

Uprising of December 1, 1924

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1. General background

Starting from November 7, 1917 the Russian Communist (Bolshevik) Party seized power in Petrograd by overthrow. The communists' unhidden final goal was "the world revolution" or in other words, - establishing supreme power in the whole world. In spite of the fact that Soviet Russia became the base of communism and the party ruling the country in dictatorial manner called itself the Russian Communist Party, the slogans of the "world revolution" and "internationalism" were not at first the cover of Russian expansion. On the contrary, a variegated

international company, among whom the Russians formed an insignificant minority, used Russian resources carelessly in their own interests. In 1922 Soviet Russia was renamed to the Soviet Union that officially was defined as "the homeland of the world proletarians". Among 550 members of Central Committee of the Communist Party there were only 30 Russians in 1922 (even the Latvians with 34 representatives outnumbered them).

Until signing the Versailles' peace on June 28, 1919 the communist leadership attempted to carry out the world revolution primarily with help of direct military aggression using the splitting of Europe. Instead of the former Russian army, the Red Army as a main impact force was formed on the basis of ideological prin-

ciples. The Red Army was not just the army of Soviet Russia but officially "the armed vanguard of the world proletarians", i.e. the instrument for conducting the world revolution. The leadership and structure of the Red Army were formed according to that principle. In the higher command the Russians were a minority. Until 1925 the People's Commissar of Military Affairs (Minister) was a Jew Lev Trotski (with the right name Leib Bronstein) and the Supreme Commander of the Red Army a Latvian Jukums Vacietis. In the structure of the Red Army national units were formed from communists and their comrades originating from different countries. At the point of the overthrow in November 1917 there were 4 million foreigners in the area of the Russian empire.

Half of them were prisoners of war. The other half was made up of migrate workers mainly from China and Persia (Iran), who were brought to Russia during the war; and refugees from Poland, Lithuania, Latvia etc. Among overall disruption, hunger and misery, the Red Army was in a privileged state. This fact, together with fierce brainwashing brought a total amount of 300 000 foreigners to the “international units” of the Red Army.

The Red Army’s strategic assault to West at the turn of the year 1918-1919 was unsuccessful – the Red Army was caught in the defense of border states like Poland, Estonia, and others. The strategic idea of the assault was a break-through to Germany, where the outbreak of communist revolution hung on a thread. When the victorious countries of the World War I and Germany reached an agreement in Versailles, the situation in Germany calmed down in the course of time. The hands of Western countries were freed and Soviet Russia was forced into military defence.

In a new strategic situation the communist leadership reevaluated the strategy

of world revolution. Instead of direct military aggression it was decided to use the way of indirect military aggression where propaganda, sabotage and terror became main means. At the moment when society in some country was sufficiently destabilized, an open seizing of power was to take place with the help of an overthrow or a civil war. The Communist International that was established in March 1919 in Moscow, known by abbreviation Comintern, became the main instrument of global subversive activity. The Comintern was formed as a global communist party where the parties of different countries formed only sections. The Communist Party of the Soviet Union, which was financing all the activities had naturally control over all other parties and determined the leadership of the Comintern at its own discretion. Its first chairman was Grigori Zinovjev (with the right name Hirsch Apfelbaum). By the IV Congress of the Comintern held in December 1922, sections were established in 58 different countries - communist subversive network had become global. In ad-

dition a whole group of sub- and phantom organisations were established.¹

The Comintern coordinated its activities with almighty Soviet secret service called Tseka until 1921; and after that (until 1934) GRU. The chief of that organisation was a Polish nobleman Feliks Dzerzinski until he died in 1926. The Comintern co-ordinated also with the military intelligence, predecessor of the later GRU, that was commanded by a Latvian Janis Berzins (with the right name Peteris Kuzis). Although the international units of the Red Army were eliminated in 1922, educational establishments to train staff remained intact.

