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**THE INTERROGATION PROTOCOLS OF SD KAUKASIER  
KOMPANIE FROM THE SECURITY SERVICE OF UKRAINE  
BRANCH-WISE STATE ARCHIVE AS A SOURCE TO THE STUDIES  
OF THE HOLOCAUST IN THE TERRITORY  
OF THE DISTRICT OF GALICIA**

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The new documents, which the researchers of the Holocaust are able to use for studying of the functioning of the special unit called *SD Kaukasier Kompanie* (*Caucasian Company*), which was responsible for the executions and fates of those Jews of the district of Galicia who were in the forced labour camps even after the proclamation of this territory *judenfrei*, are considered in the article. The informational potential of the *SD Kaukasier Kompanie* members' interrogation protocols, which were made by Soviet interrogators on the eve of 1960's (partially the text of these documents is available in the annex) is analyzed. Based on the comparison of the different archival materials from Germany and Ukraine, it is ascertained when the company appeared on the territory of the district of Galicia, how much time it had been there and what tasks it carried out. The details dealing with the company's forming, its headquarters and previous duties are also described. The chronology of the location changing of the unit and its subunits is characterized.

*Key words:* the Holocaust, district of Galicia, SD Kaukasier Kompanie, killings, forced labour camps.

In summer and autumn 1943 the murder of Jews kept in the forced labour camps in the District of Galicia took place. One of the groups conducting the executions was the SD Kaukasier Kompanie. Even now there is very little information about these killers<sup>1</sup>. And though historians mention this unit<sup>2</sup> in the context of studying the chronology of the Holocaust in Galicia, many facts are still unknown. Researchers did not pay any attention to the facts where the Kompanie came to Lviv from, whom it consisted of and what they were engaged in previously. It is still unclear when the *Kompanie* was billeted in the city and how long it was there.

The introduction of new documents which have not been used before by historians will allow the professionals to better understand the role of SD Kaukasier Kompanie in the extermination of Jews during World War II. In the Security Service of Ukraine

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<sup>1</sup> There is only one special article on the theme: Henning Pieper, "SS-Oberscharführer Walter Kehrer und die "Kaukasier-Kompanie". Eine Sondereinheit und ihre Rolle im Zweiten Weltkrieg 1942–1944," *Zeitschrift für Geschichtswissenschaft* 56, heft 3 (2008): 197–221.

<sup>2</sup> Dieter Pohl, *Nationalsozialistische Judenverfolgung in Ostgalizien 1941–1944: Organisation und Durchführung eines staatlichen Massenverbrechens* (Munich: Oldenbourg, 1996), 353, 360; Thomas Sandkühler, *Der Judenmord in Ostpolen und die Rettungsinitiativen von Berthold Beitz 1941–1944* (Bonn: Dietz, 1996), 268.

Branch-Wise State Archive of Kyiv there are interrogation protocols provided by the former members of this company such as Kadyr Mamed ogly Makhmudov (*Document No. 1*)<sup>3</sup>, Alphonse Hetsfrid (*Document No. 2*)<sup>4</sup>, David Nikoladze (*Document No. 3*)<sup>5</sup> and Ivan Hirt (*Document No. 4*)<sup>6</sup>. Their testimony should be looked at as an important source for studying the Holocaust in the territory of the District of Galicia. The records include information about the SD Kaukasier Kompanie's participation in the shootings of prisoners of forced labor camps and the Lviv Lontskoho prison, and also about their role in the anti-partisan actions. The documents are mainly connected with the extermination of Jews in Galicia. The new information gives historians a chance to study little-known aspects of the unit's activity.

SD Kaukasier Kompanie was formed according to the order of SS-Gruppenführer Otto Ohlendorf, the commander of Einsatzgruppe D der Sicherheitspolizei und des SD (the deployment group D under the command of the Security Police and the Security Service), in spring 1942. It operated as a defence group, that is as a Schutzmannschaft (Auxiliary Police) detail, led by SS-Oberscharführer Walter Kehrer, a former interpreter of Einsatzkommando (Deployment command) 12<sup>7</sup>. Volunteers from the Caucasus served in the SD Kaukasier Kompanie. Most of them were former Soviet prisoners of war such as Armenians, Georgians, Azerbaijanians, and representatives of the other Caucasians nations. There were also Russians<sup>8</sup>. An ethnic German (Volksdeutsche) Walter Kehrer, who was born in 1912 in the town of Khanlar (Azerbaijan SSR) and spoke fluent German, became the *Kompanie's* commander<sup>9</sup>.

