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Ed Nishnic | 08May1985 | F. Winterberg

**Introduction:**

Appended below is my typed-out version of the analysis of the Trawniki ID 1393 card by Professor F. Winterberg with his signature dated 08May1985. I believe that this document (on 8.5" x 12.25" paper) was sent to my late wife, Lily, by Ed Nishnic circa 1987.

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The Trawniki ID Card – Scientific Proof for Its Forgery

by

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[Signature]

[Full-page reproduction of inside (with photo) of Trawniki 1393]

1. Introduction

I have been intrigued by allegations, that the Soviet Government or Governments of its satellites have been supplying the U.S. Justice Department Office of Special Investigations (OSI) with forged documents and which are used by OSI in denaturalization suits against naturalized U.S. citizens of East-European or German national origin. Because these allegations, and without scientific qualifications, have been denied by U.S. Justice Department officials, I decided to make an independent study of the forgery-charge. I reasoned, if it would be possible to prove with absolute certainty in just one case, that a document thusly supplied is a forgery, then the large number of other documents supplied must be assumed forgeries as well, unless a proof with absolute certainty to the contrary can be given.

One of the few documents widely published is the ID card of a Iwan Demjanjuk. It is reproduced in a recent book by a Mr. A. Ryan, <sup>(1)</sup> first Director of the OSI. In a denaturalization and deportation suit the U.S. Government claims that it was once the ID card of a Mr. John Demjanjuk, now living in Cleveland.

When I first saw a picture of the document in Ryan's book, I was struck by a number of oddities. For example, the print of the document uses instead of the German sharp s (looking somewhat like the Greek letter  $\beta$ ), two small latin letters s. This replacement of the German sharp s( $\beta$ ) was occasionally used around the turn of the century, but not around 1940. The only exception was its use in case of a sharp German capital S printed as two capital latin letters S.

Illustration 1 and 2 [not included here], taken from a German book <sup>(2)</sup> published in 1943, are reproduced. For example, it says on illustration 1 GROSSTATEN (encircled) (sharp capital S replaced by two capital S), but otherwise, (illustration 2) for example, Fußboden (encircled). The unusual replacement of the German sharp s (ß) by two Latin letters s occurs on the ID card 3 times, in the words Grösse, Fusslappen and Essgeschirr. On the right side of the ID card the accepted form of two capital letters S in the word AUSSERHALB has been made by a rubber-stamp.

## 2. Schnurschuhe versus Schnürschuhe

Since a printed copy of a document is unsuitable for a precise scientific analysis, I requested a photoprint of the original document from Mr. Demjanjuk's attorney. It is this photoprint of the original document which is used for the analysis presented.

The document has two sides, a left side displayed as illustration 3, and a right side as illustration 4. [Not shown here.]

One problem in analyzing the ID card is the later addition of handwritten words above the print. In the 1st column of the left side (illustration 3) the addition is made with ink, and in the 2nd column with pencil. According to Ryan <sup>(1)</sup> these additions shall have been made around 1948, and they shall be the Russian translation of the German. This tampering with the document (greatly reducing its probative value), renders more difficult an analysis regarding its authenticity in one critical instance. Fortunately though, the damage done is insufficient to negate the proof of its forgery presented now.

This proof follows from the word Schnurschuhe, in the 2nd column of illustration 3, nonexistent in the German language. The only word existent in the German language is Schnürschuhe [with two dots over the first u], possessing an Umlaut.

The smudge from the pencil written word above Schnurschuhe could falsely give the impression that an Umlaut is present. However, a close examination of the fuzzy smudge and its comparison with the other printed word Mütze, possessing an Umlaut with two distinctly visible dots above the u, unambiguously shows that the point reads Schnurschuhe and not Schnürschuhe. That this is so becomes also clear in the magnified picture, illustration 5, containing both Mütze and Schnurschuhe.

The German language knows many composite words, whereby two words, and without a change, are simply merged into one. The ID card itself gives one good example for this rule. It again appears in the 2nd column of illustr. 3. It is the word Brotbeutel, composed of Brot (=bread) and Beutel (=bag).

