

The exhibition is dedicated to the 30 years of work of the Museum of the Occupation of Latvia and to the people who entrusted the museum with their family relics and important evidence of Latvian history.



**MUSEUM OF THE
OCCUPATION
OF LATVIA**

Traditional costumes



1

Traditional costume of the Nīca District.

It was made by **Ērika Vīlpsone** (b. Grīnbergs) in 1938. She took it with her in 1944 while fleeing from Latvia to Germany. She made the silver brooch at a displaced persons (DP) camp in Germany in 1947 and wove the shawl from a woolen blanket in England in the 1950s. The costume was worn on festive occasions in exile until the 1960s.

2

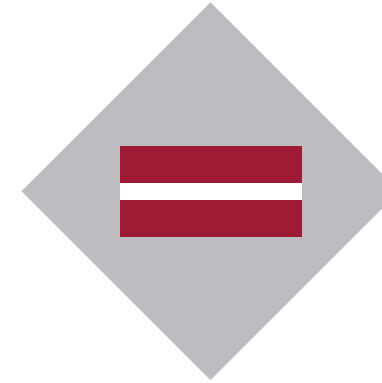
Traditional costume of the Kuldīga District.

Lidija Paulīne Klūga (b. Druvaskalns) took it with her to the place of forced resettlement in the Jarcev District of the Krasnoyarsk Region in 1950.

On 14 June 1941, the **Druvaskalns family** – Ernests (1898–1941) and Lavīze (1890–1969) with daughters Lidija Paulīne (1925), Aldona Ella (1927–1998), and Zigrīda (1929) – was deported from Lutriņi Parish in Kuldīga County to the Soviet Union. Ernest died imprisoned in the Vyatka Gulag camp of the Kirov Region.

Zigrīda fled from the place of forced resettlement in the Krasnoyarsk Region back to Latvia on 15 November 1946, and Aldona on 15 December 1946. Lidija and her mother fled to Latvia on 15 September 1947. On 17 June 1950, the Druvaskalns family was arrested and sent back to forced resettlement in the Jarcev District of the Krasnoyarsk Region. Lidija was released on 10 June 1957.

Flags



1

A member of the Latvian National Independence Movement **Ēriks Graudiņš** used the flag of independent Latvia at demonstrations and rallies in occupied Latvia during the late 1980s and early 1990s.

Ēriks Graudiņš with the flag at the demonstrations at the Freedom Monument and at Teikas Secondary School in 1990.

Ēriks Graudiņš donated the flag in 2000.

2

The flag of the Republic of Latvia used by the Latvian Legation in London, initially at 87 Eaton Place, but from 1971 to 1985 at 6 Holland Park Road.

The cousin, **Valda Lēmane**, of **Marianna Zariņa** – the daughter of the Latvian envoy **Kārlis Zariņš** (1879–1963) kept the legation flag at home in the UK from the 1980s, when **Marianna Zariņa** gave it to her to use at the buildings in Corby where exhibitions of Latvian artists and craftsmen and other Latvian events were held.

Inese Auziņa-Smith donated the flag in 2014.

3

In 1943, a Latvian flag was placed next to a bloodstain on a cell wall in Riga's former Cheka building basement in memory of the unknown bloodstain owner.

After completing his research on crimes committed against Latvian citizens during the Soviet occupation of Latvia in 1940–1941, the high school student **Bruno Rubess** (1926–2009), was given the flag by his supervisor and teacher **Jūlijs Bračs** (1909–1984).

Drafted into the so called Latvian Legion **Bruno Rubess** carried the flag in his backpack during the war through-out Pomerania and Mecklenburg and kept it in POW (prisoners of war) camps in Germany and Belgium. The flag was used by scout leaders at ceremonial gatherings in Germany, Canada, and the USA.

Bruno Rubess donated the flag in 2000.

4

The flag of independent Latvia was used by members of the choir "Dzīne" at a concert in Vilnius, Lithuania, in the late 1980s, when the red-white-red flag was not yet an official flag of the Republic of Latvia. The flagpole was made by the choir members.

Ingmārs Čaklais donated the flag in 2021.

5

The Latvian flag was sewn by former Latvian legionnaires in the Renneslet POW (prisoners of war) camp in Sweden in November 1945 to celebrate Latvia's Independence Day on 18 November. The homemade flag was draped over the coffin as a farewell to former Latvian Legion Lieutenant Oskars Lapa (1904–28 November 1945), who committed suicide in the Renneslet POW camp out of fear of extradition to the Soviet Union. Pastor Juris Lamberts gave the flag to the relatives of Oskars Lapa. The family took the flag with them when they left Germany for Australia. Lapa's son Oscar Lapa donated the flag in 2004.