The formation of the Kompanie became possible as a result of a special circular, which the Reichssicherheitshauptamt (Reich Main Security Office) sent on 19 January 1942 to all Einsatzgruppen. The document wrote about the possibility of strengthening the Sicherheitspolizei (Security Police) by the local proper elements. In result, details of Schutzmannschaften were formed from the locals and prisoners of war, former Red Army soldiers. Interpreters were recruited even sooner. Such occurrences had been known to us since August 1941. They were recruited from among Volksdeutsche<sup>10</sup>.

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<sup>3</sup> Литерное дело № 9 на Яновский лагерь смерти, Галузевий державний архів Служби безпеки України (далі – ГДА СБУ), ф. 13, спр. 987, т. 2, арк. 266–271.

<sup>4</sup> Там само, арк. 264–265.

<sup>5</sup> Там само, арк. 262–263.

<sup>6</sup> Там само, арк. 259–261.

<sup>7</sup> Andrej Angrick, *Besatzungspolitik und Massenmord. Die Einsatzgruppe D in der südlichen Sowjetunion (1941–1943)* (Hamburg: Hamburger edition, 2003), 555.

<sup>8</sup> Мартін Дін, “Радянські етнічні німці і Голокост у Рейхскомісаріаті Україна, 1941–1944,” *Шоа в Україні: історія, свідчення, увічнення*, ред. Рей Брендон та Венді Лауер, пер. з англ. Наталії Комарової (Київ: Дух і Літера, 2015), 360–361.

<sup>9</sup> Vernehmungprotokolle russischer Zeugen. Bundesarchiv Ludwigsburg, Bundesarchiv Ludwigsburg, В 162, 1257, b. 3.

<sup>10</sup> Александр Круглов, “К вопросу о количестве евреев уничтоженных ейнзатцгруппами в 1941–1943 гг.,” *Голокост і сучасність* 1 (2008): 47–48.

Forming separate foreign military groups under the umbrella of Nazi armed units became a trend in 1942. For example, according to the order mentioned above, the commander of Einsatzgruppe D Otto Ohlendorf also had the authority to recruit Crimean-Tatar military companies established for self-defense. So, 14 subdivisions consisting of 1,632 people were formed. After July 1942 on the basis of eight companies for self-defense eight security battalions (No.147 – No.154) were created<sup>11</sup>.

SD Kaukasier Kompanie was attached to the headquarters of Einsatzgruppe D. The Schutzmannär (members of the Auxiliary Police) also stayed in the positions of its subdivisions. From early 1942 until 7 August 1942 the Kompanie was headquartered in Simferopol in Crimea<sup>12</sup>. Later it moved to Taganrog (Russia)<sup>13</sup>. From 28 August 1942 the headquarters was stationed in Voroshilovsk (now Stavropol, Russia)<sup>14</sup>. From the end of October and until the end of the year, the Kompanie was headquartered in Adzhi-Mushkai (now a microdistrict of Kerch in Crimea), and in early 1943 it returned to Simferopol<sup>15</sup>. In spring the headquarters of Einsatzgruppe D and its Einsatzkommandos 10 a, 11 b and 12 were sent to the Prypiat Marsh to fight partisans. On 2 April 1943 the headquarters moved to Ovruch and Einsatzkommandos 10 a, 11 b and 12 to Mozyr, Brest-Litovskii (now Brest) and Pinsk (all of them in Belarus), respectively. A little bit later, on 14 May, the units changed their place of stationing to Mozyr, Yelsk and Alexandrovka (all of them in Belarus)<sup>16</sup>. Then the Einsatzgruppe was reorganized into a special fighting Bierkamp group<sup>17</sup> which fought with partisan. Later, in June 1943 SD Kaukasier Kompanie was transferred to Lviv and subordinated to the local SD<sup>18</sup>. At that time they had already become experienced criminals. They took a direct part in the crimes committed by Einsatzgruppe D. Already in early 1942 the Schutzmannär operated Gaswagen (gas vans), first, in Simferopol, and then accordingly in other cities, including Krasnodar (Russia). In addition, they were responsible for burying corpses<sup>19</sup>. It is known that in the first half of 1942 the Einsatzgruppe conducted the shootings of prisoners of the Simferopol prison. A Volksdeutsche Hetsfrid in his after-war testimony confessed that as a member of SD Kaukasier Kompanie, he participated in operations with a use of Gaswagen in Simferopol and in summer 1942 in Stavropol (Russia)<sup>20</sup>. In a letter from the Public

<sup>11</sup> Андрій Боляновський, *Иноземні військові формування у Збройних силах Німеччини (1939–1945 рр.)* (Львів: Видавництво “Львівської політехніки”, 2013), 345–346.