2. Subversive centers directed against Estonia

In 1918 Estonian units were formed among the Red Army foreign units as well (the so-called Estonian Red Rifle Division). There were approximately 3000 men – communists who had escaped from Estonia

in February 1918 and the Russian Estonians. The share of Estonians in the grouping of the Red Army by the end of the War of Independence had grown to 160 000 men in the Estonian front line. Massive deserting of men who were forcibly mobilized from the areas of temporarily occupied Estonia and particularly large coming over in May 1919, headed by division commander Leonid Ritt made Estonian Red Army soldiers highly unreliable in the eyes of supreme command and they were removed from the Estonian front to the Ukraine. Division was disembodied according to the conditions of the Tartu Peace Treaty in February 1920. But a considerably large number of Estonians went on serving in the Red Army amongst whom some reached very high positions (August Kork became the Chief of Moscow Military District).

In order to train national military cadre for operating against the neighboring countries, international military schools were established in the Soviet Union. Those were the educational establishments for infantry officers with an in-

telligence-sabotage bias. The 3rd International Military School operated in Petrograd (Leningrad) during the years 1921-1928 to provide military training for the Estonian and Finnish communists. The chief of the school was an Estonian division commander Aleksander Inno. Military leadership of the December 1 uprising came predominantly from that school.

The main force in the subversive activities against the Estonian Republic was the Estonian Communist Party. During the War of Independence Estonian communists belonged to the Russian Communist Party since the goal of the war was to annex Estonia to the Soviet Russia. After the defeat transition to hidden tactics was required and on November 5, 1920 the Estonian Communist Party was formally established. The Estonian Communist Party joined the Comintern and its ruling organizations were the underground in the Soviet Union and in Estonia. According to the information of the Communist Party itself the number of members grew from 700 to 2000 during 1920-1924. The party conducted wide

underground activities combined with legal activities through phantom organizations. Through latter, the communists reached the hundred-seat Parliament getting 5 seats in the elections of 1920 and 10 seats in the elections of 1923.

The political cadre both for subversive activities and for future leadership in the annexed neighboring countries was prepared in special educational establishments in the Soviet Union. The communist refugees of Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Romania were trained in the Western Communist University of Minorities. Its center was in Moscow but the department for the Finns and the Estonians was in Petrograd (Leningrad). The establishment operated between the years 1921-1936.

3.Global assault of the Comintern

On the basis of the Russian Revolution and the Civil War scientific strategy

and tactics of overthrows and civil wars was developed in the Soviet Union. It was published in an elaborate form in 1930 as a book in Russian called "The Armed Uprising". The author of the book is said to be A. Neuberg. Actually the book was put together by a working group that included the Chief of Staff of the Red Army Tuhhatsevski, 2IC of GRU Unschlicht, party official Pjatnitski and the professional revolutionaries (an Italian Togliatti and a Vietnamese Ho Chi Minh). Generally, it may be said that in the countries bordering with the Soviet Union, unexpected rebellion was preferred against legal power with the help of impact detachments prepared underground. Declaration of a counter-government and its request for help to the Soviet Union would follow that. Having a pretense for assault by this, the Red Army was supposed to carry the main weight in occupying a neighboring country, which would then be followed by annexation according to political scenario conducted by the Communist Party. In a similar way Soviet Russia annexed Georgia in 1921: a

communist agency started uprising on February 12, "military-revolutionary committee" was established on February 16 that requested help from Moscow and on February 25 the Red Army occupied capital city Tbilisi.