6

The Kalns family brought the Latvian flag with them when they left Latvia in the autumn of 1944. The fishing boat Centība (Diligence) with refugees from Kurzeme on their way across the Baltic Sea to Gotland, 10 November 1944. One of the refugees on the boat, Zigrīda Šēre (1926–2018), moved from Sweden to Canada in 1949, where she met Alfons Kalns (1931–2018). Their family kept the flag. Alfons Kalns donated the flag in 2002.

7

The sea captain Jānis Voldemārs Rozenbergs (1887–1957) bought a Latvian flag in Riga in 1933. Rozenbergs and his wife Mirdza Eleonora (1911–2003) brought it with them when they fled to Sweden in October 1944 and travelled to the USA in 1948. On 22 May 1948, the flag was hoisted on the mast of the sailing ship Gundel on its way from Sweden to the USA. After the Second World War, Latvian refugees in Sweden felt insecure about their future. Sweden did not consider them as "displaced persons" who had lost their homeland, and it was rumoured that the government was preparing to repatriate "Soviet citizens" to the Soviet Union. To avoid the threat of repatriation, a small group of Latvians raised money, hired Captain J. V. Rozenbergs, and bought a boat to cross the sea for a second time, hoping to find safety in America – the land of freedom. On 22 May 1948, 29 Latvian refugees left the port of Gothenburg, Sweden, and on 21 July landed in Provincetown, Massachusetts. Vija Cunningham – the goddaughter of Mirdza Rozenberga – donated the flag in 2000.



8

The flag belonged to the Latvian Resistance Movement Members' Association. In the 1990s, one of its founders, Arnolds Bērziņš, gave the flag to Ansis Ēlerts, a member of the national resistance movement. Smaida Ēlerte donated the flag in 2006.

9

In the 1920s–1930s, this Latvian flag belonged to Valda Krūze's grandparents, Anna and Niklass Jansons. The Jansons family lived on Gravas street in Zīlāni, Krustpils parish (the house number or name is unknown). In the summer of 1944, the Jansons' daughter Valija left as a refugee to go by ship from Liepāja to Germany, but the family was not let onto the ship due to lack of space. During the Soviet occupation, the flag was kept by Valija Jansone, who lived at Ļeņina (now Brīvības) street 157-1 in Riga and worked as an engineer-economist in the Railway Administration. She kept the flag in a wardrobe, carefully hidden in the furthest corners in various compartments, pulled apart into three parts by colour. In the late 1960s, Valija Jansone gave the flag to her brother's daughter, Valda Krūze. From 1991 to 2012, the flag flew in Olaine parish at the home of Valda Krūze, built by her father Nikolajs Jansons in 1972. Valda Krūze donated the flag in 2012.

10

The Kalnaraups family took this flag with them as they left their home in Birži parish of the Jēkabpils district on 29 June 1944. The Kalnaraups family: father Pēteris (1891–1958), mother Otīlija (1900–1996), and children Dzintra (1933) and Elmārs (1929) left Liepāja by ship to Germany in November 1944. After the war they lived in the Ansberg refugee camp until they emigrated to USA in 1949. Elmārs Kalnaraups donated the flag in 2012.

11

On 23 August 1991, during the arrest of Alfrēds Rubiks, First Secretary of the Communist Party of Latvia, three flags of the Republic of Latvia were found in a safe in the Communist Party Central Committee building in Riga. One flag was raised over the Central Committee building, the other was to be hoisted at the Ministry of Defence building. The third flag was given to the National Guards by Ojārs Stefans, commander of Barricade Post No. 1, and placed in the National Guard advisory company room. Ojārs Stefans donated the flag in 2004.

12

When the second Soviet occupation began (late 1944), teachers Valeska and Jēkabs Mangulis of the former 3rd High School of Riga hid the flag in their apartment at Zvārdes street 26-1. During the renovation of the apartment in 1996, a kitchen wall was torn down and Lauris Neikens, who was renting the apartment, found the flag wrapped in a newspaper (Cīņa) of 1956. Neikens gave the flag back to the school. The school donated the flag in 2001.

Display Case no. 1

V-1

1

The book of Captain Hugo Helmanis – Fighting the Bolsheviks 1919–1920. (1935).

The book was brought to Germany by a Latvian refugee Juris Leimanis in October 1944.

Hugo Valentīns Teodors Helmanis (1895–1941)

The reserve captain of the Latvian Army (retired in 1927) worked on the book, writing texts, and drawing maps by hand, from 1931 to 1935. The book describes the Latvian War of Independence from 5 September 1919 to 11 August 1920.