<sup>12</sup> Ermittlungsverfahren gegen Heinz Seetzen u.a, wegen Mordes. EK 10a, Bundesarchiv Ludwigsburg, B 162, 1216, b. 615.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid., b. 652.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid., b. 653.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid., b. 657–658.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid., b. 659–660.

<sup>17</sup> The name of the group comes from the surname of *SS Oberführer* Walter Bierkamp, its commander.

<sup>18</sup> ГДА СБУ, ф. 13, спр. 987, т. 2, арк. 263, 265.

<sup>19</sup> Bundesarchiv Ludwigsburg, B 162, 1216, b. 761; Ermittlungsverfahren gegen Heinz Seetzen u.a, wegen Mordes. EK 10a, Bundesarchiv Ludwigsburg, B 162, 1218, b. 1020, 1034.

<sup>20</sup> Дін, “Радянські етнічні німці і Голокост у Рейхскомісаріаті Україна, 1941–1944,” 360–361.

Prosecutor of the Munich District Court to the Office of Public Procurator of the USSR dated 20 February 1964 the question about responsibility of the commander Walter Kehrler and his subordinates for the death of 12, 000 Crimean Jews was raised<sup>21</sup>.

The main tasks of SD Kaukasier Kompanie in the District of Galicia were guarding the Lviv Security Police's lodgings, fighting partisans, and executing local Jews.

German historian Andrej Angrick writes that SD Kaukasier Kompanie of Einsatzgruppe D and also the Hiwis (a German abbreviation of the term Hilfswilliger or Volunteers) of its subdivisions were sent to Lviv in August 1943. Angrick says that they took part in the murders of the last prisoners in the forced labor camps in Lviv, Skalat (Pidvolochyskyi raion, Ternopil'ska oblast), Velyki Borky (Ternopil'skyi raion, Ternopil'ska oblast) and also Kamianka 1 (Kamianky, Pidvolochyskyi raion, Ternopil'ska oblast) and Kamianka 2 (Romanove Selo, Zbarazhskyi raion, Ternopil'ska oblast)<sup>22</sup>. We know they were really involved in all the crimes mentioned above<sup>23</sup>. However, stating this Andrej Angrick makes a mistake because the liquidation of the Skalat camp took place on 30 June 1943<sup>24</sup>. The Jews of the Kamianka 1 camp were killed on 10 July<sup>25</sup>, and few days later the Velyki Borky camp was liquidated<sup>26</sup>. In fact, SD Kaukasier Kompanie came to Lviv in June 1943 and was stationed in the city for almost one year (till June 1944)<sup>27</sup>. At the beginning of 1944 it was divided into two units. One of them was left in Lviv under the command of Walter Kehrler, and the second, led by Rudolf Selch, left the city<sup>28</sup>. A former Schutzmann Kadyr M. Makhmudov mentioned that the whole company left Lviv in May 1944. Some of them were sent to Radom, and the others to Warsaw (both in Poland) where they later took part in putting down the Warsaw uprising<sup>29</sup>.

During its stationing in Lviv, SD Kaukasier Kompanie took an active role in killings of the last Jews in the District of Galicia. Kadyr M. Makhmudov witnessed that in summer 1943 SD Kaukasier Kompanie shot the prisoners of one of the concentration camps on the territory of the Ternopil oblast<sup>30</sup>. He did not mention the camp, however,

<sup>21</sup> Bundesarchiv Ludwigsburg, B 162, 1257, b. 10. Already on 8 October 1963 the USSR Chief Prosecutor Roman Rudenko sent a letter to the Central Federal Office of Justice on Investigation into National Socialist Crimes in Ludwigsburg. It was about crimes committed by *Einsatzgruppe D* in the USSR.

<sup>22</sup> Angrick, *Besatzungspolitik und Massenmord. Die Einsatzgruppe D in der südlichen Sowjetunion (1941–1943)*, 711.

<sup>23</sup> Sandkühler, *Der Judenmord in Ostpolen und die Rettungsinitiativen von Berthold Beitz 1941–1944*, 268.

<sup>24</sup> Zentrale Stelle der Landesjustizverwaltungen Ludwigsburg, Bundesarchiv Ludwigsburg, B 162, 2116, b. 4187.

<sup>25</sup> Ibid., b. 4140.