In the countries that were out of reach of the Red Army, guerilla war of a local communist agency in rural areas or terrorism in towns was planned that would wear out the strength of legal government and lead to overall chaos. Uprising in Bulgaria in September 1923 is a typical example of the tactics of the Comintern in an agrarian country. The rebellions in Germany, on the other hand, are classics of the Comintern in an industrial country. As a result of a lost war Germany was both in extreme economic and moral distress that created favorable conditions for communism. As said above, in 1919 Germany was on the verge of anarchy. Uprisals broke out all over the country: in Berlin, Bremen, Hamburg, Willemshaven, and Ruhr conurbation. In April and May street battles lasted for a month in Munich and demanded 927 dead victims. In

March 1920 the communists organized a wave of terror in Ruhr and Vogtland, in 1921 in Central Germany, Ruhr and Hamburg. On October 23, 1923 the communists made another attempt in Hamburg, 40 people were killed and 150 were injured. By the way, the Hamburg uprising was headed by the officials of the Soviet Commerce Mission Karl Radek (with the right name Sobelsohn) and Otto Marquart. Massive and provocatively open misuse of diplomatic status by the Soviet representatives was typical in those years.

As a conclusion to the above it may be stated that the uprising of December 1, 1924 was in no way exceptional, but a typical episode of global aggression of the Comintern/the Soviet Union.

4. On the eve of the uprising

Anti-state subversive activities in Estonia began already during the War of Independence and more expressive examples of this was the rebellious attempt in

Tallinn in December 1918 and the uprising on Saaremaa in February 1919. During the war subversive work done in the rear area had an importance of assisting the front. After the Tartu Peace Treaty it became Moscow's main weapon in destabilizing the Republic of Estonia. The statistics of captured and condemned agents paint a certain picture of the intensity of activities of the Soviet Agency. There were 195 of them in Estonian prisons by the end of 1920, by the end of 1922 there were already 332 prisoners. The situation became acute unexpectedly in 1924 when the Estonian counterintelligence received definite information that the Comintern was planning a public uprising. The secret state police arrested 257 enemy agents during the raids all over Estonia conducted in January and September. Discovered documents showed that the sums paid to agents had greatly risen. If a regular agent received 5000-8000 Marks a month from the Soviet intelligence in 1922, then in 1924 it was already 20 000-30 000 and the leading officials received up to 90 000 Marks instead of 15 000 Marks.² To-

gether with the weapons discovered it proved without a doubt the transition from words to actions.

The failures in 1924 caused panic among the Comintern officials. Deserted top Soviet spy V.Krivitski wrote in his memoirs that after great failures in Germany and in conditions where fierce struggle for power took place after Lenin's death, the commander of the Comintern Zinovjev needed a victory at any cost. A victory was necessary for the whole the Comintern apparatus where thousands of emigrants lead a pleasant life on the expense of the Soviet Communist Party but had no results to show. The attack was directed against Estonia with the initiative of Estonian communists.

The leaders of the Comintern and of the Estonian Communist Party had no idea that the Estonian Communist Party had been thoroughly infiltrated by the Estonian Secret State Police and that the Estonian Counter-Intelligence knew practically everything about the planned uprising, except of the precise time of rebellion. In spite of that, the uprising plan

must be considered as a catastrophe. The circles of the Estonian Communist Party had a completely wrong picture of both their own forces and the opposition. Own forces were overrated ten times and the opposition was thought to be unreasonably weak. The hope that a part of the army and majority of the workers would join uprising was completely pulled out of thin air. They totally lacked the plan for the possible failure of uprising.

Professor Dr. Hain Rebas gives a destructible assessment to the communists' plans but he poses an irritable question, "why the Estonian authorities allowed the uprising to happen having known everything so precisely?" Taking into account that in the course of uprising the communists murdered 25 Estonian citizens, the answer offered here is cynical though right in the opinion of the author. Without a failed uprising it would have never been possible in the democratic Estonian Republic to shoot nearly 200 communists in a few days and actually physically eliminate the Communist Party and the danger of communism altogether. Thus, the

uprising that had to end in a failure was in the interest of Estonia in every way and justified the moderate number of victims.