In 1920, he was awarded the War Order of Lāčplēsis, 3rd class.

In February 1941, H. Helmanis was arrested by the Soviet regime on charges of anti-Soviet activity. In October 1941, the Military Tribunal of the Stalingrad garrison imposed the highest sentence – shooting. He was executed in the Astrakhan prison in November 1941.



Juris Leimanis (1917–1992)

A literate person, author of a book about Gypsies in Latvia (1939).

2

State awards of the Republic of Latvia presented to the Captain of the Latvian Border Guards Juris Kociņš.

From the left: Order of the Three Stars, Order of Viesturs, The Aizsargi Cross of Merit, The 10th Anniversary Commemorative Medal of the Battles of Liberation of the Republic of Latvia, Commemorative Badge of the Latvian Liberation War (1918–1920).



Juris Kociņš (1896–1962)

Commander of the 3rd Regiment of the 5th Krāslava Border Guard Battalion, retired from service on 6 May 1941.

Display Case no. 2

V-2

3

The diplomat Jānis Tepfers owned the album of photos about the Latvian War of Independence and de jure recognition of Latvia as celebrated in Riga in January 1921.

There is also a photo of the Proclamation of the Independence of Latvia on 18 November 1918.

Jānis Tepfers (1898–1994)

Adjutant of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Provisional Government of Latvia Zigfrīds A. Meierovics from 1 December 1919. He accompanied the Minister on foreign trips in the negotiations on the recognition of the Latvian state de jure (1920–1921).

Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia (1937–1938), Latvian envoy to Finland (1938–1940). Representative of the Head of the Latvian Diplomatic Service in Sweden (1954–1991).

4

The Coat of Arms of the Republic of Latvia

It was made of plywood by Harijs Jostsons, painted by his brother Jānis, in the displaced persons camp in Kiel, Germany, 1945–1949. It was displayed in the room of the wooden barrack where the family lived. When the family moved to the USA, they took it with them, and it was hung on the wall next to the desk of Harijs Jostsons (1901–1993).



5

A pennant shows the colours of the Latvian flag and metal numbers – 18.11.1918 – (the date of Proclamation of Latvian Independence).

The family of Colonel Arvīds Skurbe (1888–1972) took the pennant with them when they fled from Latvia in 1944.

Display Case no. 3

V-3

6

A ring that belonged to Valdis Ālers (1924–1988), a Latvian legionnaire, shows the coat of arms of the Republic of Latvia, and preserved during the years of occupation.



The Gulag camp in Inta. Komi ASSR, 1954.

Display Case no. 4

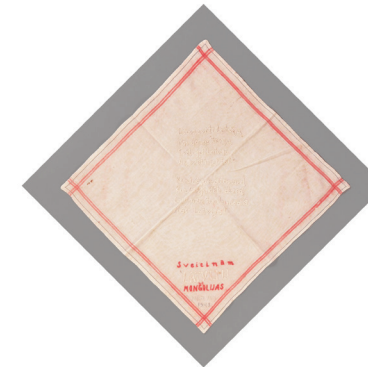
V-4

Commemorative items with national colors of the Republic of Latvia, the words of the Latvian anthem, and ethnic symbols made in the Central Prison of Riga and in the Gulag camps of the Soviet Union. 1945–1958.

7

A handkerchief with words of the Latvian national anthem and the text: "We send greetings to Latvia from Mongolia. Marga and Anta 1948".

As a greeting to her relatives at home, Margarita Bratuška embroidered the handkerchief while imprisoned in a camp in Mongolia in 1948. A woman who was released from the camp brought the handkerchief to Latvia and gave it to Bratuška's family.



Sisters Margarita (1920–2003) and **Antoņina** (1926) **Bratuška/Bratuškina**

Members of the National Resistance Movement – Latvian National Youth Association. The Soviet regime arrested the sisters in October–November 1945. In April 1946, the Military Tribunal of the troops of the Ministry of the Interior of the Latvian SSR sentenced them to imprisonment for 10 years, deprivation of rights for 5 years with confiscation of property. The sisters were imprisoned in camps in Taishet and Mongolia, where they worked in forests and laundries, and from 1949 in Kolyma, Magadan. Margarita was released in May 1954 and Antoņina in November 1954.

The punishment continued even after returning to Latvia: Margarita was not allowed to live in Riga and complete her Baltic studies. Until her retirement (1975), only physical work was allowed – as a sanitary at Sloka Hospital, sifting flour in a bakery.

8

Cigarette case with the lyrics "By the amber sea that embraces Kurzeme..." Made on 18 November 1958 and given to Alberts Irbe.