<sup>26</sup> Ibid., b. 4125.

<sup>27</sup> ГДА СБУ, ф. 13, спр. 987, т. 2, арк. 263.

<sup>28</sup> Там само, арк. 261.

<sup>29</sup> Там само, арк. 267.

<sup>30</sup> Там само.

German historian Thomas Sandkühler cites the Caucasians' involvement in the extermination of Jews in the Kamianka 1 and 2 camps, and also in Velyki Borky in July 1943. It is known that earlier that month 250-300 prisoners of the Kamianka 2 camp were taken to the main camp Kamianka 1. The next day, in the morning, the Jews were shot (approximately 500 people). Two weeks later SD *Kaukasier Kompanie* killed 250 prisoners in the Velyki Borky camp right in the barracks. After that the corpses were doused with gasoline and burned<sup>31</sup>. Besides, SD *Kaukasier Kompanie*, according to the David Nikoladze's testimony, shot approximately 200 people in Skalat<sup>32</sup>. A *Volksdeutsche* Alphonse Hetsfrid who served in the *Kompanie* as an interpreter, also confirmed his complicity in shootings<sup>33</sup>. We speak here about the Skalat camp, because the local ghetto was liquidated by German, Ukrainian and Jewish police in result of two large actions on 7 April 1943 and on 9 June 1943<sup>34</sup>. As for the camp it lasted until the end of June 1943.

On 12 November 1943 SD *Kaukasier Kompanie* together with the Lviv *Sicherheitspolizei* killed 5,000 prisoners from the Yaniv forced labour camp in the outskirts of the city<sup>35</sup>. According to Ivan Hirt's testimony, during the executions he and the others stood about 100 meters from the shooting site, encircling it<sup>36</sup>. In his testimony Hirt did not confess that he personally shot. He did not implicate any friends in crimes either, but pointed out that they told him that their commander, Walter Kehrer, killed people with his own hand. David Nikoladze as well remembered only the fact that he was encircling the camp in Yanivska street<sup>37</sup>.

So, the testimony of the former *Schutzmannär* flat out denies the commission of any crimes by them in Lviv. It can be explained by the fear to admit to their complicity in the killings of 5,000 prisoners. Although, in autumn 1943 SD *Kaukasier Kompanie* had been already carrying out executions for half a year and had a great experience. Their involvement in the shootings is a well-documented fact for researchers of the Holocaust in the District of Galicia. Besides it is hard to believe that two platoons of the company were present at the execution site and only the commander himself, because of obscure motives, took part in the murders.

During their stationing in Lviv the members of SD *Kaukasier Kompanie* also went to Lublin (Poland). On 3 November 1943 they participated in the notorious action

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<sup>31</sup> Sandkühler, *Der Judenmord in Ostpolen und die Rettungsinitiativen von Berthold Beitz 1941–1944*, 268.

<sup>32</sup> ГДА СБУ, ф. 13, спр. 987, т. 2, арк. 263.

<sup>33</sup> Там само, арк. 265.

<sup>34</sup> *Encyclopedia of Camps and Ghettos, 1933–1945* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2012), vol. 2: *Ghettos in German Occupied Europe*, part A, ed. Geoffrey P. Megargee, and Martin Dean, 827.

<sup>35</sup> Pohl, *Nationalsozialistische Judenverfolgung in Ostgalizien 1941–1944: Organisation und Durchführung eines staatlichen Massenverbrechens*, 360.

<sup>36</sup> ГДА СБУ, ф. 13, спр. 987, т. 2, арк. 259–260.

<sup>37</sup> Там само, арк. 263.

Erntefest, in result of which more than 18,000 prisoners were murdered only in the Majdanek camp<sup>38</sup>.

The interrogation protocols are inaccurate, which were rather attempts to confuse the investigators. In particular, a Volksdeutsche Ivan Hirt recollected that he was enlisted in Tatar Kompanie<sup>39</sup> in October 1941<sup>40</sup>. This cannot be the truth by no means, as the Kompanie did not exist at that time. It is likely Hirt began to collaborate with Nazis in autumn 1941 as an interpreter in the Einsatzgruppe. Kadir M. Makhmudov served in the Red Army. He was taken prisoner in late May 1942, and after that sent to the Feodosiia POW camp. There, the Nazis recruited him into SD Kaukasier Kompanie. On his staying in Stavropol (Russia) K. M. Makhmudov said only that he, like other men, guarded the lodgings of the local SD. As for the carrying out of executions, he testified that there were none<sup>41</sup>. This means that he consciously lied to the investigator, because he could not help knowing about the use of Gaswagen, which were used there already in early 1942. Despite the desire of the former Schutzmannär to confuse Soviet investigators, their interrogation records can be considered a valuable resource. However, they should be used carefully in order to avoid drawing the wrong conclusions. The best way is to compare them with the other archive materials. It is necessary to examine the information carefully and only then a real picture of the events may become clearer.