5. Forces and leaders of the uprising

Instead of the planned 2000 members of the impact detachments all over Estonia on December 1, only 279 armed communists rebelled in Tallinn. Approximately 100 people out of them had come from the Soviet Union just before the uprising. About half of them were citizens of Estonia who were wanted by the police in Estonia. They were hiding in the Soviet Union and had crossed the border illegally. The rest of them were citizens of the Soviet Union, a part of them had crossed the border legally. Out of the captured rebels – citizens of the Soviet Union – 6 possessed a diplomatic passport and worked in the embassy of the Soviet Union in Tallinn; 33 had come to Tallinn as the Soviet workers of “Dobroflot” and

“Tsentrosojuz”, organizations that dealt in foreign trade. Necessary weapons and money was brought to Estonia partly with the help of agents, who crossed the border illegally, partly with the soviet cargo ships in ports of Tallinn. In the course of suppression of the uprising, the Estonian authorities found 5 Colt-Thompson sub-machineguns of the U.S. origin, 55 rifles, 150 handguns and revolvers of different types. The rebels used and were deprived 65 hand grenades and 8 melinite-hand bombs in total.

The members of the impact detachments who came from the Soviet Union were actual power of the uprising. The element recruited locally was predominantly uncertain. After a signal, less than 10% of men showed up in the secret apartments, although they were not informed about the real purpose of the convening. When men were together, the agents who had come from the Soviet Union took to guard of the exits and no one was allowed to leave. Only then the reason on convening was announced to them. It came

as a shock to majority of them and in spite of guarding 17 revolutionaries managed to escape the convening locations.

The supreme commander of the uprising was Jaan Anvelt, 40. He was leader of the puppet government that operated during the War of Independence in areas occupied by the Soviet Russia. His unrealistic picture of the situation in Estonia was one of the main reasons why hopeless rebellious attempt was tried. Trying to copy the Georgian model he foresaw seizing power for 24 hours, so that the “war-revolution committee” headed by an undistinguished party soldier Valter Klein, 32, could request help from the Red Army. The plans concerning purely military part of the uprising were compiled by staff officers educated in the Academy of the General Staff of the Red Army, Harald Tummeltau, 25, and Karl Rimm, 33. Plan in itself was a professional and determined conquering of strategic junctions in Tallinn by a sudden assault by impact detachments in its first phase. In the second phase the conquered locations

had to be held with the help of additional personnel resources and weapons until the invasion of the Red Army. The authors of the plan were not to blame that basic data given to them was incorrect, i.e. the available force in the first phase was smaller by magnitude and there were no reserves altogether because the units did not go over and the workers did not join in. The Red Army and the Baltic Navy were combat ready on the borders of Estonia on the eve of the uprising but the assault was cancelled as the uprising failed.

As to the leading of uprisal, there was no actual central lead. Both Anvelt and his military second in command - a Red Army staff officer August Lillakas, 30 - were together with the impact detachments. Rimm was a chief of staff by name, but "staff" that at first was situated in a secret apartment at Kadaka Road and later in Tonismäe, actually consisted of 17 terrorists in reserve who ran away when they heard of defeat. All members of the impact detachments operated on their own after leaving the secret apartment.

6. The course of the uprising

The impact detachments started their activities more or less at the same time at 5.30 in the morning.

The Ministry of War

The building of the Ministry of War was attacked at 5.25 by a group of 23 terrorists at the moment when the duty officer Captain Hermann Vunn (VR I/3), 30, was on his control round in the building. Duty NCO Sergeant Major **Rudolf Aaman**, 23, was in the sentry room and the guard platoon was asleep in its quarters. Private **August-Mihkel Keng**, 19 was on sentry. The terrorists dressed in the Estonian Army uniforms entered and opened fire from their revolvers on the doorway at Private Keng but missed probably because of being nervous. Private Keng jumped at the intruders and hit the first one with his bayonet causing seri-

ous injuries. Taking advantage of a momentary confusion private Keng dodged from fire into the sentry room. A moment later the terrorists threw three hand grenades and one bomb along the corridor towards the quarters of the guard platoon and duty officer and destroyed doors, windows and made a hole in the floor. Part of the intruders stormed to the first floor where according to their (misleading) information there had to be the military communication center. The other half rushed towards the rooms of the guard platoon. But Sergeant Major Aaman, Corporal **Richard Brücker**, 22 and Private Keng were there to meet them and held the enemy in one spot by fire until the guard platoon got dressed and arranged itself. During this time, Corporal Brücker was injured in the head by a bomb fragment and was losing blood. The decisive resistance made the terrorists escape. Now Sergeant Major Aaman together with Private Leppik hurried into the courtyard and opened fire from a light-machinegun at the windows of the first floor. The terrorists escaped in a great

hurry. Only one of them who had hid in a closet was late and was discovered in the search of the building.

