

**International Commission for the Evaluation of the Crimes of the Nazi and Soviet
Occupation Regimes in Lithuania
DEPORTATIONS OF 14-18 JUNE 1941**

CONCLUSIONS

(Approved by the Commission on December 17, 2003)

1. **Manner of exile.** Exiles or deportations (lat. “deportatio”- the act of forcing somebody to leave the country, exile) – is a specific type of political repression. A distinctive feature of deportations as a type of repression is their administrative (non-legal) manner and the fact that they were directed not towards the particular person but towards the group of people defined by some prejudged criteria. The decisions on exile were made by the leaders of the Soviet Union communist party on the initiative of NKVD-MVD and NKGB-MGB institutions.
2. **Geography of exiles.** The mass deportation of big groups of people was carried out in May-June 1941 from the territories, which were occupied by the Soviet Union. These territories were annexed under the pact of the Soviet Union-Germany on 23 August 1939 and later agreements with Germany. That was already the fourth deportation to the depth of the USSR since the beginning of World War II. The first three were launched in 1940 in the eastern territories of pre-war Poland. In 1941 Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Besarabia with Northern Bukovina as well as the western parts of Belarus and Ukraine were the zones of deportation.
3. **Preparation for deportation.** The finishing stage for deportations started on 21 May 1941. On 4 June 1941 Serov, the deputy of Merkulov, issued instructions for NKGB county principals on organisation of the final record of the deportees and the deportation process itself. Only those whose record files contained some “discreditable material”, for example, on the participation in the fight for Independence, occupation of high public service position, belonging to the corps of rifles, etc had to be deported.
4. **Categories of the deportees and qualitative differences.** NKVD documents call the procedure of deportation “the expulsion of socially alien elements”. All these categories and types of repression were similar in the sense that none of the exiled was formally sentenced. Three types of repression were designed for tens of categories of deportees: residence in the area by NKVD supervision, residence in prison camps and in the GULAG system labour camps. However, the ruling of VKP (b) CK political bureau and the council of national

commissioners of the USSR regulated the decision on the form of repression, which had to be applied to the categories mentioned above. These acts haven't still been found.

5. **Deportation process.** The characteristic feature of deportation was that various categories of the people deported under all the three types of repression were represented by the exiled from the Baltic States only. During the first stage of deportation the exiled were taken to the collection points and convoyed to echelons. At the second stage in the places of gathering, the deportees were divided into two groups: "A group" ("the head of the family") which was sent to concentration camps and "B group" ("the members of the family") which was sent to places of deportation.
6. **Number and composition of the exiled.** The number of the deportees of all echelons is practically known. There were 17 echelons deported from Lithuania: 11 echelons with deportees ("B group"), 4 echelons with the detained ("A group") and 2 echelons with the so-called criminal convicts. Most people from Lithuanian SSR were deported to the region of Altai, fewer to the region of Novosibirsk, Kazakhstan and Komia. The number of the deportees from Lithuania amounts to 12 832 people (the fate of 12 331 was established). The number of the detained – 4663 (the fate of 3915 was established). Our total "echelon" number of all the categories of the repressed after the deportation operation in Lithuania amounts to about 17500 people (the fate of 16 246 deportees was established). The representatives of Lithuanian political, military and economic elite were mostly among the deported. Among the deportees whose fate was established some 2045 were Jews (that amounted to 13.5% of the exiled who were transferred to the places of deportation and 9.8% to the concentration camps), 1576 were Poles (10.4% were exiled to the places of deportation and 7.5% to the concentration camps), 11991 - Lithuanians (72.7% were exiled to the places of deportation and 77.4% to the concentration camps). Some 5060 among the deportees were children under the age of 16 (41% of all the exiled to the places of deportation).

Most deportees were farmers – 29.8% and people working at home (family members of different social standing eligible for work) – 14.3%, then teachers – 5.2% civil servants – 5.0%, workers – 3.1%. The social standing of men who were separated from their families and deported is as follows: civil servants – 15.8%, farmers – 14.0%, police officials – 11.1%, officers – 10.5%, workers – 7.5%.

7. **Destiny of the exiled.** During August - September 1941 former citizens of Poland (mostly Polish and Jewish people), which had been deported from Lithuania, were released from exile and the places of imprisonment.

The biggest group of deportees was in the region of Altai - 7 232 people or 58.6%. In 1942 some 2 795 deportees from the region of Altai, mostly women with small children and men, which were not eligible for work, were brought to the north of Jacutia, the islands of the Lena river delta. Some 11.9% of people were deported to Komia, 10.6% - to the region of Tomsk. The number of people living in exile increased by 863 children who were born there and by 24 people who came to their relatives voluntarily. At the places of deportation they were registered. Also, the same rules applied to those who came voluntarily and to the deported.

On 14-19 June 1941 under the lists of NKVD 1274 people were deported to Bellag (Carelia) and Oneglag¹ (the region of Archangelsk) from Lithuania. Little is known about what happened to these people after that.

Men, who were separated from their families, were brought to different camps – Carlag, Vorkutlag (the region of Komia), Siblag (the region of Kemerov), Sevrallag (the former Sverdlovsk region) and Kraslag (the region of Krasnoyarsk, Resiotai town), Norillag. Their cases were compiled at the back date and sent to the special meeting of the USSR NKVD. All the prisoners were accused under the chapters of Article 58 and sentenced in absentia to 5–25 years of imprisonment; some of them received death penalty sentences and were shot.

Out of all the deportees 33.59% returned to Lithuania (40.3% of those exiled to the places of deportation and 12.5% - to the concentration camps), 26.52% died in the places of deportation and imprisonment (17.6% of the exiled to the places of deportation and 54.5% - to the concentration camps) and the fate of almost 40% remained unknown (42.1% of the exiled to the places of deportation and 33% - to the concentration camps).

8. Deportation consequences.

- a) Repression was directed towards the annihilation of families' not particular people. By annihilating the whole families, their years of accumulated experience, social-cultural influence had to vanish. The most educated part of officers, policemen, teachers, journalists etc of the two decades had to vanish;
- b) Deportation affected all national groups more or less in the same way, however, relatively the Jewish community suffered most – 1% of the community members were exiled (about 0.5% of Lithuanians).

¹Under the project of 14 June 1941 Lithuanians had to be deported to Usollag, Latvians to Bellag and Oneglag (ref: Deportation of the inhabitants of Lithuania in 1941, 1945-1952 p.36). The record of 20 October 1941 says something different: Latvians had to be derted to Ussolag, Lithuanians – to Bellag and Oneglag (ref: the same P.90).

- c) Deportation had a special impact on the situation in Lithuania – the exile of thousands of people, absence of information on the fate of deportees due to the war lets us evaluate deportation as a physical annihilation of people. Under the conditions of the Nazi occupation the fact of deportations was used to disseminate national-socialist doctrines in the society, to promote intolerance as well as to ascribe the responsibility for the deportations to the representatives of the Jewish community.
- d) The deportees were taken to the places not suitable for residence, therefore a part of them died. Deportation is seen as a crime of genocide or a crime against humanity.

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