The information from the interrogation protocols provided by the former members of SD Kaukasier Kompanie which are preserved in the Security Service of Ukraine Branch-Wise State Archive of Kyiv makes it possible to specify the seat of this unit, its movement and the time when it moved. The documents mentioned the names of its members that will allow the future historians to investigate the personnel of the company. However, the most important thing that we can find out is the responsibility for the commission of crimes.

On 22 June 1943 there were officially 21,156 Jews in the District of Galicia<sup>42</sup>. All of them were kept in the forced labor camps, because local ghettos had already been liquidated in the result of numerous actions. If we take into account all figures of victims of SD Kaukasier Kompanie mentioned above, we can come to conclusion that the Kompanie was involved in the killings of at least 6 – 7 thousand people. In other words, they took part in the destruction of every third Jew who was in the District of Galicia at the time.

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<sup>38</sup> Там само, арк. 265; Christopher Browning, *Ordinary men: Reserve Police Battalion 101 and the Final Solution in Poland* (New York: Harper Collins, 1992), 138.

<sup>39</sup> Hirt means here *SD Kaukasier Kompanie* calling it *Tatar Kompanie* by mistake.

<sup>40</sup> ГДА СБУ, ф. 13, спр. 987, т. 2, арк. 259.

<sup>41</sup> Там само, арк. 266–267.

<sup>42</sup> Andrzej Żbikowski, “‘Raport’ Friedricha Katzmanna i zagłada ludności żydowskiej w dystrykcie galicyjskim,” *Akcja Reinhardt: Zagłada Żydów w Generalnym Gubernatorstwie*, red. Dariusz Libionka (Warszawa: Instytut Pamięci Narodowej, 2004), 134.

Document No. 1

**THE PROTOCOL  
OF THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE APPLICATION OF COMMITTING A CRIME**

The city of Baku  
1962

20 September

A senior authorized operations officer of the Administration of the KGB at the Council of Ministers of the Union of the SSR around the Stavropol Territory – *major* Nuzhdin, in accordance with Art. 110 of the Code of Criminal Procedure accepted from the person who had appeared

Makhmudov Kadyr Mamed ogly, born in 1910  
in the village of Murtuli, Kiurdamirskii raion,  
Azerbaijan SSR, lives in the town of Kiurdamir,  
17, Mirbashi Kasymova street.

**The Question:** What do you want to say to the KGB agency?

**The Answer:** [...] On 23 June 1941 I was drafted for service into the Red Army and sent to 105 Infantry Regiment which participated in the battles against Germans from December 1941 until May 1942, and at the end of May in the area of Feodosiia I was captured by Germans, and was sent to the POW camp in the city of Feodosiia. It was there that Mageramov Moussa, born in 1912–1914 in the Kubinskii raion of the Azerbaijan SSR, arrived in our camp and suggested our enlisting in the German army.

[...]

In the town of Stavropol, everybody who had arrived from the town of Yevpatoriia was initially placed in the building of a kindergarten where I saw for the first time Ivan SOLOVIOV and a Georgian, called Vaso, whose surname I do not know.

Everybody was enrolled in the so-called *SD Kaukasier Kompanie* under the command of Kehrer whose first name and patronymical I do not know. He was born in 1912–1914 in the Khanlarskii raion of the Azerbaijan SSR, and was a German, and a perfect master of Azeri language.

In the town of Stavropol we were given a uniform of a German *SD* soldier and a head-gear insignia, depicting a male head and two crossed bones. We were also given weapons.

In the company there were also people of Russian, Georgian and Armenian nationality, but I cannot say their surnames for granted as it was a long time ago.

[...]

After the retreat from the town of Stavropol, we arrived in the place of Darmstadt, near the town of Melitopol, where we had been waiting for the arrival of the company staff who was serving in the other *SD* teams in different towns of the Stavropol Territory. When the whole company was gathered together, approximately in April 1943, it was sent to the town of Ovruch. We had been staying there for about two months, and then the staff of the company under the command of KEHRER was sent to the city of Lvov.