Warding off the attack showed high level of training and morals of the Estonian Army. The matter was decided by fearless actions of Private Keng who belonged to the post-war generation. It also became obvious that in a critical situation an NCO could command a sub-unit also without an officer. Keng, together with the veterans of the War of Independence Aaman and Brücker, received the Cross of Freedom for their brave actions.

After warding off the attack officers started gathering in the Ministry of War and naturally it became the center of suppressing the uprising.

The 10th Infantry Regiment

The regiment staff and officers' mess in Juhkentali was attacked by an impact detachment of 27 men. The terrorists broke into the casino and murdered 2nd Lieutenants Harald Busch from Border Guard and Helmut Viiburg from the 10th

Regiment and Oskar-Martin Punnison from the Signals Battalion in their sleep. The officers did not have apartments in Tallinn yet and they stayed in the mess. But the activities ended with those murders. The clerk guarding in the staff emptied his weapon at the rebels who got intimidated by that and escaped firing occasional shots in return. The clerk was slightly wounded. The regiment barracks were not attacked.

The Signals Battalion

A group of 15 terrorists broke into the staff of the Signals Battalion that was situated in the same building with the 10th Regiment and killed the duty officer military official Adolf Eller. However, he managed to raise alarm and sergeant major of the Training Company, **August Schaurup**, 22, who had taken part in the War of Independence, arranged a counterblow. Senior NCO Turi together with junior NCOs Ehrenpreis and Sternfeld were the first to storm out of the building and captured two terrorists

who were shot on the spot, others escaped in panic. Schaurup was decorated with the Cross of Freedom.

The Transport-Tank Division

In the Tank Company of Division, located in the same building with Signals Battalion training company, was NCO Loorents who was recruited by the communists. At the moment of attack of the group of terrorists of 30 men Loorents grabbed a weapon from the sentry and broke into garage and destroyed the engines of all tanks except of one. Loorents started the tank that was in order and drove into courtyard where an attack to the crew room was happening. But Sergeant Major **Rudolf Kaptein**, 26, with the experience of the War of Independence woke up the crew by firing a shot to the ceiling from his revolver and together with a junior NCO **Alfred Klemmer**, 19, who belonged to the post-war generation, took the unit to counter attack. The communists escaped into the garage but Kaptein together with junior NCO Madisson and Private Tinn kicked them

out of there as well. Then Kaptein jumped onto the tank and killed the traitor Loorents firing his revolver into the tank through shutter. Kaptein and Klemmer received the Cross of Freedom.

Terrorists also attacked the Division Training Company in Gilde Street but here the company Commander Major Johan Mahlapuu was present himself. He quickly arranged defense and a few machinegun bursts were enough to make the rebels escape.

The Military Joint Educational Establishments

The hand-weapon stores of the Food and Supplies Office were also under defence of the educational establishments that were located in Tondi and that made it the main target for rebels. 56 terrorists armed with submachineguns participated in the attack. The attack began at 5.27 with throwing grenades into the windows of barracks and the mess. Then the terrorists dressed in Estonian uniforms broke into the quarters of cadets on the ground floor

and unsighted fire of sub-machineguns at sleeping cadets. Cadets Arnold Allebras, Aleksander Tedder, Aleksander Tomberg and August Udras were killed, 9 cadets were injured (Dreimann, Eckbaum, Hanni, Jakobson, Mikk, Mölder, Saulep, Stamm and Steinbick). Noise woke up the second cadet company on the first floor. Headed by a 21-year old cadet with no war experience, **Albert Pessor** the cadets ran to meet the communists on stairway. Cadet Pessor killed one and injured another terrorist, got injured himself and fell. Cadets Paas and Johanson stormed over him into hand-to-hand fight. Another rebel was killed. The communists became frightened and escaped. 9 of them were captured at once. Cadet Pessor received the Cross of Freedom.