9

Cigarette case. On its back cover is the text "To remember SAUGAUNĀ 1.10.1946." Made in a Gulag camp in the Far East of Russia in 1946. Owned by Ēriks Strautiņš.

10

Bookmark with the colors of the flag of Latvia. Made by an unknown person in the Central Prison of Rīga. It shows a woman's name – Ausma – and the date – 1 June 1949.

11

Book mark with its border in the colors of the Latvian flag.

It was given to Edgars Jasūns in the Spaska labour camp in the Karaganda Region of Kazakh SSR in the 1950s.

Edgars Jasūns (1926–2020)

Member of the National Resistance Movement – the Organization of the Latvian Democratic Resistance Movement.

The Soviet regime arrested E. Jasūns, a student at the Riga Industrial Polytechnic School at the age of 21, in June 1947. In February 1948, the Military Tribunal of the troops of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Latvian SSR sentenced E. Jasūns by applying the decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR of 26 May 1947 “On the abolition of the death penalty”, imprisonment for 25 years, deprivation of rights for 5 years with confiscation of property. He was released from imprisonment in August 1956. Returned to Latvia in 1956.

12

The book mark showing the first line of Latvia’s national anthem – “God bless Latvia”.

Gulag camp in Kengir, Dzhezkazgan, Karaganda Region, Kazakh SSR, 1951.

One of the imprisoned Bergmanes’ sisters wove it in 1951. It was delivered to the Latvian men in the adjacent labour camp from the women’s labour camp in Kengir, Dzhezkazgan, as a greeting on Independence Day – 18 November.

Saved by Visvaldis Aivars who was imprisoned together with the brother of the Bergmanes’ sisters.

Arvīds Bergmanis (1893) and **Konstantīns Bergmanis** (1899) and their children: **Velta** (1925), **Ilga** (1927), **Maiga** (1931), **Gunārs** (1926), **Helmūts** (1928), **Jānis** (1930), **Leonīds** (1930), and **Juris** (1933) were arrested in March 1949 for supporting national partisans.

13

From 1947 to 1948, Grieta Saulīte made the **bookmark showing Latvia’s flag and the letters NL** (representing a national Latvian) in the Central Prison of Rīga.

She used it during imprisonment and incarceration to observe Independence Day on 18 November.

Grieta Saulīte (1925)

For celebrating national holidays and the idea of creating a national organization from patriotic-minded Latvians, the Soviet occupation regime arrested G. Saulīte at the age of 22 in March 1947. In August 1947, the Military Tribunal of the troops of the Ministry of the Interior of the Latvian SSR sentenced G. Saulīte to imprisonment for 25 years, deprivation of rights for 5 years with confiscation of property. In December 1955, the Military Tribunal of the Baltic War District reduced the sentence to 10 years. Grieta Saulīte was released from imprisonment in a camp in Magadan in the spring of 1956.

14

Greeting card.

On 18 November 1953, Augusts Blate received this card from an Estonian incarcerated in the Inta Gulag camp, Komi ASSR.

Augusts Blate (1905–1969)

In 1941, after the occupation of Latvia by Nazi Germany, he became involved in self-defense units. Served in the German army. He was arrested by the occupying Soviet regime in June 1952. In August 1952 sentenced to imprisonment for 25 years, deprivation of rights for 5 years with confiscation of property. In January 1956, the Military Tribunal of the Baltic War District reduced his sentence to 10 years, removed the criminal record, and the deprivation of rights based on amnesty. Released from imprisonment in January 1956.

15

Miniature mittens.

They were made by Ella Ozoliņa who was incarcerated in the Taisht Gulag camp in the Irkutsk Region.

**Ella Ozoliņa (1918)**

On the night of 7 November 1945, in the Riga School No. 16, teacher Ella Ozoliņa printed a national publication Kurbads. She later participated in the printing of other anti-Soviet flyers, which were distributed to the residents of Riga. She was arrested by the Soviet regime in January 1946. In August 1946, the Military Tribunal of the troops of the Ministry of the Interior of the Latvian SSR sentenced her to imprisonment for 10 years, deprivation of rights for 5 years without confiscation of property. She was imprisoned until April 1955.

15

Miniature mittens.

Made by one of the imprisoned sisters, Bergmanes, imprisoned in the Kengir camp in Dzhezkazgan and given to Visvaldis Aivars on 18 November 1951.

15

Miniature mittens and socks.

Alma Bajāre-Smilga made them while she was incarcerated in the Krasnoyarsk Region from 1945 to 1955. She sent them to her daughter in Soviet Latvia.