Departing from the rule, by which a composite word is made simply by merging two words into one, the German language has a few notable exceptions to it. One of it is the word Schnürschuhe, even though the single German words are Schnur (=cord) and Schuhe (=shoes). Illustration 6, taken from an authoritative German-English dictionary shows that only the word Schnürschuhe is known.

To say that the omission of the Umlaut in Schnürschuhe on the Trawniki ID card resulted from a printing error is untenable, because such a printing error on an ID card would suspend its very purpose, making it a worthless document. In fact, it would tell a person, inspecting for identification the bearer of such an ID card, and who in the course of such inspection would note the printing error, that the ID card is a forgery held by its bearer. The standards of an ID card, of course, must be the same as the ones demanded by a passport or banknote, forbidding even the slightest printing error.

In his book (p. 107) Mr. Ryan lauds the wealth of information the Trawniki ID card has, and which, as he says, is the kind of information on which a prosecutor can build his case. In saying so, he must have overlooked, that by putting a wealth of information on a forgery, also makes the forger more likely to fall into a trap. This is exactly what has happened here, with the forger unaware of a rare exception in the German language.

### 3. Additional Remarks

After the proof of its forgery has been given, any further analysis of the ID card appears to be superfluous. However, in order to show that the ID card not only is a forgery, but a rather crude one, we would like to point out a number of other problems of the ID card.

One of these relates to the runic letter used for the SS. It is well documented that the SS used printed forms for their runic letters. However, the inclination of the lines in the runic letters on the ID card, shown in illustr. 4 line 1, are different from those on line 2. In addition, the first of the two runic letters on line 2 even differs from the second runic letter. Differences in the runic letters, albeit smaller ones, can also be found in the 2nd line from below. These differences suggest that the letters were not printed, but inserted by hand.

Another problem is that the swastikas appearing in the two seals on illustr. 3 and illustr. 4 do not show straight lines and sharp corners. This suggests that the seals were handcarved by an artist. That this artwork was moreover of poor quality can best be seen on the seal of illustr. 3, where the swastika is off-center.

It is also interesting to ask, why has the ID card no date of its issuance and no thumbprints, in common use by the Germans for identification.

Finally, we would like to raise a few questions of the person shown in the photograph. The ID card claims that its bearer was given a uniform consisting of a blouse and coat. However, the uniform worn by the person shown in the photograph does not appear to be German. To this writer, and without qualification, it looks like a Russian uniform.

### Conclusion

The Trawniki ID card has been proved to be a forgery by its use of a word nonexistent in the German language. Furthermore, there are many other oddities. They appear to make the ID card not only a forgery but a rather crude one.

The most likely hypothesis for the origin of the ID card is, that it was forged relatively recently, because it uses a print looking rather modern. The photo shown appears to be one of a Russian soldier in his early twenties.

We cannot compare the findings with those of others, because to this writer no published reports are known. The only published reference we could find is contained in Ryan's book (p. 126-127) and it refers to a scientific study by a Mr. Gideon Epstein of the U.S. Naturalization and Immigration Service. Mr. Ryan claims that Epstein did an analysis regarding the authenticity of the ID card inside the compounds of the Soviet Embassy in Washington, D.C., using the latest technology. We consider this

statement incredible, because the application of the latest technology implies the use of a large laboratory. It is therefore hard to understand how such tests could be carried out inside the Soviet Embassy.

[Handwritten signature and notation]

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IN AMERICA  
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#### References

1. A. Ryan, Jr. "Quiet Neighbors", Harcourt Brace Jovanovich Publishers, New York 1984.
2. R. Montanus "DEUTSCHE TECHNISCHE GROSSTATEN, Franck'sche Verlagshandlung Stuttgart, 1943

#### List of Illustrations

1. Front page from book of reference 2.
2. Page 43 from book of reference 2.
3. Left side of ID card.
4. Right side of ID card.
5. Magnified photograph showing Mütse and Schnürschuhe [without two dots over first u].
6. Page taken from authoritative German-English dictionary, showing only the word Schnürschuhe [with two dots over the first u].