the editor Balsyte D.]. – Metskaitliai, 1995, p. 35.


60. A Lithuanian’s Calendar / [Compiled also by the editor D. Balsyte]. – Vilnius: Metskaitliai, 1996, p. 32.

1997
66. A Lithuanian’s Calendar / [Compiled also by the editor D. Balsyte]. – Vilnius: Metskaitliai, 1997, p. 32.

1998
73. We invite you to take part in an event to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the Last Partisan of Vytautas’s Division, Antanas Kraujelis-Siaubunas. – Vilnius: The Lithuanian Population’s Genocide and Resistance Research Centre, 1998. – An Invitation (folded into 2 parts): portr., group photographs.
74. A Lithuanian’s Calendar / [Compiled also by the editor D. Balsyte]. – Vilnius: Metskaitliai, 1998, p. 36.
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78. The Death of the Last Partisan of Lithuania is Still Surrounded by Mystery // Lietuvos Aidas. – 29 December 1998 (No 254), p. 3.
82. Proposed in the Seimas ... [Also writing about partisan Antanas Kraujelis-Siaubunas posthumously awarded Vytis’s Cross of the 3rd degree] // Lietuvos Aidas. – 23 May 1998 (No 100), p. 3: illustr.

1999
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The Surname Index

Adamkus Valdas 178, 179
Adomonis Jonas 246, 247
Adamonis Petras 169
Adomonis Steponas 246, 247
Afanasjevas 279
Andrijauskai 112
Andrijauskaite Danute (Andrijauskaitė Danutė) 111
Anusauskas Arvydas (Anušauskas Arvydas) 165
Apacianka Justinas 44, 65, 66, 68, 72
Bakutis Lionginas 26, 42
Bartisiute Eleonora (Bardtšiūtė Eleonora) 204
Barisaite Dzoja Gunda (Barisaitė Džoja Gunda) 8
Bausiene Anele (Bausienė Anelė) 246–249
Bernataviciute Milda (Bernatavičiūtė Milda) 246–249
Bitautaite Monika (Bitautaitė Monika) 123, 124, 133, 134
Bitautaite Vlada (Bitautaitė Vlada) 123, 124, 126, 127, 133, 134, 136, 137
Bitautas Ceslovas (Bitautas Česlovas) 124, 134
Bira Juozas 4
Bojko 92–95
Bruzaitė Natalija (Bružaitė Natalija) 123, 133
Bruzas Aleksas (Bružas Aleksas) 124, 126, 134, 136
Bruzas Danielius (Bružas Danielius) 25, 61, 63, 65, 66, 72, 76, 133, 200, 201
Bruzas Jonas (Bružas Jonas) 200
Budrys Liudas 136
Budriene-Kraujelyte Ona (Budrienė-Kraujelytė Ona) 9, 22, 24, 25, 28, 34, 36, 37, 113, 121, 149, 171, 173, 180
Budryte Rima (Budrytė Rima) 149
Buivydaite Vanda (Buivydaitė Vanda) 123, 126, 133, 136
Buivydaite Veronika (Buivydaitė Veronika) 133
Buivydas Petras 139
Burauskaite Terese Birute (Burauskaitė Teresė Birutė) 9
Burokas Edvardas 8
Chanov 281
Cibas Pranas 252–259, 264–269
Cikeliovas (Čikeliovas) 218
Ciurlionis Mikalojus Konstantinas (Čiurlionis Mikalojus Konstantinas) 167
Demicevas (Demičevas) 210
Desetnikov 276, 277
Dijokas Rimantas 9, 182
Drevinis Paulius 110
Dusanskis Nachmanas (Dušanskis Nachmanas) 6, 56, 58, 163, 216–219, 252–257
Dzerzinskis Feliksas (Dzeržinskis Feliksas) 57
Gaidelis 201
Gaidys 50
Galaitis V. 152, 153, 252, 253
Gasparavičius Rimantas (Gasparravičius Rimantas) 165, 181
Gecas Pranas (Gečas Pranas) 46, 47, 82, 83
Gecienė Leokadija (Gečienė Leokadija) 46, 47, 82, 83
Geciene Leonora (Gečienė Leonora) 154, 155
Gecys Juozas (Gecys Juozas) 153
Giedraitis Vytautas 168
Gobuzas Vytautas (Gobužas Vytautas) 64
Grigas Gintaras 72
Gudonis Antanas 203

Ivanauskiene-Kraujelyte Stefania (Ivanauskiénė-Kraujelytė Stefanią) 8, 9, 22, 118, 120, 129, 132, 139, 140, 141, 151, 180, 272–277

Jakimavičius Algimantas 9, 225
Jakučionis Steponas 64
Jakucionis Steponas (Jakučionis Steponas) 64
Jančiauskas Gintautas 164
Jankauskaitė Stase (Jankauskaitė Stase) 204
Jankauskas Bronius 41, 201
Jankauskas Jovitas 8, 41, 42, 148, 200, 203
Jankauskas Jurgis 204
Jankauskas Vaclovas 204
Jankauskiene Birute (Jankauskiénė Birutė) 4
Jankauskiene Valerija (Jankauskiénė Valerija) 204
Jasiulionis Pranas 26

Judin 276, 277
Jučevičius (Jučevičius) 280, 281
Juknevicius Jonas (Juknevičius Jonas) 139
Juknevičiūtė Maryte (Juknevičiūtė Marytė) 123, 124, 126, 133, 134, 136, 137
Juodzevicius Balys (Juodževičius Balys) 166
Jurevicius Julius (Jurevičius Julius) 17

