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Between Pages of Gray

Special Interest Articles:

- World War II
- The Soviet Union's part in war.
- Deportation of the Baltic States.

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WWII Has Begun!

1939 – Hitler has gained control of Germany. The Nazi Party has taken over the German government. Hitler is planning to take over Europe – he has begun that by creating a secret agreement with Stalin. Stalin, of the Soviet Union, and Hitler, of Germany, created a secret agreement – the

Nazi-Soviet Non-Aggression Pact. In this pact Hitler and Stalin agreed to invade Poland and split the territory in half as well as the Soviet Union taking control of Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia – the Baltic States. Hitler sparked WWII with the invasion of Poland on September 1, 1939.



(Picture from www.dipity.com/World-War-II)

Soviet Union Occupies Baltic States

The Baltic States consist of Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia. In September of 1939 Soviet Union invaded and took over all of the Baltic States. These states are valuable for their plentiful resources, their warm water ocean access, and the land itself. Throughout WWII there are two main powers; the

Axis powers – Germany, Italy and Japan versus the Allied powers – France, Britain, the Soviet Union, and later the United States. During WWII, the media and record books focused on the horrors of the Axis powers – concentration camps, Pearl Harbor, the Holocaust. However, the Allied powers were not

innocent either. The Soviet Union deported hundreds of thousands of people from the Baltic States and all over to send them to their own camps.

To read more about deportation, go to page 2.

Deportation of the Baltic States

The first deportation on the Baltic States started on June 14, 1941 – just two years after the Soviet Union first occupied them. There are many possible reasons of why the Soviets deported thousands out of Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia. According to *Between Shades of Gray*, they drafted lists of people thought to be anti-Soviet. These people were sent to be murdered immediately. All kinds of people were deemed “anti-Soviets” – doctors, lawyers, teachers, military servicemen, writers, businessmen, musicians, and even librarians. Soon after, thousands more were deported. Men went to labor camps to work and women went on a

large voyage to Siberia to work and be sent in exile. The Soviets split the men and women so far away that they wouldn’t be able to reproduce new generations – all part of their overall plan to eventually completely take over the Baltics. Meanwhile, while people were being deported, the Soviets were burning down cities and recreating places of their own. The countries of Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia practically disappeared.

The deportation process was a gruesome one. First, people were thrown into cramped train carts. These carts harvested disease and filth – many died in this

first stage alone. Next, carts would stop in parts of modern day Russia in hopes that rich landowners would buy people by the cart loads as slaves. If the carts were not sold they either continued to a labor camp or they would take a boat upstream to Siberia – the path that *Between Shades of Gray* followed. Millions of people died in these horrible times, many lost their sense of pride and identity. However, this moment in history is often overlooked due to the horrid Holocaust tragedy. It is important that we do not look over what the Soviet Union did to the people of the Baltic Nations.

“It is important that we do not look over what the Soviet Union did to the people of the Baltic Nations”.



Picture of Soviet Russia.

The Baltic States are in the top left.

Picture from: www.helensbookblog.com

More on World War II

As WWII progressed Germany gained more and more territory becoming the power to beat. Soon, Germany broke the Nazi-Soviet Non-Aggression Pact and Germany went for Soviet Union. The battle on the German-Soviet front seemed to be a stalemate. However, the winter got the best of Germany causing them to fall behind – a costly mistake on Hitler’s part. In *Between Shades of Gray*

the characters often receive small information about the war. They found out that Hitler was moving in and they assumed he would let them come back to their homeland. But, they were wrong. Hitler could care less about the small Baltic Nations. A few years later, America jumped into the war. When America joined the Allies they began to really push Germany back. On April 25, 1945, American

and Soviet troops met each other in Germany. This caused Germany to surrender on May 7, 1945. Unfortunately, the end of World War II did not mean that the Baltics were free states. The Soviet Union still occupied them. Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania would not become free nations again until 1991 when the Soviet Union dissolved.

Deportation Barter Store *Survive the Deportation!* *Located in the Baltics*

One Coat for Boots



or

Jewelry for both!



News on the NKVD!

“The NKVD were very harsh, they ended up killing thousands”

The NKVD was a police group for Soviet Russia put in place by Stalin. Parts of the NKVD were public and parts were very secretive. The NKVD's purpose was to regulate the rule and the power of the Soviets. They did regular police jobs but also helped run the Gulag and other labor

camps. They were famous for executing anti-Soviets. The NKVD were very harsh, they ended up killing thousands from labor camps and executions. They walked side by side with those deported to make sure they stayed in line. However, they had beds

to sleep on, food to eat, and water to drink. Although the NKVD was a very harsh group there are reports of them helping the deportees and giving some small sense of empathy. The NKVD became what is known now as the KGB in 1951 to help with security affairs.