Alma Bajāre-Smilga (1894)

Until the occupation of the Republic of Latvia in June 1940, she was a member of the Home Guard Organization and after the Second World War supported the national partisans. She was arrested by the Soviet regime in April 1945. In August 1945, the Special Meeting of the People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs of the USSR sentenced her to 10 years in prison. She was imprisoned in Gulag camps in the Krasnoyarsk Region. Released in October 1955.

15

Brooch and pendant.

Made in a Gulag camp in Kengir and given to Biruta Blūma on 28 February 1950.

Biruta Blūma (1921–2005)

During the Nazi German occupation, she worked as a nurse in a field infirmary. The Soviet regime arrested her at the age of 25 in November 1946 for her participation in an anti-Soviet organization. In February 1947, the Military Tribunal of the troops of the Ministry of the Interior of the Latvian SSR sentenced B. Blūma to 10 years imprisonment, deprivation of rights for 5 years with confiscation of property. She was imprisoned in the Central Prison of Riga (until March 1947), the Pechora Correctional Work Camp (until 29 June 1947), the Vorkuta Correctional Work Camp in the Komi ASSR (until 15 August 1948), the Kengir Correctional Work Camp in Kazakh SSR (until 1955). For a long time, it was believed that B. Blūma died during an uprising of prisoners at the Kengir Correctional Work Camp in 1954. Released from prison in July 1955. She returned to Latvia in 1964.

16

Ring with engraved monogram "BR" and the text "Latvians. 1953.IX" and "Karaganda".

Made by Latvians in the Karaganda Gulag camp and given to the prisoner Bertrams Rozenbergs.

Bertrams Rozenbergs (1904–1960)

Medical doctor. Mayor of Tukums from July 1941 to August 1943. Conscripted into the German Army in July 1944. The occupying Soviet regime arrested him in December 1949. In February 1950, the Military Tribunal of the troops of the Ministry of the Interior of the Latvian SSR sentenced him for treason of his homeland to 25 years of imprisonment and deprivation of rights for 5 years with confiscation of property. Released from imprisonment, he returned to Latvia in June 1956.

Display Case no. 5

V-5

A patriotic poem and poetry written and illustrated by Latvians in Gulag camps in the Soviet Union. 1954–1956.

20

The book Wind in the Oak Trees.

It was written and hand made in 1954 by Ojārs Ozoliņš who was incarcerated in a Gulag camp in Dzhezkazgan. The drawing on the first page is by Visvaldis Aivars.

**Ojārs Ozoliņš (1929–2014)**

In 1950, while studying at the Valmiera pedagogical school, together with Alfons Saliņš (1928), he formed an anti-Soviet group, which was going to fight against the Soviets if a war broke out between the Soviet Union and Western countries. In May 1950, the Ministry of State Security of the Latvian SSR arrested O. Ozoliņš at the age of 20 on charges of participating in an anti-Soviet nationalist organization and illegal possession of weapons. In October 1950, a Special Meeting of the USSR Ministry of State Security sentenced O. Ozoliņš to 10 years in prison. He was imprisoned until November 1955.

21

The book of poems God Bless Latvia.

It was written and illustrated by Visvaldis Aivars while incarcerated in a Gulag camp in Dzhezkazgan 1954 to 1956.

Visvaldis Aivars (1927–2001)

Member of the National Resistance Movement – Organization of the Latvian Democratic Resistance Movement. For his activities in an anti-Soviet organization and the preparation and distribution of national appeals, the Soviet regime arrested V. Aivars, a student of the Faculty of Architecture of Riga State University at the age of 20, in July 1947. In February 1948, the Military Tribunal of the troops of the Ministry of the Interior of the Latvian SSR sentenced him, applying the decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR of May 26, 1947 "On the abolition of the death penalty", to imprisonment for 25 years, deprivation of rights for 5 years with confiscation of property. He was released from imprisonment in June 1956. His parents were deported to the Amur region on 25 March 1949.

**Latvian-drawn greeting cards in Gulag camps in the Soviet Union.
1950–1956, 1967, 1968.**

22

Greeting cards.

Drawn by Visvaldis Aivars while incarcerated in Dzhezkazgan. Karaganda Region, Kazakh SSR, 1950s.

23

Greeting cards.

Made by a group of imprisoned Latvians for Latvian women imprisoned in a women's camp on Christmas 1952 and Easter 1953.

24

Greeting cards.

Given to Uldis Ofkants in a Gulag camp in Mordovian ASSR in June 1967 and on 18 November 1968.

Uldis Ofkants (1941–2008)

Arrested in May 1962 for possession and distribution of anti-Soviet literature and participation in an anti-Soviet organization aimed at the separation of the Baltic States from the Soviet Union. Sentenced to 10 years in prison in a strict regime correctional work colony. Released in May 1972.