Kakaniene Petronele (Kakanienė Petronele) 22, 34
Kalytis Bronius 43–45, 64, 115
Kaminskiene Albina (Kaminskiénė Albina) 22
Kapralov 272–275
Kazlas Jonas 38
Kaunietis Romas 220
Kazliene Stase (Kazliénė Stase) 22
Kemeklis Bronius 65–67
Kepalas Liudas 72
Kezys Antanas 200
Kezys Jonas 200, 201
Kezys Napoleonas 42, 203–205
Kezyte Gene (Kezytė Genė) 200
Kimstas Jonas (Kim štas Jonas) 12, 27, 28, 30
Kimstas Vytautas (Kim štas Vytautas) 8
Kisminas 154, 155
Klevaite Stase (Klevaitė Stase) 123, 124, 133, 134
Klevaitė Vanda (Klevaitė Vanda) 123, 124, 126, 133, 134, 136
Klevas Balys 139
Klimanskas Gediminas 148
Klimanskas Juozas 148
Kolpakovas Parfionas 19
Korsakas 107
Krasauskai 209
Kraujeliene-Pagalyte Anele (Kraujelienė-Pagalytė Anelė) 20, 22, 30, 32–34, 97, 111, 129, 1–32, 141–143, 146, 147, 149, 151, 272–279
Kraujeliene-Karveliene-Valyte Natalija (Kraujelienė-Karvelienė-Valytė Natalija) 19, 21, 22, 116, 128, 272–275
Kraujelis Alfonsas 22
Kraujelis Bruonius 22
Kraujelis Jonas 28, 43, 200
Kraujelis Pranas 21, 22
Kraujelyte Konstancija (Kraujelytė Konstancija) 22
Krizanauskas Antanas (Križanauskas Antanas) 201
Kronkaitis Jonas Algirdas 165, 116, 189
Korsakas 116
Kubilskis 286
Kublickas Rimas 54, 56, 252–257
Kuginis (Kūginis) 210
Kukta 22
Kulnyte Birute (Kulnytė Birutė) 9
Kuodyte Dalia (Kuodytė Dalia) 4, 9, 10, 167
Kurkis Lionginas 75
Kurkyte Prima (Kurkytė Prima) 133, 134, 137
Laguckas Petras 7, 209
Landsbergis Vytautas 163, 165, 167, 182
Lapauskaite Marijona (Lapauskaite Marijona) 41, 47, 80, 81, 84, 85, 202
Lapauskas Aleksas (Lapauskas Aleksas) 41, 47, 69, 80, 81, 84, 85, 87, 202
Lapauskienė Veronika (Lapauskienė Veronika) 47, 80, 81, 84, 85.
Lapatinas 26
Lasys Antanas 201
Lenartavicius (Lenartavičius) 194
Liauksminas 250, 251
Liemezis (Liemežis) 43
Linkevičienė Nijole (Linkevičienė Nijolė) 193
Lisauskaite Melanija (Lisauskaitė Melanija) 149
Litvinavičius Bronius (Litvinavičius Bronius) 248, 249
Loginovas 211
Mamaniskis Juozas (Mameniškis Juozas) 252–257, 258, 259, 264–269
Maironis 21
Markulis 12
Martinėnaitė Vale (Martinėnaitė Valė) 134, 136
Matulaitis 211
Matulioniene Marijona (Matulioniene Marijona) 22
Melnikaite Maryte (Melnikaitė Marytė) 102, 103
Mikalauskas Robertas 177
Miliauskas Vytas 9
Mirosnicenko (Mirošničenko) 142, 143, 144, 145
Misiukonis Marijonas 56, 58, 215, 262, 263
Mockute Ona (Mockutė Ona) 133, 137
Mockuviene Veronika (Mockuvienė Veronika) 164
Musteikis Bronius 27, 72
Naginevičius Jonas 206
Naujelis Juozas 21
Nečiunai (Nečiūnai) 22
Neciuainaitė Marijona (Nečiūnaitė Marijona) 22
Niaura Antanas 200
Noreikaite Ona (Noreikaitė Ona) 133
Nugėnaitė Halina (Paškevičienė Halina) 9
Peciukenas Albertas (Pečiukėnas Albertas) 162
Petkevičius (Petkevičius) 211
Petroniene Zofija (Petronienė Zofija) 22, 42, 48, 49, 83, 193, 194, 195
Petronis Antanas 42, 48, 49, 83, 178, 202
Petronis Bronius 194
Petronis Jonas 194
Petronis Lionius 194
Petronis Vladas 6, 42–44, 47, 48, 75, 81, 87, 194
Petronis Štatis 72
Petronyte Zene (Petronytė Zenė) 194
Petruševicius Algidas (Petrusevičius Algidas) 166
Pilkauskai 106
Pilkauskas Vladas 136
Pinkevičienė—Snukiskytė Ona
(Pinkevičienė—Snukiškytė Ona) 43, 52, 53, 55, 56, 109, 188, 195, 197, 198, 252, 253
Pinkevičius Antanas (Pinkevičius Antanas) 43, 49, 52–54, 56, 106, 107, 109, 166, 195, 252, 253, 262, 263
Plepyte Asta (Plepyte Asta) 4
Prelgauskas Arunas (Prelgauskas Arūnas) 4, 9
Puodziunas Mykolas (Puodžiūnas Mykolas) 65
Puodziunas Štatis (Puodžiūnas Štatis) 72
Puodzius Mykolas (Puodžius Mykolas) 72
Pupinis Edmundas 185
Radionov 272–275
Ragauskas Gediminas 27, 111
Rainatiene (Rainatienė) 136
Raisys Bonifacas (Raišys Bonifacas) 134
Raisyte Emilija (Raišytė Emilija) 133
Raisyte Veronika (Raišytė Veronika) 133, 134, 136
Ramanauskas Julius 139
Ramelis Gasparas 79, 284, 285
Randakevicius (Randakevičius) 154, 155
Raskevičius Bronius (Raškevičius Bronius) 62, 66, 72
Rinkevicius Danius (Rinkevičius Danius) 200
Rinkevicius Serapinas (Rinkevičius Serapinas) 200
Rocka V. (Ročka V.) 56, 75, 252–257
Rudyte (Rudytė) 211
Ruskulis Henrikas (Ruškulis Henrikas) 27, 40, 44, 46, 63, 65, 66, 72, 74, 76
Ruzgus Juozas 42, 52
Ruzgus Valdemaras 42
Ruzgute Genė (Ruzgutė Genė) 288
Sabaliauskas Pranciškus (Sabaliauskas Pranciškus) 173
Sabaliauskas Vilius 72
Sakalauskiene (Sakalauskiene) 207
Satkevicius Steponas (Satkevičius Steponas) 64
Satkunas Edmundas (Satkūnas Edmundas) 41, 42, 47
Savickas 201
Simanaitis Edmundas 181
Syvokaite Žydre (Šyvokaitė Žyrė) 9, 178
Syvokas Benjaminas (Šyvokas Benjaminas) 9, 182
Slucka Antanas (Slučka Antanas) 8, 20
Snuiskis Antanas (Snuškis Antanas) 9, 48, 88, 90–94, 148, 156, 178, 184, 190, 197
Stancikas Eugenijus Rimvydas 183
Stasiskis Antanas (Stasiškis Antanas) 9, 163, 166, 183
Steiblys Bronius 25, 27, 200
Steponavicius Kazimieras (Steponavičius Kazimieras) 134
Streikus Antanas 11
Streikuizidorius 11
Streikuiz Juozas 11
Sutinis Juozas (Šutinis Juozas) 27
Svarinskas Alfonsas 166
Simonaitis Edmundas 165, 166
Siukscius Algirdas (Šiukščius Algirdas) 8, 9, 45, 46, 47, 163, 165, 172, 185, 220
Senderovic (Šenderovič) 204
Sutinys Juozas (Šutinys Juozas) 27
Svarcas E. (Švarcas E.) 146, 147
Tamosiunas Nikodemas (Tamošiūnas Nikodemas) 244
Targonskienė Eleonora (Targonskienė Eleonora) 8, 22
Tauginiene- Kraujelyte Anele
(Tauginienė-Kraujelytė Anelė)
8, 9, 22, 112, 116, 117, 120, 129,
132–134, 140, 149, 171, 173, 180,
272–277
Telksniene Ona (Telksnienė Ona) 141
Telksnys Jonas 149, 150
Telksnys Juozas 141
Telksnys Pranciškus (Telksnys
Pranciškus) 134, 141, 149
Telksnys Rapolas 141
Telksniene-Kraujelyte Vitalija
(Telksniene-Kraujelyte Vitalija) 4, 8,
9, 22, 23, 25, 27–29, 36, 38, 39, 112,
115, 116, 118, 129, 132–134, 136,
141, 146, 147, 149, 159, 171, 173,
180, 272–279
Tichomirovas Sergejus 51, 54, 56, 58,
198, 199, 211, 212, 216, 252–257
Tolva (Tolva) 280, 281
Trescenka (Treščenka) 280, 281
Tunaitis Juozas 163
Tupėnaitė Nijole (Tupėnaitė Nijolė)
133, 134
Tutinas Jonas 44, 45
Tyla Antanas 4, 13
Urbonas Jurgis 39, 40
Urbonas Mykolas 39, 40, 44, 46, 60
Valys Jokubas (Valys Jokūbas) 18
Valys Steponas 18
Valyte Maryte (Valytė Marytė) 37
Valyte Veronika (Valytė Veronika) 180
Vegele (Vėgėle) 200
Veselov Sergej 56, 252–257
Vildziunaitė Stase (Vildžiūnaitė Stasė)
133
Vildziunas Rimas (Vildžiūnas Rimas)
75
Vildziuniene Salomeja (Vildžiūnienė
Salomėja) 30, 121
Vilimas 289
Vilutis Antanas 204
Vilute Maryte (Vilutytė Marytė)
Vytė Vaclovas 56, 154, 155, 218, 219,
246–249, 258–261, 264–269
Vyzintas Jonas (Vyžintas Jonas) 25,
27, 200
Zacharov 272–275
Zolota 210
Zazirskaitė Ona (Zazirskaitė Ona)
149, 159
Zegunys Stasys (Zegūnys Stasys) 8,
134
Zegunas Vacys (Zegūnas Vacys) 134
Zickiene (Žičkienė) 25
Zidonytės (Židonytės) 42, 202
Ziukaitė Angele (Žiukaitė Angelė)
133, 134
Ziukaitė Vanda (Žiukaitė Vanda) 134
Ziukas Balys (Žiukas Balys) 134, 136,
137
Ziukas Vytautas (Žiukas Vytautas)
134
Zukine Brone (Žukienė Bronė) 8, 9,
22, 58, 112, 115–17, 120, 129, 132–
134, 136, 137, 171, 173, 180, 191,
272–279
Zukas Pranas (Žukas Pranas) 134
Zukas Sigitas (Žukas Sigitas) 8
Zukevičius Vytautas (Žukeniocius
Vytautas) 54, 252, 253
The copies of more interesting documents, found in Antanas Kraujelis’s and Janina Snukiskyte’s cases