Captain Eduard Margusson (VR II/3) took a group of cadets and by following rebels reached their staff in the "Reimann house". It was surrounded and the people inside it were captured. The rest of the terrorists staff team now escaped to Tõnismäe. At the same time cadet Schwalbe caught a patrol car that the ter-

rorists used to fetch weapons from Tondi. Terrorists were captured.

The Flight Division

The Flight Division in Lasnamäe was the only military object that was temporarily taken over by an impact group of 13 men. The reason for that was a recruited motorist Kaat who aided the attack from inside and malevolent inactivity of two junior officers present (2nd Lieutenants Fleischer and Rätsepp). Both officers were shot according to the decision of drumhead court-martial. Base was re-occupied by the aircraftmen under the command of Majors Karl Haas (VR I/3) and Juhan-Karl Fischer and supported by an armored vehicle. One terrorist was killed, the others escaped. The commander of the group forced a pilot-motorist Päev to take him to Russia but Päev fooled the terrorist and landed on Estonian side. Kaat, however, managed to get to Russia by plane, the aircraft was returned.

The Police Cavalry Reserve

The Cavalry Reserve in Lennuki Street was attacked by 37 terrorists in three groups that arrived at different times. The first group threw three grenades into the windows but the grenades bounced back and exploded on the street. A bomb flew in a window but the terrorists had forgotten to activate it and it did not explode. The policemen immediately opened fire from the windows and the rebels escaped tugging along also the groups that had arrived with a delay. The communists scattered delivering occasional cover fire. The policemen who had ran out at once killed two rebels on the spot.

The Pre-Trial Prison

A group of 12 men was to conquer the Pre-Trial Prison and release recently convicted 149 undergrounders kept in there. They were planned to be the first reinforcement to the rebels and a car had been sent

to Tondi in order to arm them. When the message of a failure in Tondi reached the impact detachment, they gave up the attempt to free their comrades and scattered.

Toompea

17 terrorists were directed to attack the government buildings in Toompea. The guard team of the Toompea castle put up an energetic resistance. Private Jaan Bergson was killed, senior NCO Alksander Int was mortally wounded. The watch commando retreated while firing into the Parliament rooms. The terrorists hesitated to follow them but they killed a cleaning woman Marta Grünberg who had arrived to work. At the same time house of the Prime Minister was attacked. At the very same time the principal of Toomkooli School Eduard Grünwaldt drove to work and was killed together with his driver Heinrich Burmeister. That was the limit of the communist achievements. General Ernst Pöder (VR I/1), Colonel Karl Parts (VR I/1, II/2, II/3) and Colonel Oskar Raudvere (VR I/3) impact detachments

arrived in Toompea supported by an armored vehicle. The communists escaped in terror, those trapped in the castle jumped out of the windows into the Schnelli pond. Majority of them was caught by a commando of Lieutenant Johannes Ambos.

Three terrorists tried to attack also the house of a former Minister of Interior Karl Einbund at 1 Kaevu Street. Grenade thrown into the window bounced back and exploded on the street. It scared the communists who escaped firing occasional shots.

Balti Railway Station

Balti Railway Station together with the 5th Police Department was conquered by a group of 16 rebels including Jaan Anvelt who murdered Constable Mihkel Nutt with his own hands. The district chief Herman Ubin was killed there as well. When the station was in the communists' hands the Minister of Transport Karl Kark arrived. As three saboteurs had tried to blow up Mustjõe bridge in Aegviidu and

the Minister, having heard that, planned to go there himself. As soon as the Minister stepped out of the car, the terrorists' bullets hit him and he fell down dead on the pavement in front of the station.