In Lvov, our company was used to fight against partisans. We often went on raids and took part in combats. At the end of summer 1943, our company under the command of KEHRER left for the Ternopol region. At that time I was left in the city of Lvov because of the fact that on the way to the Carpathian Mountains our car had an accident. Two people were killed, and two, including me, got badly bruised, and when the company went away I could not go together with it.

When the company came back, the soldiers brought a lot of stuff, and I started to ask where they took the things from. So, they told me that on their way, on the KEHRER's order, they encircled a camp where Soviet citizens of Jewish nationality were kept. After the camp had been encircled, all the Jews were drove out of the barracks, formed up into a column and ordered to strip themselves, then they were taken in groups of five or six people, led up to the pits and shot. I cannot say how many Soviet citizens were executed. But according to the words of the participants it became known to me that a lot of people, including women, children and the elderly were shot.

The whole stuff of the company under the head of KEHRER went to that shooting and took part in it, except me and a few people more who stayed in the city of Lvov as guards. I remember now that someone of those who went there to shoot, told me that during the shooting some Jews attacked a German and started to take away his weapon. Then someone from the soldiers threw a grenade, the people were frightened and backed away from the German. So, in this way the German was set free, and the Jews were shot.

Out of the number of those who went to the shooting, I can name the following ones: Enver ADZHALOV, Kalyman MAMEDOV, Islam HADZHIIIEV, Moussa MAGERAMOV, Mamed Riza HADZHIIIEV, Rizvan Rizvan-ogly MAMEDOV, Mamed MAMEDOV, Nadzhaf MAMEDOV, Aivazov, etc. I want to state that all this I know from words of the participants of the shooting, I was not there myself, that is why I cannot tell exactly who was involved in the shooting.

[...]

In May 1944, we, that is, the stuff of the KEHRER's company left the city of Lvov for the city of Warsaw. I want to note that in that period our *SD Kaukasier Kompanie* was divided into two parts.

[...]

MAKHMUDOV

The application protocol wrote: A SENIOR AUTHORIZED OPERATIONS  
OFFICER OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE KGB  
At the CM of the USSR for the Stavropol Territory  
m a j o r / Nuzhdin /

It is true: A. Rapota (Signature)

## Document No. 2

### AN EXTRACT FROM THE RECORD OF INTERROGATION

The city of Karaganda

22 January 1963

A senior authorized operations officer of the Administration of the KGB under the Council of Ministers of the USSR around the Stavropol Territory, *major* Nuzhdin, observing the requirements of Articles 141, 142, 159 and 160 of the Code of Criminal Procedure of the RSFSR, interrogated as a witness –

HETSFRID Alphonse Iosifovich, born in 1919  
in the village of Roshtadt, Mostovskii raion, Odessa oblast,  
a German, a citizen of the USSR, a non-party member,  
has a secondary education, works in the city of Karaganda,  
the mine No. 18 – the main, a stoker, convicted in 1947  
by the MT of the West Siberian Military District



according to Art. 58-I “a” of the Criminal Code of the RSFSR  
to 20 years, the penalty has been served.  
The interrogation began at 09:00 a.m.  
Finished at 18:00

The Question:

Where were you during the Patriotic War?

The Answer:

Since the beginning of the Patriotic War I had been living at the place of my birth, working in a farm, and when the Germans invaded, or rather occupied our village in September 1941 I was mobilized to serve in the security police, also called *SD*.

The Question: What post did you hold in *SD*?

The Answer: First, I worked in *SD* as a groom, and then, in 1942, I was appointed an interpreter.

The Question: Tell us more details in connection with *SD*: where was it stationed, who led this team and what were the functions of *SD*?

The Answer: ... In June 1943, the staff of the *SD* group moved to the city of Lvov. Here, I was appointed an interpreter of *SD Kaukasier Kompanie*.

[...]

The staff of *SD* company along with me, Walter KEHRER, Ivan GIRT, Ivan LANG, Rudolf SOLH was directly involved in the shooting of Soviet citizens of Jewish nationality in the area of the town of Skalat in the Ternopol region ...

Interrogated: SENIOR AUTHORISED OPERATIONS OFFICER  
OF THE KGB OFFICE OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF THE USSR  
AROUND THE STAVROPOL TERRITORY – MAJOR (Nuzhdin)  
TRUE: SENIOR INVESTIGATOR OF THE INVESTIGATION  
DEPARTMENT OF THE UKGB OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS  
OF THE UKRAINIAN SSR FOR THE LVOV OBLAST  
CAPTAIN (a signature) (RAPOTA)

**Document No. 3**

**AN EXTRACT FROM THE RECORD OF INTERROGATION**

The city of Tbilisi

2 October 1964

The interrogation began at 10:00 a.m.