THE STATE SECURITY COMMITTEE
AT THE COUNCIL MINISTERS OF THE LSSR – KGB
MINISTRY OF STATE SECURITY MGB

CRIMINAL CASE No 181

Antanas Kraujelis, Steponas’s son,
prosecuted for the crimes, committed according to
Article 62 Part 1 and Article 70 of the LSSR Criminal Code

In 4 Volumes Volume 1

May 12 1964 to April 30 1965

No 47478

On the stamp:
Record Department of the Archive
of the KGB of the LSSR
VALSTYBĖS SAUGUMO KOMITETAS prie LIETUVOS TSR MINISTRŲ TARYBOS
KOMITETŲ ГОСУДАРСТВЕННОЙ БЕЗОПАСНОСТИ при СОВЕТЕ МИНИСТРОВ ДССР

РЕВИЗИЯ
1965-1966 гг.

БАУДЗИАМОЈИ BYLA
УГОЛОВНОЕ ДЕЛО № 181

Kaltinamojo: Krawjelio Antano, Stepono.

Nusikalstymo, numatytų Lietuvos TSR
bv. 62 str. 1 d., 64 str. 1 d. ir 70 str.
padaryme.

ЕВИСИЯ

V tomose. Tomas № 1

Pradėta 1967 m. gegužės mėn. 12 d.
Nuo to... г. mес. д.
Baigtas 1965 m. balandžio mėn. 31 d.
Okinęs г. mес. д.

№ 47478 / 3

VSK prie Lietuvos TSR MT įsakės archyvinio
akyriaus Archyvo

Archivio Užsienio-Arkinio atdažė KGB pri CSM
Lietuvos SSR.
TESTIMONY REPORT

Anyksciai 22 July 1964

Senior interrogator Captain Vyte of interrogation Department of the KGB of the LSSR in the presence of Milda Bernataviciute, Povilas’s daughter, living at 7–1 Ubagevicius Street, Anyksciai, and Anele Bausiene, Jonas’s daughter, living at 10 Smelis Street, following articles 184–186 of the Criminal Code of the LSSR, presented for identification 3 photographs attached to this document and stamped with KGB stamp No 5 to Steponas Adamonis, Jonas’s son. Before his testimony S. Adamonis, Jonas’s, was cautioned regarding the responsibility in the event of refusing or avoiding to give evidence or giving false evidence according to articles 189 and 190 of the Criminal Code of the Lithuanian SSR.

Signature
Witness Steponas Adamonis’s evidence, 22 July 1964
PARODYMO ATPAŽINTI PROTOKOLAS

Protokol predъявления для опознания

Aukščiai
196 m. liepos mėn. 26 d.

cia prie lietuvo Tadas

Skrynas užr. tarybos komitetas užte

esant akivaizdoje kviečiantis:

Buvant užs. Milda, Povilo s.

vystantis komitetui

įgyja savo

įtvirtinimus

vadovaudamasis Lietuvos TSR VPK 184—186 str. str. parodžiau atpažinti

rukovodstva st. 184—186 UPIK Lietuvos SSSR predъявил для опознания

Adomoniui Strupniui Jonas

... fotografijas... vaikščiavęs... leps į užtvirtintus

Parasyta

jėptas dėl atsakomybės už atsisakymą ar vengimuę durų parodymus ir už žinomai melagingų

preduprejdenęs ab apsiūnios zas daryties, kai darytų parodycio dandinę pagal Lietuvos TSR VPK 189 ir 190 str. str.

zavedome logiškų apie st. 189 ir 190 UUK Lietuvos SSSR.
TESTIMONY REPORT

Anykščiai 22 July 1964

Senior interrogator Captain Vyte of the KGB, of the Interrogation Department of the LSSR, in the presence of Milda Bernataviciute, Povilas's daughter, living at 7–1 Ubagevicius Street, Anykščiai, and Anele Bausiene, Jonas's daughter, living at 10 Smelis Street, following articles 184–186 of the Criminal Code of the LSSR, presented for identification 3 photographs attached to this document and stamped with KGB Stamp No 5 to Bronius Litvinavičius, Stasys's son. Before his testimony B. Litvinavičius, Stasys's, was cautioned regarding the responsibility in case of refusing or avoiding to give evidence or giving false evidence according to articles 189 and 190 of the Criminal Code of the LSSR.

Signature: Witness Bronius Litvinavičius's evidence, 22 July 1964
PARODYMO ATPAŽINTI PROTOKOLAS
ПРОТОКОЛ ПРЕДЪЯВЛЕНИЯ ДЛЯ ОПОЗНАНИЯ

Nemokėjai

1964 m. lapas... mėn. y... d.

asprie lietuvus Tėsė Tendروس Skryžius

(pareigas, auksinis, pavardė, vardo, /vaidmenys, vaizdas, pavadinimas)

esant akivaizdo kovestiniams:

vadovaudamas Lietuvos TSR BPK 184—186 str. str. parodžiu atpažinti

rukovodstvius st. st. 184—186 УПК Литовской ССР предъявил для опознания

Litvinavičius Bronius, Stasio s.

..... fotografiškas prielaidos viename parašo ir užrašas

prieš parodymas toli nuo gu. 

N. 1

N. 2

N. 3

Prieš parodymas atpažinti

Pered началом предъявления для опознания

(kas — ką)

ispėtas dėl atsakomybės už atsakymą ar vengimą duoti parodymus ir už žinomai melagingų

predūrėskedė ob ответственности за отказ или уклонения от дачи показаний и за дану

parodymų davimą pagal Lietuvos TSR BK 189 ir 190 str. str.

заведомо ложных показаний по ст. ст. 189 и 190 УК Литовской ССР.

Parašas

Podpys

Sitrūm
THE STATE SECURITY COMMITTEE AT COUNCIL
OF MINISTERS OF THE LSSR

3B-2
The third special department

Examination Certificate No 39
(for operational use)
Drafted on the 13th of January 1956

To perform graphic examination by means of appointed apparatus No 75 of Anyksciai KGB of the LSSR, the following was received:

1. A note on a lined sheet from an exercise book, written hastily in Lithuanian, begins with the following words: ‘I announce that in 1955...’
2. A letter, beginning with the following words: ‘Dear Klajunas (Wanderer)...’ presented in the handwriting, identical to ‘Siaubunas’s’, executed hastily on a sheet of exercise book with a pencil in Lithuanian.

