

Two Accused of War Crimes Face Loss of Citizenship

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WASHINGTON, Jan. 13—The Federal prosecutor in Philadelphia has moved to revoke the American citizenship of two Ukrainian brothers who allegedly concealed their roles in war crimes against Polish Jews in 1941 and 1942, the Justice Department announced here today.

The brothers, Serge Kowalchuk, 56 years old, and Mykola Kowalchuk, 51, both tailors, allegedly beat, shot and murdered Polish Jews in the tiny border town of Lyuboml, Poland, when they were members of the Ukrainian militia, an enforcement arm of the Nazi SS.

The brothers came to the United States in 1950. The elder one became a naturalized citizen in 1960 and the younger in 1966.

It was shortly after Serge Kowalchuk was naturalized that allegations of his war crimes became public. The younger

brother was questioned by two investigators of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, but he denied that he had had any role in the atrocities.

"The charge is that the Kowalchuks obtained their visas for admission to the United States through fraudulent statements," David Marston, the United States Attorney in Philadelphia, said in a telephone interview. "The investigation of them took about 10 years, but there is no statute of limitations on the offenses."

Mr. Marston said that denaturalization was a necessary step before deportation procedures could begin and that, although no other countries had criminal charges outstanding against the brothers, some might emerge and extradition would then become a possibility.

Serge Kowalchuk was allegedly the commandant of the Ukrainian militia in Lyuboml. His younger brother was allegedly a trooper in the militia. The elder Kowalchuk was charged with 11 offenses,

among which was the following:

"On or about Thursday or Friday before the seventh day of Succoth [a Jewish harvest festival] in 1942—at about 1 P.M.—in the marketplace of Lyuboml, Poland, while acting as a member of the Ukrainian police or Ukrainian militia, while German SS troops stood guard with machine guns [he] shot one Josel Zao because he was Jewish."

Another charge is that "on an unknown date, at a burial pit about two kilometers away from a brick factory in or near the town of Lyuboml he assisted German SS personnel to assemble Jewish families at the pits where the German SS troops executed the Jews by shooting each person in the back of the head."

In all, 4,100 Jews were killed in Lyuboml by the Nazi SS, Mr. Marston said, and the Kowalchuks are charged with aiding and abetting the SS.

The Kowalchuks and their attorney were unavailable for comment on the charges. They have 60 days to file an answer.

In a related matter, Representative Joshua Eilberg, Democrat of Pennsylvania, asked the General Accounting Office today to investigate the Immigration and Naturalization Service. He said that he believed the service had known "for a long time" about the background of several Nazi war criminals who entered the United States fraudulently without any action having been taken against them.

Mr. Eilberg said that he wanted "to determine if Immigration personnel deliberately obstructed active prosecution of these cases or engaged in a conspiracy to withhold or quash any information in its possession."