25

The greeting cards were drawn by Eduards Sidrabs while incarcerated in prison in Moscow and Gulag camps in Vorkuta and Inta from 1950 to 1956. He sent them to his wife Elza Sidraba in Latvia.

Eduards Sidrabs (1898–1963)

Woodcarver and member of the Artists' Union of the Latvian SSR since 1944. E. Sidrabs was arrested by the occupying Soviet regime in January 1949. In August 1949, the Special Meeting of the USSR Ministry of State Security sentenced him to 10 years in prison in a correctional work camp for hiding and procuring documents for Jānis Budulis, who had been a newspaper reporter during the Nazi German occupation period in Latvia. Sidrabs was imprisoned in Moscow, Ozerlag (Irkutsk Region, Russian SFSR), Vorkuta and Inta (Komi ASSR). He became known when, after his liberation in 1956, while still in Inta, he created a monument Dzimtenei (For the Homeland) to commemorate the Baltic inmates who died in the camp. After returning to Latvia, he made sculptures from wood, chamotte, and terracotta. His sculptures are in the Līksna, Viļaka, and Daugavpils churches.

26

Greeting cards.

Made in the Inta Gulag camp and given to Aina Birne during imprisonment in 1950–1955.

Aina Elza Birnis (1926–2009)

Member of the National Resistance Movement – Latvian National Youth Association "Imanta".

A. Birnis, a teacher of English and German at Rugāju High School, was arrested by the Soviet regime in October 1949. In December 1949, the Military Tribunal of the Ministry of the Interior of the Latvian SSR sentenced her to 10 years imprisonment and 3 years deprivation of rights. She was in the Inta camp (Komi ASSR) until July 1955, in exile in the Komi ASSR until April 1956.

27

Greeting card.

It was sent by Oļģerts Sabulis while incarcerated in Kolima (Magadan) on 21 November 1954 to his mother Katrīna Sabule in Latvian SSR.

Oļģerts Sabulis (1931)

In February 1949, he was arrested by the Soviet occupation regime at the age of 17 for participating in an anti-Soviet organization and distributing national slogans. In March 1949, the Military Tribunal of the troops of the Ministry of the Interior of the Latvian SSR sentenced him, applying the decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR of 26 May 1947 "On the abolition of the death penalty", to imprisonment for 25 years with confiscation of property. In March 1955, the Military Tribunal of the Baltic War District amended his sentence to 5 years imprisonment. He was imprisoned in Magadan Region until April 1955.

28

A greeting card showing the Freedom Monument in Rīga and the colours of the Latvian flag. It was made by Otto Pārups for Biruta Blūma in the Kengir labour camp in 1951.



Otto Pārups (1916–1984)

In May 1948, O. Pārups was arrested by the Soviet regime for service in the German army and participation in national partisan battles after the Second World War. In September 1948, the Military Tribunal of the troops of the Ministry of the Interior of the Latvian SSR sentenced O. Pārups to imprisonment for 25 years, deprivation of rights for 5 years with confiscation of property. He was imprisoned in Gulag camps in the Kazakh SSR, released in May 1956.

29

A greeting card. Made in the Spaska Gulag camp in 1953.

30

Greeting card.

Augusts Eišlers gave it to Viktorija Miķelsone imprisoned in a camp on 30 March 1953.

Augusts Eišlers (1922)

He was arrested by the occupying Soviet regime in September 1945 for service in the German army.

Viktorija Miķelsone (1926)

Member of an anti-Soviet organization. The occupying Soviet regime arrested her at the age of 21 in April 1948. In September 1948, the Military Tribunal of the troops of the Ministry of the Interior of the Latvian SSR sentenced her to imprisonment for 25 years and deprivation of rights for 5 years with confiscation of property.



The Gulag camp in Inta. Komi ASSR, 1956.

Display Case no. 6

V-6

Objects with ethnic symbols made by Latvians in Gulag camps of the Soviet Union. 1945–1956.

31

A box with a lid, on which a red-and-white-red flag is created from pieces of various colors of wood.

Jānis Siliņš made it as a gift to his daughter Sandra while he was imprisoned in Vorkuta, Komi ASSR, 1946–1956. He gave the box to his daughter after returning to Latvia.

Jānis Siliņš (1909–1978)

During the occupation of Latvia by Nazi Germany, he served in the 16th Police Battalion, and from 1943 – in the 19th Division of the Latvian Legion. After the Second World War he joined the national partisans and during a battle wounded a leg. He became lame for life.