The examination is performed in order to establish that the handwritings of the note and the letter belong to the same person.

In the analysis, comparing the handwriting of the note and the letter, the identity of the handwriting was established based on the system of the most essential graphical features:

1. the letter ‘k’
2. lower word linking lines
3. the letter ‘t’
4. any exaggerated upper curves of the letter ‘a’
5. the absence of the first and the last part of the letter
6. how the letter ‘i’ is connected to other letters
7. the direction of hand movement, writing letters ‘k, p’

On completion of the handwriting comparison analysis based on the system of the features mentioned above, it was established that the note and the letter were written by the same person.

The features, highlighted in read, concur.

As a result of the handwriting comparison analysis it is concluded that the note, beginning ‘I announce that in 1955...’ and the letter, beginning with the words: ‘Dear Klajunas (Wanderer)...’ were written by the same person.

Expert signature [LIAUKSMINAS]
Справка по экспертизе № 29
(для оперативного использования)

На аппарата Уполномоченного Комитета Госбезопасности при Совете Министров Литовской ССР по Авиационному району при обращении К 75 от 2 февраля 1956 года в производстве графической экспертизы поступили:

1. Расписка, начинавшаяся словами: "В письме 1965 года, исполненная на одном листе тетрадной бумаги, графированной в линейку, скорописью, корандалем, на тетрадном листе.

2. Внизу, начинавшаяся словами: "Написал флажок...", представленное в виде обрезка "Скобки" внизу "Скобки", исполненное на одном листе тетрадной бумаги, корандалем, скорописью, на тетрадном листе.

Исполнитель требуется установить, не написан ли вышепомянутый размер и письмо одним и тем же лицом.

При сравнительном исследовании и сопоставлении портретов которые именованы реплики, с портретом исполнителя письма установлено их сходство в комплекте графических признаков, наиболее существенных для которых является следующее:

1. Выполнение строчной части букв "а" в виде подошвы и наличие узкого палецального остря (  )

2. Выполнение соединительных букв между основными в нижней части букв (  )

3. Выполнение букв "а" в двух верхних парах букв после возвратного перехода (  )

4. Наличие дополнительной гетки верхней части букв (  )

5. Отсутствие замесячительной и начальной частей (  )

6. Отсутствие связи букв "а" с последующими (  )

7. Направление движения пальца при выполнении букв (  )

Комплекс перечисленных признаков совпадает с имеющимися на принадлежностью сравниваемых портретов одного лица.

Комментарий: соответствующие ответные письма приходятся по которым сравниваемым портретам.

Результаты сравнительного исследования поясняются.

(Подпись) "Написано одним и тем же лицом."

Пожалуйста, проверить аккуратно.
Report

17 March 1965. Papiskiai Village, the district of Utena

We, signing below, Lieutenant-colonel S. TICHOMIROV, an agent of the Utena district of KGB of the LSSR; Lieutenant-colonel N. DUSANSKIJ, the chief of department 2 bureau 2 of the KGB of the LSSR; Major Sergej VESELOV, a senior operational agent of department 2 bureau 2 of the KGB of the the LSSR; Major V. ROCKA, an agent of the Anyksciai district of the KGB of the LSSR and junior sergeant Rimas KUBLICKAS of the Moletai district of the KGB of the LSSR, in the presence of witnesses from Utena and Papiskiai Villages Pranas CIBAS, Lionius's son, and Juozas MAMENISKIS, Juozas's son, drafted this report.

Following the sanction, issued by GALINAITIS, a prosecutor of the LSSR and a state justice advisor of rank 2, on 16 March 1965, the flat belonging to Antanas Pinkevicius of Papiskiai village, the district of Utena, the LSSR, was raided.

At 13.10 an approximately 5 cm wide gap was noticed under the stove in the wooden wall (in the lower part of the stove) at the residence. The owner of the flat, A. Pinkevicius, was asked to come to the gap, leading under the stove. A. Pinkevicius asserted that there was nothing there.

During the attempt to widen the gap with a crowbar, automatic rifle shots (a long series) were heard from under the stove. A. Pinkevicius was injured. Since the entrance to the hideout under the stove, from under which the shooting started, was not located, the participants of the search vacated the flat.

Ona Pinkeviciene, Edvardas’s daughter, and her sister Janina Snukiskyte, Edvardas’s daughter, said that Antanas Kraujelis, an armed outlaw and a former gang member of the Lithuanian nationalist underground movement, had been in the hideout.

Antanas Kraujelis was suggested to surrender, but Kraujelis’s response to the KGB and militia staff, surrounding Pinkevicius’s estate, was shots from an automatic rifle. As a consequence, Kraujelis lightly injured R. V. Kublickas, a junior sergeant of the KGB of Moletai district; Vytas Zukeyvicius, a senior militia sergeant and the trainer of the working dog ‘Rolfas’ of the militia department of the LSSR Anyksciai district and the militia dog ‘Rolfas’.

At 14.15 Ona Pinkeviciene passed a note to Antanas Kraujelis with a suggestion to surrender (the note in Lithuanian is attached here). However, Kraujelis continued shooting with an automatic rifle from the attic of Pinkevicius’s house.
Report on the operation surrounding Antanas Kraujelis, 17 03 1965
Гимнаги́я А. П. во Берли́нах.

В 14 час. 15 минут, через Никола́вичне Оу́ст Е́двардо́, Крауля́мёу, была передана записка.
В 14 час. 18 мин. по городу дом Линка быв.
шермана, после беседы с ним, врагами был открыт перекрестный огонь из автоматов.

В 14 час. 30 мин. шерман Линка в дом
шоберга занятого оперативной группой,
врагом был убит. По превышению
старшего оперативной группы шермана
шермана N.26, а в одном доме
и 22.05 (восемь часов) были погребены
сотрудник шермана, взявшегося на гербаре.

При осмотре гербара дома Линка быв.
а. о. около входа на гербаре был найден
шермана, который для осмотра
надписей в гербаре дома был занят.

Иванов

Автомат шермана N.26 0' - 1 шт. (один)
гранат 0,2 - 42шт. - 1 шт. (один)
донцов в мес. (условное число)
Гапонова обложка 1811 (нашего года)
Домовик обыкновенный — 15 м. (небо)
Октябрьский вулкан — 25 м. (оцип)
Осиповка Душины. 50, 961 м. 26 с. (автор)
Мыс Панцирный и остров судов. Остров Панцирный.
Импаратрица Елизавета Павловна — 20.00

Либо брачная Румянцева О. Е. Панкибинская
и брачная Тимкина О. Е. Были помещены
в домиках в Божестве и Царстве.

Первое Прилежание Ангелов по оного
определения состояло в уважении церковного
священства и Царства, волю в для душевного
очарования и волю.

О нем и косвенно настаивает он.

Упомянутый петр петром Литовцем
и в Царстве не подсловлен
(тригерион)
Напомни стихи 20.00 и 96 с. 26 с.
принимай, сие ярмарку
(тригерион)

В течении 24.00, 26.00 и 96 с. 26 с.
принимай, сие ярмарку
(тригерион)

Василий апостола в доме Литовце
и непосредственно в Царстве
(рамесник)

Сопоставление: увидит Я Исаа
мозг и нервы — Аполоний
At 14.30 the operational group and Antanas Kraujelis opened fire across each other’s line. Kraujelis continued shooting from the attic.