Finished at 15:30

Senior investigator of the Committee for State Security under the Council of Ministers of the Georgian SSR – *Captain* Topuria, observing the requirements of Articles 154, 155, 156, 158 of the CPC of the GSSR, interrogated as a witness –

NIKOLADZE David Nikolaievich, born in 1919 in the town of Zestafoni, Georgian SSR, a Georgian, a citizen of the USSR, with a higher technical education, works under the State Committee of Higher and Secondary Special Education of the the Council of Ministers of the Georgian SSR, lives in the city of Tbilisi – at Vaja Pshavela Ave.,

Quarter 6, Building 10, Entrance 3, Apt. 36.

[...]

The Question:

Where were you and what did you do during the Great Patriotic War?

The Answer:

Around June 1943 our *SD Kaukasier Kompanie* arrived in Lvov and was put at disposal of the Lvov *SD*. In the city of Lvov our company was about a year, i.e. to June 1944. During this time, we had to participate in punishing operations both as a part of a company and as individual groups.

... after the end of the shooting in the town of Skalat, where, along with German troops and the staff of the Lvov *SD* we shot about 200 Soviet citizens of Jewish nationality, men as well as women, children and the elderly people. On the same day in the evening we drove back to Lvov by trucks.

Soon after that, again in autumn 1943, early in the morning our company was alarmed according to Kehrer's order, and we were taken out with the arms in our hands to the outskirts of the city of Lvov, where a Jewish camp was situated with more than 4,000 people living in its barracks. The shooting of the people, which lasted until late in the evening was performed in the same manner as it was in the town of Skalat. The operation of the extermination of Soviet citizens was managed and carried out by *SD* staff and by Kehrer, the commander of our *Kaukasier Kompanie*. However, I did not see who shot the people directly, because I was encircling the barracks. During the Lvov operation there was an incident when the Jews condemned to death rushed to the German officers and strangled two of them in the mass...

In January 1945, in connection with the offensive of the Soviet troops we retreated from Poland to Yugoslavia and then to Italy. During the retreatment from Poland to Yugoslavia Kehrer left us. After that we did not see him, and his fate is unknown. On arriving in Italy, we were enrolled into a Georgian cavalry regiment of the German army, commanded by *Colonel* Tsulukidze. Soon we escaped from this regiment to partisans, and after the end of the Patriotic War in August 1945 were repatriated to the Soviet Union.

Interrogated: SENOIR INVESTIGATOR OF THE COMMITTEE  
FOR STATE SECURITY UNDER THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF  
THE GEORGIAN SSR – CAPTAIN (TOPURIA)  
TRUE: SENOIR INVESTIGATOR OF THE INVESTIGATION  
DEPARTMENT OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE UKGB UNDER THE COUNCIL OF  
MINISTERS OF THE UKRAINIAN SSR  
ABOUT THE LVOV OBLAST  
CAPTAIN (a signature) (RAPOTA)

**Document No. 4**

**AN EXTRACT FROM THE INTERROGATION RECORD OF A WITNESS**

The city of Petropavlovsk

11 October 1964

The Interrogation began at 9:15 a.m.

Finished at 16:20

An investigator of the investigation department of the Administration of the Committee for State Security under the Council of Ministers of the USSR around the Stavropol Territory *captain* TARASENKO in the building of the department of the Committee for State Security under the Council of Ministers of the Kazakh SSR around the North-Kazakhstan region, observing the requirements of Articles 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150 and 151 of the Criminal Procedure Code of the Kazakh SSR interrogated as a witness –

H I R T Ivan Davydovich, born in 1924  
in the village of Mamak, Simferopolskii raion,  
Krymskaia oblast, a citizen of the USSR,  
a builder and a bricklayer,  
a resident of the village of Kalugino,  
Mamliutskii raion, North-Kazakhstan oblast.

[...]

I, Hirt Ivan Davydovich, an ethnic German, speak well Russian and German languages and want to give testimony in Russian.

In October 1941 I joined the so-called *Tatar Kompanie* which was at the disposal of *Einsatzgruppe D* of the German *SD* Police of Security and Order.

The company, mentioned by me, at that period of time was located in the village of Betak, Simferopolskii raion. The commander of *Tatar Kompanie* was Walter Kehrer, a German officer. I was on normal terms with him, there were no any private reckonings.

