

Court Told Kowalchuk Ordered Death March

By FRANK DOUGHERTY

A man who said he served under Serge Kowalchuk in the Ukrainian National Police Force testified on videotape yesterday that his former commandant in October 1942 ordered him to help the Nazis march 5,000 Jews to a brickyard, where they were stripped, shot and buried in three open pits.

"The order was to assemble and drive Jews. Serge Kowalchuk gave the order," testified Demyan M. Fedchuk in testimony recorded last January in Lusk, Soviet Ukraine. It was played during Kowalchuk's denaturalization trial in U.S. District Judge John P. Fullam's courtroom.

FEDCHUK SAID THE "action" — a Nazi euphemism for mass murder — involved the Gestapo, the SS and the Ukrainian National Police. Some 5,000 Jews from Lyubomyl, a town in the Wolhynia section of Western Ukraine, were marched from their ghetto to the town square, then on to the brickyard, he said.

"To make all the Jews appear in the square by morning, this was the order of Kowalchuk. He assembled us to drive Jews ... down to the pits," said Fedchuk, 69. A resident of the nearby village of Prokopievsk, he said he served under Kowalchuk from September 1941 through May 1943.

Fedchuk said a "Jewish priest" blessed the people as they marched away from the square. During the trek, he said, Kowalchuk was a harsh commandant and quick to resort to violence. "Kowalchuk had a lash in addition to his pistol ... he drove them there, beat them. If one Jew disobeyed Kowalchuk, [they] would get it severely with a lash."

Fedchuk, later sentenced to 15 years in jail by the Soviet government for serving with the Nazis' occupational police, said the Jews were ordered into the pits — about 60 feet long and 10 feet deep — at gunpoint by Germans and 60 Ukrainian police.

"After they were shot three at a time, they put their heads to the east, making them lie like sardines. Young, very old, little children still suckling. None were left alive at the brickyard," Fedchuk testified.

HE SAID KOWALCHUK was among the guards during the shootings, but that he did not see Kowalchuk actually shoot anybody.

Kowalchuk, of 67th Avenue near 2nd Street, is accused by the U.S. Justice Department of lying about his past when he arrived in the United States in 1950, and when he became a citizen in 1960. If found guilty, he could lose his citizenship and face a deportation hearing.

Prosecutor Kathleen Coleman said Kowalchuk, 61, originally told federal officials he lived in the village of Kremenets, the town of his birth, for most of the war, and eventually was sent by the Germans to Czechoslovakia to serve as a tailor's apprentice.

She said Kowalchuk recently acknowledged working with the police, but denied participating in atrocities. Kowalchuk's attorney, John Rogers Carroll, described his client as a Lyubomyl town clerk who provided rations for the militiamen. Carroll has described the accusations against the Oak Lane tailor as a case of "mistaken identity."

IN LIVE TESTIMONY, John Chapin, a retired U.S. vice consul who worked with refugees in Austria during the late 1940s, testified that individuals with past membership in paramilitary organizations were prohibited from entering America.

"Would a person who served in the



Serge Kowalchuk, accused of lying

Ukrainian National Police Force be eligible at that time for a U.S. visa?" asked prosecutor Jeff Mausner. "No," Chapin said.