At 14.35 Janina Snukiskyte, Edvardas’s daughter, informed the operational group that Kraujelis had probably been killed. Following the order, issued by the chief of the operational group, J. E. Snukiskyte came and handed over the German rifle No 6726 ‘a’ and one magazine with 22 bullets, which she removed from Kraujelis in the attic.

Antanas Kraujelis’s body was found after searching the attic of Pinkevicius’s house and taken down for examination and identification.

Taken:

- German rifle No 6727 ‘a’ – 1 (one)
- Grenades RG-42 – 1 (one)
- Grenade detonators (destroyed on the spot) – 1 (one)
- Rifle bullets – 91 (ninety one)
- Rifle magazines – 3 (three)
- Hunting rifle ’TOZ’ double barrelled – 3 (three)
- Bandit’s tunic with a tricolour sign with a note in Lithuanian – 1 (one)

Lightly injured R. V. Kublickas, V. Zukevicius and the head of the family A. E. Pinkevicius were immediately taken to the hospital of Utena. After the examination and identification procedure Antanas Kraujelis’s body was taken to the hospital of Utena for legal medical examination, autopsy and detailed inspection. Thus we drafted this report.

Agent of the Utena district of the KGB of the LSSR,
Lieutenant-colonel signature /TICHOMIROV/

Chief of department 2 bureau 2 of the KGB of the LSSR,
Lieutenant-colonel signature /DUSANSKIS/

Senior operational agent of department 2 bureau 2 of the KGB of the LSSR,
Major signature /VESELOV/

Agent of the Anyksciai district of the KGB of the LSSR,
Major signature /ROCKA/

Agent of the Anyksciai district of the KGB of the LSSR,
junior Sergeant signature /KUBLICKAS/

Witnesses: Signature Cibas
Signature Mameniskis
BODY EXAMINATION REPORT

17 March 1965

Senior interrogator Captain Vyte of the Interrogation Department of the KGB of the LSSR in the presence of witnesses:

1. Memeniskis Juozas, residing in Papiskiai village, the Utena district.
2. Cibas Pranas, Jonas’s son, residing in Papiskiai village, the Utena district to whom I explained their rights and responsibilities as outlined in Article 153 of the LSSR Criminal Code, examined the body following Article 201 of the LSSR Criminal Code and drafted the report on this:

During the examination established:

The body is located within a 4 metre distance from the house wall facing the North.

The body is that of a male, tall, lying on the back, stretched out, his head is tilting to the right shoulder, the eyes are closed, the hands are on the chest, the legs stretched, open.

Wearing: blue female tracksuit trousers over wool male trousers and underwear. A red dress, a brown cardigan with a white pattern, a shirt and an undershirt. He is wearing white woolly socks on his feet.

His head is injured with a shot gun, there is a wound on the nose between the eyes, the brain is splattered at the back of his head. The other three wounds are on the lower part of his chin and in his neck. In the pockets found:

right: 1. 2 automatic rifle magazines with cartridges, one of them containing 22 cartridges, the other one – 28, 2 – a handkerchief, 3 – a pistol belt, 4 – a medalion with a pin.

left: an army knife and 19 loose rifle bullets.

Identification documents were not found.
LAUMO APŠIŪROS PROTOKOLAS

1965 m. kovo mėn. 17 d. Papiškių km.

VSK priė Lietuvos TSR MT Tardymo skyriaus vyresnysis
ardytojas kapitonas VYTĖ, esant akivaizdoje kvietiniams:

I. Mameniškiui Juozui, gyv. Utenos rajono Papiškių kaimę,
2. Cibui Prieiui, Jono s., gyv. Utenos rajono Papiškių kaimę,
kiemems jų teisės ir pareigos, numatyto Lietuvos TSR BP K 155 str.
išaikintos, vadovaudamasis Lietuvos TSR BP K 201 str. apšiūrė-
jaun lavoną, apie ką susiūstau nį protokolą:

Apšiūros metu nustatyta:

Lavonas randasi 4 m. atstume nuo namo sienos iš šiaurės
pusės.

Lavonas vyriškos lyties, aukšto ugio, guli aukštelninkas,
ištaisgalva pakrepta prie dešinio peties, akys užmarktos,
rankos ant krūtinės, kojos ištiestos, praskeštos.

Lavonas aprengtas: mėlynos spalvos moteriško teningo kel-
nėmis, po jų vyriškos kelnes vilnomės ir apatinės kelnes, Raudo-
nos spalvos suknelė, rudos spalvos megztnis su baltais raštais,
viršutiniai ir apatiniai baltiniai. Kojos apautos baltom vilnomėm
kojinėm.

Lavonas pilnos mitybos. Galva sušiusta šaunamu ginklu, nosioje
tarp akių žaisda, iš pakuotė ištikų smegenys. Kitos trys žais-
dos smarkio apziūrėjo ir kaklė. Lavono kišenėse rašta:

dešinėje: I. du automato ragelai su šoviniais, viename 22
šoviniais, kitame 20, 2 nosinė, 3 dirželis pistoleto, medalikėlis
su segtuku;

kairėje: sulenkiamas pelis ir 19 palaidų automato šovi-
nių.

Asmens dokumentų nerasta.
The body was photographed.
A more detailed inspection of the body assigned to the medical expert of the Utena district court.

The examination was carried out between 15.00 and 15.30 in daylight.
There were no comments from the witnesses.
The report was read, everything is recorded correctly.
Witnesses:  1. (signature)
  2. (signature)

Senior interrogator Captain of the Interrogation Department of the SSC attached to the LSSR
           
(Vyte)

Transcript for the parents:

Senior interrogator Captain of the Interrogation Department of the KGB of the LSSR

Signature (Vyte)
Lavonas nufotografuotas.
Smulkesnė lavono apšvitra pavaista Utenos rajono teismo medicinos ekspertui.

Apšvitra pravesta 15 val. iki 15 val. 30 min. prie dienos šviesos.
Iš kviesčinių pusės pareiškimų nebuvo.
Protokolas perskaitytas, užrašyta teisingai.

Kviesiniai: 1. (parašas)
2. (parašas)

VSK prie Lietuvos TSR MT Tardymos skyriaus
vyr. tardytojas - kapitonas

(VYZE)

Tikėtinais tarinės:

VSK prie Lietuvos TSR MT
Tardymo š. nr. tardytojas

Bumiš (vystė)
To Misiukonis,
operational agent of the Anyksciai district of
the KGB of the LSSR

Special Assignment

On the 17th of March 1965 during the search of Antanas Pinkevicius's
(a resident of Papiskiai Village, the Utena district) home, a hideout was
found under the stove where Kraujelis Antanas, an armed outlaw was
hiding. Having been discovered, he started shooting with an automatic
rifle. During the subsequent shoot out, Kraujelis was wounded, then he
shot himself.

Following Articles 48 and 146 of the LSSR Criminal Code, I request
to carry out the identification of Kraujelis's body.

Senior interrogator Captain of the Interrogation
Department of the KGB of the LSSR Cabinet
Signature (Vyte)

17 March 1965
Special Assignment to Misiukonis, 17 03 1965
EXAMINATION REPORT

17 March 1965 Papiskiai

Senior interrogator Captain Vyte of the Interrogation Department of the KGB of the LSSR in the presence of witnesses:

1. Mameniskis Juozas, residing in Papiskiai village, the district of Utena
2. Cibas Pranas, Jonas’s son, residing in Papiskiai village, the district of Utena to whom I explained their rights and responsibilities as outlined in Article 153 of the LSSR Criminal Code. Following Article 200 of the LSSR Criminal Code, I examined the hideout where the armed outlaw KRAUJELIS Antanas was hiding.

