

# The Biography of the OUN(m) Activist Oleksa Babii in the Light of His “Memoirs on Escaping Execution” (1942)<sup>1</sup>

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**Abstract:** *This article explores the activity of the OUN(m) activist Oleksa Babii before and during World War II. Through the analysis of Babii’s biography, it is demonstrated that he actively collaborated with different German organizations: the Sonderkommando 4A, the Wehrmacht’s Abwehr, and the Waffen-SS. He thus participated in the Holocaust, in arrests of OUN(b) members, and in the murder of Volhynian Poles. The article focuses mainly on Babii’s activities in the nationalist partisan movement of mid-1943. In order to reconstruct his biography, it draws upon his autobiographical report, written in March 1942, together with other unpublished source material from Ukrainian, German, American, and Canadian archives.*

**Keywords:** *Oleksa Babii, OUN(m), Sonderkommando, Holocaust, partisans.*

In Ukraine, the month of March 1942 was full of snow and frost. Near a village not far from the town of Kremenchuk, a young man emerged from the cold. Wearing only his underwear, he was battered, exhausted, and tormented. His left shoulder bore a bullet wound, inflicted upon him by a member of the German Einsatzgruppe C. The young man knocked on the door of a house and, speaking Ukrainian with a Galician accent, asked for help. He was let in and given food and clothes.

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