He was arrested by the Soviet regime in November 1945. In May 1946, the Military Tribunal of the troops of the Ministry of the Interior of the Latvian SSR sentenced him to imprisonment for 20 years, deprivation of rights for 5 years without confiscation of property. In August 1956, the Military Tribunal of the Baltic War District reduced his sentence to 10 years, without the removal of rights. He was imprisoned in the Vorkuta camp in the Komi ASSR until May 1957. After returning to Latvia, he was not allowed to live in Riga, nor closer to Riga than 30 km. Later he could live in Riga and worked as a carpenter in Sloka and the State University of Latvia.

32

Albums with wooden covers.

Author and owner unknown. Kolyma, Magadan, 1955.

33

The album showing the flag of Latvia was made by Ilmārs Bilkēvičs while he was incarcerated in Kolyma Gulag camp, Magadan. 1950s.

Ilmārs Bilkēvičs (1927–1960)

During the Second World War he served in the Latvian Legion. On 29 April 1945, he was captured by the U.S. Army and taken to a POW camp in Heilbronn. In the autumn of 1945, he moved to the Russian occupation zone in Germany and returned to Riga. He joined the national partisans.

The Soviet regime arrested him in January 1947. In August 1947, the Military Tribunal of the troops of the Ministry of the Interior of the Latvian SSR sentenced him to imprisonment for 25 years, deprivation of rights for 5 years with confiscation of property. He died after being imprisoned at a forced resettlement site in the Irkutsk Region at the age of 33.

34

The **chess** set was made by an unknown political prisoner in Vorkuta after Stalin's death in 1953, when conditions in the camp improved somewhat. Juris Muncis drew the shapes of the figures to represent German crusaders and ancient Latvians. He later brought the set to Latvia.



Juris Muncis (1915)

In 1943, he was drafted into the Latvian Legion. After the Second World War, he became involved in a national partisan resistance group. He was arrested by the Soviet regime in January 1947 and sentenced to 25 years in prison. He was imprisoned in Vorkuta, Komi ASSR until October 1958.

35

Inkwell.

Made by Bērtulis Buls at the central copper mine in Dzhezkazgan on 18 November 1954, and sent as a Christmas present to his sister Bārbala.



Bērtulis Buls (1923–2005)

The Soviet occupation regime arrested him in June 1949 for serving in the German army from 1942 to 1945 and sentenced him to 25 years in prison. Was imprisoned in the Karaganda region (Kazakh SSR), where he worked in metal mines. In 1956, he was amnestied and returned to Latvia. As a sculptor, B. Buls has created several monuments to public figures from Latgale.

Display Case no. 7 V-7

Boy-scout and girl-guide items made by Latvian refugees in displaced persons (DP) camps in Germany. 1945–1950.

36

Greetings from Lithuanian Scouts to Latvian Scouts on a national festival in the DP camp in Memmingen, Germany. 18 November 1946.

37

Dolls.

Made by the **girl-guides** of the 51st Baltezers troop in the Memmingen DP camp of the American occupation zone of Germany.



38

A patch for the Latvian Scout uniform in Germany, second half of 1940s.

39

A wooden carving in the form of a rectangle with a tribute to D. Fletcher from the Eglājs family.

Made by B. Enerts in Watenstedt in the British occupation zone of Germany, in 1947. Aleksandrs Rostockis gave the object to the Museum – he bought it in Poland as an antique object.

40

Pennants (both sides).

Pennants of the 51st Baltezers troop of girl-guides and 63rd Baltezers troop of boy-scouts from the Memmingen DP camp in the American occupation zone of Germany.

Display Case no. 8 **V-8**

Items made by Latvian refugees in displaced persons camps in Germany and in their new homes overseas. 1945–1968.

41

Wooden stand for a small flag with the coat of arms of the Republic of Latvia on its base. Carved by Herberts Lapiņš in Ontario, Canada, in the 1950s. It was used with the Latvian flag at various Latvian social events and the Evangelical Lutheran Church services from 1950s to 1987.

42

A traditional plate with the text “[I was] Born singing, grew up singing”. It belonged to Matīss Švānfelds (1911–1981) in the USA.

43

Badge of the Saules ģimnāzija (Sun Gymnasium)

Made in the “Saules” (Sun) displaced persons camp in Geesthacht in the British occupation zone of Germany, 1947.



44

Box.

Made in a displaced persons camp in Germany and engraved with the text “CIV.INT. CAMP NEUMUENSTER”. Second half of 1940s.

45

Program.

Solemn celebration of the 28th anniversary of Latvia’s independence including a concert in Alt Garge displaced persons camp in the British occupation zone of Germany on 18 November 1946.

46

Candlestick.