An NKVD badge.

Picture from: www.marxists.org

Be a part of Soviet Russia, help create a revolution.



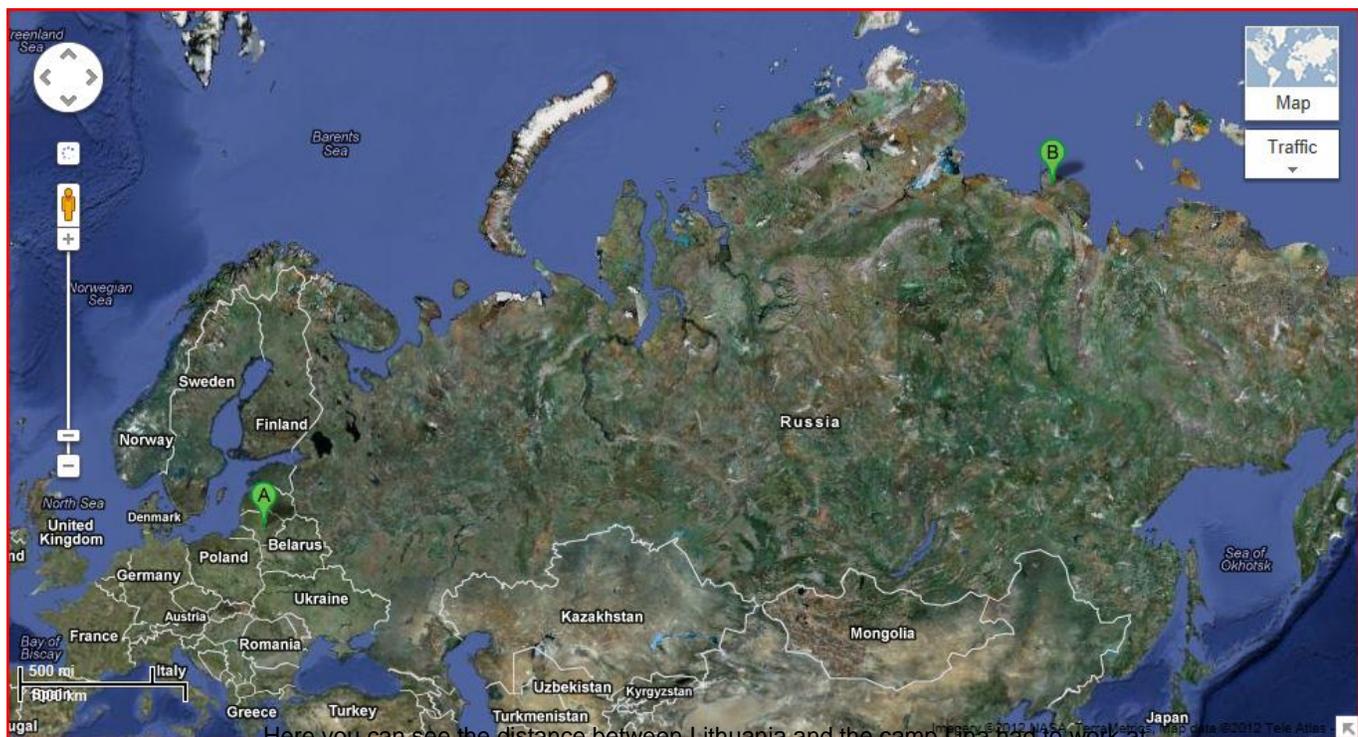
Picture from: www.klomm.br.ms

Who is Lina Vilkas?

Today we are presenting a very sad, personal story about a fourteen year old girl named Lina. Lina Vilkas (main character in *Between Shades of Gray*) lived a normal life in Lithuania were her father, mother, and brother. Unexpectedly, the NKVD showed up at her house and forced her family to be deported. They were forced to pack into large train carts that were cramped and full of

disease. From there, she went to random cities to be sold as a slave. After no one purchased her cart, they were forced to work in a labor camp under very harsh conditions. After working there for some time, they had to pick and move on their way to Siberia. They had to take a train, walk, and even board a ship to reach the very northern tip of Siberia were they spent most their time. There, they worked under

horrible conditions and awful weather. They had insufficient clothing to survive in the bitter winters. Often, Lina's family had to steal food and supplies just to live. The mother gave up her bread portions to ensure that Lina's sick brother could leave. The malnutrition caused the death of Lina's mom. Lina and her brother were stuck in a labor camp in Siberia alone for months until they were finally free to leave.



Here you can see the distance between Lithuania and the camp Lina had to work at.

Image from Google Maps