The communists who had conquered the station agitated the railway workers to join them but the latter refused. Thereafter, the furious communists murdered Edmund Mikker and Priidik Hoov. When young railway-trainees Kristov Tiik and Artur Fogt tried to run away in shock, they were shot in cold blood.

At the time when the communists were busy murdering Estonian workers, the platoons from the NCO School headed by Lieutenant Colonel **Hermann Rossländer** surrounded the station. At 8.15 he personally took the men to storm since at the same moment Anvelt escaped from his detachment in a great hurry. The terrorists fought in despair among the dead bodies that they had murdered. Lieutenant Colonel Rossländer was killed. Major Karl Ainson (VR I/3) took over the leadership; 2nd Lieutenant Järv assisted

him. The station was taken back and four rebels were captured alive. Rossländer was decorated posthumously with the Cross of Freedom.

Anvelt escaping from the station accidentally met Lieutenant Commander Karl Stern (VR II/3) and shot him on the spot.

The Main Post Office

The center of civilian communication in Vene Street was attacked by 12 terrorists who rapidly took over an object that was not guarded. But soon General Põdder arrived with five men, an armored vehicle and a platoon from the Training Battalion of the NCO School. Two terrorists were shot and 8 were captured.

The Main Station of Narrow-Gauge Railway Line

The Station of Tallinn-Väike was conquered by 5 terrorists who killed the stationmaster's assistant Johannes Laanus and senior constable Hendrik Lossmann.

Having sawed two telephone poles in halves the rebels escaped with no obvious reason.

Near **Russalka's** monument the terrorists killed a border guard member Johannes Kruusmann by shooting him in the back. The rebels devastated the **2nd Police Department** at Narva Road and killed a senior duty constable Jaan Holts and Constable Johannes Kumel, and left after that in a hurry.

7. Conclusion

The uprising failed completely. At 12.45 an official announcement was published in which, among other things, it was said: *In the capital there is complete order. Offices are doing their everyday work. Outside Tallinn all over the country there is peace... According to the decision of the government there is established martial law and Lieutenant General J. Laidoner is appointed the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces with the powers of the Supreme Commander.*

Already at 11.00 the Supreme Commander issued Order No 1 in which he

said among other things: *Every rebellion against a lawful regime must be suppressed in the most decisive way... I command to bring everyone rebelling against the lawful regime to the court martial.* In his order half an hour later the Supreme Commander gave the Governor General authority to the division commanders in posts.

In the course of the uprising 26 Estonian citizens were killed and 41 were injured. Out of the dead, 12 were military people and 5 were police officials, out of the injured, the corresponding figures are 25 and 3. 14 rebels were killed with weapons in hand. After the uprising two more shootings took place – on December 4 in Tupsi farm and December 6 in Rakfeld apartment – where a total of 6 terrorists were killed. 3 were shot when they attempted to escape. According to the decision of a drumhead court-martial 155 terrorists were shot. It included Lillakas, who was captured in Aegviidu in Bogdanov apartment. Estonia in all got rid of 178 enemy agents and 209 were sentenced to prison. Among 387 agents who were rendered harmless were also those who got

cold feet before the uprising and did not come to the collecting locations but were turned in by their comrades. 199 managed to cross the border, including Anvelt and Rimm. The Communist Party in Estonia did not get on its feet again and in 1930 there was not even an underground center in Estonia. In 1938 the members of the Estonian Communist Party were counted 130, including the ones in prison.

¹ Communist Youth International and the Organization of War Veterans, Red Trade Union International (Profintern); Children's-, Women's-, Peasants'-, Blacks'- and Sports' Internationals, International Red Aid and Worker Aid, Union of Friends of the Soviet Union, International anti-imperialistic League and the Proletarian League of Freethinkers, Revolutionary Union of Writers and Artists and World Committee to Fight War and Fascism.

² Mark at that time equals approximately half a Crown today.