Made by an unknown person, it was a gift to Jānis Bungis (1912–1986) on his 50th birthday in the USA.

47

Decorative plate with a girl in a traditional Latvian costume and some ethnic ornaments.

Made in a Latvian displaced persons camp in Hannover, Germany. The second half of the 1940s. Aleksandrs Rostockis – gave it to the Museum – he bought it in the UK as an antique item.

48

Ornamental plate with the image of the great coat of arms of the Republic of Latvia.

Owned by Artūrs Eižens Reinvalds (1904) in the USA.

Display Case no. 9 **V-9**

A calendar drawn by Latvian refugees in a displaced persons camp in Germany, 1945–1946.

49

Calendar.

Drawings and text by the Chemical Engineer Elmārs Ence and Elizabete Liepiņa. From 1 September 1945 to 30 April 1946, it was used in the Sidrabene displaced persons camp in Lübeck, British occupation zone of Germany.

National journals and leaflets written by members of the National Resistance Movement. Latvia, 1945–1950.

50

Leaflet of Latvia’s National Partisan Association distributed and copied by the National Youth Association of Latvia containing the words of the first line of Latvia’s national anthem – “God bless Latvia”. 1945–1946.

51

Magazine Mazais Pastnieks (The Little Postman).

It was written in a prison. Its motto is May we regain freedom. Riga, 1949.

52

Magazine Kokle. October and November, 1945.

On 2 October 1945, five 10th and 12th grade students of Alūksne Secondary School – Līvija Eglīte (1926), Inta Eglīte (1929–1947), Lūcija Sāgameža (1928–2021), Rēzija Lauce (1926), and Anna Prindule (1928) formed a group of organizers of the Latvian National Youth Association Tālavas sili. Its purpose was to express national views. The girls themselves wrote the articles and poems for the magazine Kokle.

The Soviet regime arrested them on 26 February 1946. In October 1946, the Military Tribunal of the Troops of the Ministry of the Interior of the Latvian SSR sentenced Līvija Eglīte, Inta Eglīte, and Lūcija Sāgameža to 10 years imprisonment, Anna Prindule and Rēzija Lauce to 8 years imprisonment and deprivation of rights for 5 years.

Inta Eglīte (born 2 August 1929) died in the Riga Central Prison Hospital on 2 March 1947.



53

An illegal handwritten national partisan magazine Dzimtene (Homeland) with poems and articles (1950).

Publisher Dzimtenes vanagi (Hawks of the homeland). The main creators Vilis Toms and Pēteris Logins (author of the cover), Bronislava Martuževa rewrote the articles and also published her own poems.

Vilis Toms (1925–1952)

Secretary of the Headquarters of the Latvian National Partisans' Union and editor of the partisan illegal newspaper Māras zeme and the magazine Dzimtene (Homeland). The Soviet regime arrested him in February 1951. In October 1951, the Military Tribunal of the Baltic War District sentenced him to the highest penalty – death by shooting. He was executed in the Riga Central Prison on 11 January 1952.

Pēteris Logins (1927)

In August 1951, he was arrested by the Soviet regime on charges of treason of the motherland, anti-Soviet agitation, and robbery and theft of public property. In January 1952, he was sentenced to imprisonment for 25 years and deprivation of rights for 5 years with confiscation of property.

In July 1956, the Commission of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR reduced the sentence to 12 years. He was imprisoned in the Vorkuta camp in the Komi ASSR until October 1959.

Bronislava Martuževa (1924–2012)

After the Second World War, she supported national partisans. The occupying Soviet regime arrested her in February 1954. In July 1954, sentenced her to imprisonment for 25 years and deprivation of rights for 5 years without confiscation of property. In September 1954, the Military Tribunal of the Baltic War District reduced the sentence to 10 years. She was imprisoned in Taishet of the Irkutsk Region until July 1956.

Display Case no. 10 V-10

Ethnic souvenirs made by Latvian refugees in displaced persons camps in Germany, 1947–1950.

54

A hand made box with Latvian soil and a doll wearing a Latvian traditional costume.

These were gifts presented by Latvian refugees on 23 June 1947 to the British Army Officer Lawrence Shadwell, Commander of the displaced persons camp at Schleswig, Germany. Edward Hagger (UK) gave them to the Museum in 2002.



55

An ornamental plate and a doll in the traditional costume of Bārta.

The plate and the doll were made by Antra Bērziņa and Līvija Miķelsone at the Kleinkötz displaced persons camp in Germany. Heinz and Margaret Abersfeller purchased these items from Latvians living there between 1947 and 1950.

56

A doll wearing a Latvian traditional costume.

Creators of the exhibition:

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