During the search it was established:

The hideout is located under the stove at Pinkevicius Antanas’s, residing in Papiskiai village, residential house. The entrance to the hideout is in the wall under the stove, within 1.30 cm from the exit door on the North side. The size of the gap is 44 x 33 cm, the internal walls of the hideout are built of silicate bricks. The wall is half a brick wide.

The size of the hideout is 94 x 132 x 69 cm.

Found and removed from the hideout:

2. Two bottles, 200 g each, containing hunting shrapnels.
3. A full set of white overalls (dungarees) (a hood, top and trousers).
4. Two nets made from green and black cotton.
5. Three cartridge cases 9 mm calibre and two cartridges of the same calibre.
6. Two hunting guns, loaded, 16 calibre.
7. Two metal boxes with hunting shrapnels and capsules.
8. Black leather winter cap (left at the location).
APŠIŪROS PROTOKOLAS

1965 m. kovo mėn. 17 d. Papiškių

VSK prie Lietuvos TSR MT Tardymo skyriaus vyr. tardymo-
jas kapitonas VYTŽ, esant akivaizdoje kvietiniams:


2. Cibui Pranui, Jonui a., gyv. Utenos rajono Papiškių km.,
ku riam išaiškintos jų teisės ir pareigos, numatytos Lietuvos
TSR BPK 153 str., vadovaudamasis Lietuvos TSR BPK 200 str.,
apiūrėjau slėptuvą, kurioje slapstėsi ginkluotas nelegalas
KRAUJELIS Antanas.

Apšiūros metu nustatyta:
Slėptuvėrangu Papiškių kaimė piliečio Pinkevičiaus
Antano gyvenamame namė po krovinim. Žėjimo į slėptuvę anga ran-
dasi nuo kroviniai sienoję, 1,30 m. atstumė nuo šiaurinių lauko
durų. Angos dydis 44 x 55 cm, slėptuvės sienos iš vidaus mūri-
nės, silikatinės plytų. Sienos storis puse plytos.

Slėptuvės dydis 94 x 132 x 69 cm.
Slėptuvė, rasta ir išimta:

1. Žurnalas "Karys", įrištas - du tomai.
2. Dvi bonutės 200 gr. talpos su medžiokliniais šratais.
3. Baltas chalatas (kombinazonas) pilname komplekte
(kapišonas, marškiniai ir kelnes).
4. Du tinklai iš žalių ir juodų sidų.
5. Trys gilūs 9mm kalibro ir du šoviniai to paties kalibro.
6. Du medžiokliniai šoviniai užtaisytai 16 kalibro.
7. Dvi metalinės dėžutės su medžiokliniais šratais ir
kapulėmis.
8. Šimţė juodos spalvos žieminė kepurnė (palikta vietoje)
10. An empty bottle 250 g (destroyed at the location)
11. Two pillows, a big and a small one (left at the location).
12. Two duvets (left at the location after the examination).
13. A kit with green epaulettes and a triangle emblem with inscription: ‘my work and my strength are the welfare of Lithuania’ and yellow, green and red stripes.
   In the top left pocket found:
   a pencil, in the right: a comb and 9 bullets 9 mm.
   In the inside left pocket found:
   a knife and fork (part of a set) and 13 cartridges 7.65 calibre in a small bag.
   In the right inside pocket – a compass.
14. A warm undershirt (left at the location).
15. A silk violet shirt (left at the location).
17. A wellington boot (left at the location).
18. A torch (doesn’t work, broken).
19. A spare fuse of a hand grenade.

Examining the top floor of the residential house, a double-barrelled hunting gun 16 mm calibre with one used up cartridge case was found at the window on the East side. Four loaded cartridges were also found. The number of the gun is 73875-6. Examining the area by the entrance to the hideout, five used up cartridge cases of an automatic rifle 9 mm calibre and one loaded hunting gun cartridge 16 calibre were found among beetroot at the corner on the North East side.

By the door separating the entrance hall and the main room two cartridge cases of 7.65 mm calibre were found on the floor on the South side.
10. Tuščia bonka 250 gr. talpos (sunaikinta vietoje)
11. Dvi pagalvelės didelė ir maža (palikta vietoje)
12. Dvi vatinės antklodės (paliktos vietoje po apšiūros).
13. Žalios spalvos kitelis su antspėiais ir trikampio formos emblema su užrašu: "mano darbas ir jėgos tėvynės Lietuvos gerovei" ir juostom geltonos, žalios ir raudonos spalvos.

Viršutinėje išorinėje kaireje kišenėje rasta:
pieštukas, dešinėje šuko ir 9 kulkos 9mm.

Vadinėje kaireje kišenėje: peilis ir šakutė (dalis komplekto) ir 13 šovinių 7,65 kalibro sažames maištuose.

Dešinėje – vidinėje – kompasas.
14. Šilti baltiniai (palikti vietoje)
15. Šilkiniai vėseliniai baltiniai – viršutiniai (palikti vietoje)
16. Žaismingiai šlaišonai sugadinti.
17. Guminis aulinis batas (paliktas)
18. Šibintuvėlis (neveikia, sugedęs)
19. Granatos atsargos plunksnelė.

Apšviurint gyvenamojo namo aukštą, prie rytinio langelio rasta dvivamzdis 16 kalibro medžioklinis šautuvas su viena iš–
šauta gilės ir numesti 4 užtaisyti medžiokliniai to paties kalibro
šoviniai. Šautuvo Nr. 75675–6.

Apšviurint prieangų prie įėjimo į slėptuvą, šiaurės rytinės
kiekio, ir tarp burokų rastas penkios automato 7,62 mm kalibro
išsautas gilės ir vienas medžioklinis užtaisytas 16 kalibro
šovinius.

Prie durų, vedančių iš prieangio į kambarį, prietų pusėje
ant grindų, kambario pusėje rastas dvi gilės 7,65 mm kalibro.
During the examination all the object, mentioned above were photographed, wrapped up and stamped.

The witnesses had no comments.

The examination was carried out in daylight. It started at 14.10 and ended at 19.20.

The report was read, everything entered correctly.

Witnesses 1. (signature)
2. (signature)

Senior interrogator
Captain of the Interrogation Department
(Vyte)

Transcript original: Senior interrogator Captain of the Interrogation
Department of the KGB of the LSSR
Signature (Vyte)
Laike apžiūros rastieji daiktai nufotografuoti ir supa-kusti bei užantapauduoti.
Kviestiniai pastabų nepareikštė.
Apžiūra daryta dienos metu, pradėta 14 val. 40 min.,
baigta 19 val. 20 min.
Protokolas perekaitytas, surašytas teisingai.

Kviestiniai 1. (parašas)
2. (parašas)

VSK prie LTGR MT tardymo skyriaus
tardytojas–kapitonas

Nuorašas: VSK prie LTGR MT skyriaus

tardytojas–kapitonas Bumž  (Vyta)
DEPORTATION CASE NO ______

*gang member's Antanas Kraujelis's, Steponas's son's, family*

2 illegible stamps:

Started on 12 of September 1951
Finished 195____

Archive No 33281/5

the text at the bottom of the frame is illegible
СОВЕРШЕННО СЕКРЕТНО
Министерство Государственной Безопасности
Управление МГБ
Министерства обороны
ЗАРЕГИСТРИРОВАНО
в отделе "А" УМГБ
по Вильнюсской обл.,
№ 08
1. Ноября 1949 года
ДЕЛО О ВЫСЕЛЕНИИ №
На семью участника Великой Отечественной войны
Крауежис Атанаса с. Вялькеса
ПЕРЕСМОТРЕНО в соответствии с
протоколом МВД СССР № 0026-1955 г.
Центра "А" МВД СССР
№ 569.305
Начато "7" 195 г.
Окончено "" 195 г.
Арх. № МХ. № 332-81/5
Antanas Kraujelis's family deportation case
CONCLUSION

15 September 1951

I, Junior Lieutenant RADIONOV, operational agent of bureau 2 department 2 of the MGB\(^1\) of the LSSR in Vilnius region,

Having investigated the family deportation case of the active armed member of a nationalist gang, Antanas Krujelis, Steponas’s son, born in 1930 in Kaniukai village, the Moletai district, Vilnius region

DISCOVERED:

That Krujelis A., S.’s, joined the ‘Lion’ nationalist gang in which he is currently acting under the alias ‘Siaubunas’.