... In January 1943, the *Kaukasier Kompanie* together with *Einsatzgruppe D* began to retreat to the west and at that time we briefly stationed in the cities of Taganrog, Rostov-on-Don, Melitopol, Ovruch, and in summer we arrived in the city of Lvov.

Here, *Kaukasier Kompanie* was put at the disposal of the Lvov *SD*.

In autumn 1943, I do not remember the month, *Kaukasier Kompanie* along with the members of the Lvov *SD* took part in the mass execution of the Soviet citizens of Jewish nationality. This shooting took place under the following circumstances:

Walter Kehrer, the commander of the *Kaukasier Kompanie*, ordered two platoons of his company to take up arms and to go to the parade. Then we took trucks and drove to the outskirts of the city of Lvov to the camp where Jews were kept.

By the order of Kehrer the camp was encircled by the soldiers of his company, and he, along with the staff of the Lvov *SD* went inside the camp. The prisoners were lined up and then offered to strip to their underwear. After that the Jews, in groups of 15–20 people, were taken from the camp to a large long pit, located at 200–300 meters from the camp, where they were shot with machine guns and pistols. I, together with the other soldiers of *Kaukasier Kompanie*, was encircling the shooting site and watched the execution process from a distance of 100–120 meters. I saw Kehrer in the site of the shooting, but whether he shot Soviet citizens I did not see.

I remember that one of the soldiers of our company even during the shooting told me that he had seen Kehrer shooting the Jews with pistol. I remember quite well that the execution of Soviet citizens lasted from morning till night and at least 3–4 thousand of people were shot...

[...]

In early 1944, the company commanded by Walter Kehrer was divided into two companies. One of which was commanded by a German Rudolph Selch and the other by Walter Kehrer. I was appointed an interpreter to the company of Selch. Soon we left the city of Lvov and Kehrer with his company stayed in Lvov. What he was doing there is unknown to me.

[...]

(Hirt)

INTERROGATED: THE INVESTIGATOR OF THE INVESTIGATION DEPARTMENT  
OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE KGB OF  
THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF THE USSR  
AROUND THE STAVROPOL TERRITORY –  
CAPTAIN (TARASENKO)

TRUE: ST. INVESTIGATOR OF THE INVESTIGATION DEPARTMENT OF THE  
ADMINISTRATION OF THE KGB OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AROUND THE  
LVOVOBLAST  
CAPTAIN (a signature) (RAPOTA)

**ПРОТОКОЛИ ДОПИТІВ ЧЛЕНІВ “КАВКАЗЬКОЇ РОТИ” СД  
ІЗ ФОНДІВ ГАЛУЗЕВОГО ДЕРЖАВНОГО АРХІВУ СЛУЖБИ  
БЕЗПЕКИ УКРАЇНИ ЯК ДЖЕРЕЛО ДО ВИВЧЕННЯ ГОЛОКОСТУ  
НА ТЕРИТОРІЇ ДИСТРИКТУ ГАЛИЧИНА**

**Володимир ЗЛІНСЬКИЙ**

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У статті розглянуто нові документи, які дослідники історії Голокосту можуть використовувати для вивчення функціонування “кавказької роти СД” – підрозділу, відповідального за екзекуції, а також за долі тих євреїв дистрикту Галичина, які після проголошення цих земель “judenfrei” усе ще залишались у таборах примусових робіт.

Тема розстрілів ув’язнених євреїв літом і восени 1943 р. потребує залучення різного роду джерел. Після розсекречення останніми роками спеціальних архівно-кримінальних справ, в істориків з’явилась можливість залучати нові матеріали, а також звертати увагу на теми, які раніше не досліджувались, або ж вважались недостатньо вивченими.

Діяльність “кавказької роти СД”, підрозділу, відповідального за численні вбивства, майже не досліджувалась раніше. Тож пропонується публікація покликана частково змінити ситуацію та пролити світло на історію цього формування. У статті проаналізовано інформаційний потенціал протоколів допитів членів “кавказької роти” СД, складених слідчими радянських спецслужб на початку 1960-х років (частково текст цих документів наведено у додатках).

На основі порівняння різноманітних архівних матеріалів з Німеччини та України, встановлено, коли рота потрапила на територію дистрикту Галичина, скільки часу там перебувала та які завдання виконувала. Описано також деталі щодо створення роти, її керівництва, чим вона займалась раніше. Охарактеризовано хронологію зміни місця дислокації підрозділу, а також його частин.

*Ключові слова:* Голокост, дистрикт Галичина, “кавказька рота”, вбивства, табори примусової праці.

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