The ‘Lion’ gang members, in which Krujelis ‘Siaubunas’ is acting, carried out a number of terrorist acts against collective farmers and Soviet party activists.

Prior to joining the gang he lived with his father Krujelis Steponas, Antanas’s son, in Kaniukai Village, the Moletai district, Vilnius region.

No family members received any awards, served in the Soviet army, fought in the war or achieved any special merits from the state.

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\(^1\) Ministry of State Security MGB.
ЗАКЛЮЧЕНИЕ

9 сентября 1951 г.

Я, оперуполномоченный отдела 2-го Управления МГБ Вильнской области, Литовской ССР младший лейтенант РОДИОНОВ

Рассмотрев дело о выселении семьи действующего участника вооруженной националистической банды - КРАУЖЕЛСА Антанаса Степавска, 1930 года рождения, уроженца дер. Каникис, Молитского района, Вильнской области и Литовской ССР.

НАШЕЛ:

Что КРАУЖЕЛС А.С. вступил в националистическую банду "ДЛПАСА", состоящую в составе которой действует до настоящего времени под кличкой "СЯУАНСА".

В войне, веленной в Советской Армии и имея особое заслугу перед государством,

-участниками банды "ДЛПАСА", в составе которой действует КРАУЖЕЛС "СЯУАНСА", совершено ряд террористических актов над колхозниками и сознательным.

До вступления в банду проживал вместе с отцом КРАУЖЕЛС Степавсом с. Антанаса в дер. Каникис, Молитского района, Вильнской области.

-Состав семьи награжденных, участников Отечественной войны, служивших в Советской Армии и имеющих особые заслуги перед государством, не имеется.
I PROPOSE THAT:

Antanas Kraujelis’s, Steponas’s son’s, family, residing in Kaniukai village, the district of Moletai, Vilnius region

Consisting of:
1. Head of the family – Kraujelis Stepas, Antanas’s son, born in 1903
2. Wife – Kraujeliene Anele, Tomas’s daughter, born in 1901
3. Daughter – Kraujelyte Vitalija, Stepas’s daughter, born in 1932
4. Daughter – Kraujelyte Anele, Stepas’s daughter, born in 1937
5. Daughter – Kraujelyte Brone, Stepas’s daughter, born in 1937
6. Daughter – Kraujelyte Janina, Stepas’s daughter, born in 1941
7. Daughter – Kraujelyte Stefa, Stepas’s daughter, born in 1945
8. Wife’s sister Karveliene Natalija, Jokubas’s daughter, born in 1879

be deported from the Lithuanian SSR to the distant regions of the Soviet Union, confiscating their possessions.

The criminal case to be sent to Special council of the MGB attached to the USSR for investigation.

OPERATION AGENT of the Department ‘H’ the MGB VILNIUS REGION

Signature /RODIONOV/

Endorsed: COLONEL of BUREAU of the MGB VILNIUS REGION

Signature /ZACHAROV/

15 September 1951

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2 Really she was born in 1930
3 Really she was born in 1936
4 Really she was born in 1938
5 Really she was born in 1943
ПОЛАГАЛ БЫ:
Семью КРАУАНСКА Антанаса с. Степаса, проживающую в д. Жанкини, Ноленского района, Вильнюсской области, Литовской ССР.

В составе:
1. Глава семьи — КРАУАНСКА Антанас, с. Антанаса, 1903 года рождения,
2. Жена — КРАУАНСКА Антанас, с. Антанаса, 1901 года рождения,
3. Дочь КРАУАНСКА Антанас, с. Антанаса, 1932 года рождения,
4. Дочь КРАУАНСКА Антанас, с. Антанаса, 1937 года рождения,
5. Дочь КРАУАНСКА Антанас, с. Антанаса, 1937 года рождения,
6. Дочь КРАУАНСКА Антанас, с. Антанаса, 1941 года рождения,
7. Дочь КРАУАНСКА Антанас, с. Антанаса, 1945 года рождения,
8. Сестра жены — КРАУАНСКА Антанас, с. Антанаса, 1899 года рождения.

выселить из пределов Литовской ССР и отдаленные места Советского Союза на спецпоселение, имущество конфисковать.

Учетное дело направить на рассмотрение Особого Совещания при МГБ СССР.

ОПЕРЕДМЕССЕННЫЙ ОТДЕЛ 2-го УМБ ВИЛЬНЮССКОГО ОБЛАСТЯ МГБ ЛИТЕВСКОЙ ССР

Согласен: 

УПРАВЛЕНИЕ МГБ ВИЛЬНЮССКОЙ ОБЛАСТИ МГБ ЛИТЕВСКОЙ ССР

15 сентября 1934 г. 

Рассмотрено: 

/Захаров/

/Гончаров/
CERTIFICATE

Family, residing at the address: Kaniukai village, the Moletai district, Vilnius region the LSSR, removed following the resolution by the MSS of Vilnius region for deportation

FAMILY CONSISTS OF:

1. Head of the family: Kraujelis Stepas, Antanas’s s., born in 1903
2. Family members: wife Kraujeliene Anele, Tomas’s d., born in 1901
3. daughter Kraujelyte Vitalija, Stepas’s d., born in 1930
4. daughter Kraujelyte Anele, Stepas’s d., born in 1938
5. daughter Kraujelyte Brone, Stepas’s d., born in 1937
6. daughter Kraujelyte Janina, Stepas’s d., born in 1942
7. daughter Kraujelyte Stefa, Stepas’s d., born in 1946

ALLOCATION

The family mentioned above to be deported by Eastern Siberia railway to Station Irkutsk – 2, to come under the supervision of the MSS Irkutsk region commissioner.

Admitted by the chief of echelon No 97331. Vice commander of the MIA (Ministry of Internal Affairs) of the LSSR Prison Department,
Lieutenant-colonel Signature /JUDIN/

Administered by the MGB employee Senior Agent of Bureau of the MGB Vilnius Region, major Signature /DESETNIKOV/

September 1951
Справка

Семья проживающая по адресу: ж.д. станция Молотовского р-на Вильнюсской области Литовской ССР (указать село, район, город, улицу, № дома)

изъята согласно заключения Управления МГБ по Вильнюсской области Литовской ССР (указать название органа и его подразделение)

Для выселения на спецпоселение.

Состав семьи:

1. Глава семьи Крауялис Степас сын Антанас 1908 года рождения (фамилия, имя, отчество, год рождения)

2. Члены семьи: жена Крауялис Анна 1901 года рождения

дочь Крауялис Виталиня 1930 года рождения

3. дочь Крауялис Ангели 1938 года рождения

дочь Крауялис Вроня 1937 года рождения

4. дочь Крауялис Яна 1942 года рождения

дочь Крауялис Стефи 1946 года рождения

Расписка

Указанную семью, для этапирования до станции Иркутск-2 Восточно-Сибирской ж.д. в распоряжение УМГБ Иркутской области.

Принял начальник штаба № 97331 В.М. Начальника Тюремного Отдела МВД Литовской ССР — подполковник — ИВИН

(подпись)

(должность, звание и фамилия)

Сдал сотрудник УМГБ — оперуполномоченный УМГБ по Вильнюсской области Литовской ССР — майор — КЕВЛЯТИН

(подпись)

(должность, звание и фамилия)

Степonas Kraujelis’s family deportation certificate, September 1951
CONCLUSION
/based on archive case No 33231/5/

16 January 1958
City of Vilnius

I, AFANASJEVAS employee of the MIA of the LSSR, having investigated the material of archive criminal case No 33281/5

FOUND:

that following the decision reached by the special meeting of the MSS attached to the USSR in 1951, the following bandit’s-nationalist’s family members were deported from Kaniuikai village, the Moletai district to the Golumetsk district, Irkutsk region on 27 February 1952:

KRAUJELIS Stepas, Antanas’s, born in 1903
wife – KRAUJELIENE Anele, Tomas’s d., born in 1901
daughter – KRAUJELYTE Vitalija, Stepas’s d., born in 1930
daughter – KRAUJELYTE Brone, Stepas’s d., born in 1937

daughter – Anele, born in 1938, Janina, born in 1942, and Stefa, born in 1946

The deportation of KRAUJELIS’S family is based on their son’s KRAUJELIS Antanas’s, Stepas’s son’s, born in 1930, involvement in a nationalist gang from 1950 until now and committing a number of terrorist acts /a.b.17/.

According to the social status, middle-class farmers /a.b.1,2/

KRAUJELIS’S, as an active member’s of a nationalist gang, family were deported for a reason. Therefore

I WOULD CONSIDER:

that KRAUJELIS Stepas, Antanas’s s., born in 1903
KRAUJELIENE Anele, Tomas’s d., born in 1901
KRAUJELYTE Vitalija, Stepas’s d., born in 1930
KRAUJELYTE Brone, Stepas’s d., born in 1937

should remain in deportation.

Employee of the MIA of the Lithuanian SSR

Signature /AFANASJEV/
ЗАКЛЮЧЕНИЕ

"По архивно-учетному делу № 33281/5/"
16 января 1958 года.

Г. Вильнюс.

Я, сотрудник МВД Литовской ССР Афанасьев, рассмотрев материалы архивно-учетного дела № 33281/5/,

НАЧЕД:

В 1951 году по постановлению Особого Совещания при НГБ СССР от 27 февраля 1952 года, из дер. Наганы, Валовского района, Литовской ССР были выселены на спецпоселение в Голуметский район, Иркутской области, как члены семьи бандита-националиста:

жена — Краудис Виталя, Антано 1903 г.р.
дочь — Краудис Виталя, Антано 1901 г.р.
дочь — Краудис Виталя, Антано 1900 г.р.
дочь — Краудис Виталя, Антано 1900 г.р.
дочь — Анна, 1918 г.р., Ян — 1943 г.р. и Стефана — 1946 г.р.

Основанием к выселению семьи Краудис послужило то, что их сын Краудис Антано 1930 г.р. в 1950 года по постоянному месту был в вооруженной националистической банде, совершал ряд террористических актов /д.д./.

По сосоизложению крестьян-середняка /д.д.1/2/
Семья Краудис, как семьи действующего участника националистической банды были выселены обоснованно, а поэтому,

ПОДАРЯЛ БЫ:

Краудис Антано 1903 г.р.
Краудис Антано 1901 г.р.
Краудис Антано 1900 г.р.
Краудис Антано 1900 г.р.
Краудис Антано 1918 г.р., Ян — 1943 г.р. и Стефана — 1946 г.р.

на спецпоселении оставить.

СОТРУДНИК МВД ЛИТОВСКОЙ ССР

/Афанасьев/
To the Secretary of the Executive Committee of the Lithuanian Communist Party (CP) of the Moletai district, comrade Jucevicius
To the Chairman of Executive Committee of Moletai district,
comrade Tolvaisa

case No 33281/5

I present citizen Kraujelis Stepas’s, Antanas’s son’s, requesting his family members’ registration and inspection, additional material.

I inform that Kraujelis Stepas, Antanas’s son and his family members were deported from Kaniukai village, the Moletai district because his son Kraujelis Antanas Stepas’s is in an armed gang.

Citizen Kraujelis Stepas, Antanas’s son had 10 hectares of land, he didn’t have hirelings.

Citizen Kraujelis Stepas, Antanas’s son and his family members were released from the special deportation without the right to residence in the LSSR following the resolution of the Cabinet of the USSR on the 24th of November 1955.

Considering that his son still belongs to an armed gang under the alias ‘Siaubunas’, I would suggest that citizen Kraujelis Antanas, Steponas’s son and his family members should be refused to take up residence in the Moletai district, the territory of the LSSR.

Militia Captain, the chief of the Workers’ Deputy Executive Committee of the Moletai district Signature /Trescenko/

Refusal to grant permit to Kraujelis S. A. Family to take up residence in the territory of the LSSR

‘Approved’
Secretary of the Lithuanian Committee Communist Party (CP)
Signature /Jucevicius/
23 october 1959

‘Approved’
Chairman of the District Executive Committee
Signature /Tolvaisa/
22 october 1959
Militia Captain Trescenka’s instruction to the Secretary of the Lithuanian Communist party Jucevicius and Chairman of the District Executive Committee Tolvaisa to refuse Steponas Kraujelis’s family to take up residence in the territory of the LSSR, 22 10 1959
CRIMINAL CASE No 200

Defendant  *Snukiskyte Janina, Eduardas’s d.*,  
*accused of committing crimes according to Article 89  
of the Criminal Code of the LSSR*

In 2 volumes  Volume 1

Started on 20 March 1965  
Finished on 4 June 1965

Archive No 47457/3
Criminal Case No 200 (2 volumes) of Janina, Antanas Kraujelis’s wife.
Started on 20 03 1965, finished on 04 06 1965
Snukiskyte’s letter

The former chairman of the Skudutiskis collective farm, Ramelis Gasparas. I don’t know if Kraujelis wrote any letters to him. I never wrote any notes myself. I don’t know where Kraujelis used to get information. Whoever lived at Petroniene’s, had an automatic rifle and a pistol. The Gikonai parish is not far from here. Miskiniskiai village is in the Melnikaite collective farm, the Anyksciai district.

Under the circumstances I resume my communication with you. They know everything so well, it’s surprising. Kraujelis often asked my advice if it is worth his while to get registered. He really wanted his family to return. Whenever I asked him if he would kill himself or give himself up alive in the event of any shoot-out, he would say, how could I give myself up alive. They would torture me to death. I don’t know if he used to go to the Suginciai parish in the Moletai district. I am not familiar with the Suginciai parish. He..
Janina Snukiskyte’s letter, presented for investigation, 21 04 1965
PHOTOGRAM No 1

Photographs of separate letter extracts, presented for investigation of Janina Snukiskyte’s criminal case No 200 attached to investigation act No 25 on 21 April 1965

Expert /signature/ Ralynas

PHOTOGRAM No

Photograph of Janina Snukiskyte’s handwriting examples, presented for investigation.

The former chairman of the Skudutiskis collective farm, Ramelis Gasparas. I don’t know if Kraujelis wrote any letters to him. I never wrote any notes myself. I don’t know where Kraujelis used to get information. Whoever lived at Petroniene’s, had an automatic rifle and a pistol. The Gikoniai parish is not far from here. Miskiniskiai village is in the Melnikaite collective farm, the Anyksciai district.

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Expert /signature/ Ralynas
Photogram of Janina Snukiskyte's handwriting, 21 04 1965
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Žalgirio st. 90, LT-09303 Vilnius