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# War crimes laid to Conn. aide

Hartford (UPI)—The Justice Department has accused a city architect of taking part in the slaying of hundreds of Latvian Jews during World War II.

Documents filed in United States District Court claim Boleslavs Bogdanovs, 66, took part in numerous mass killings of unarmed civilians and ordered the killing of "hundreds of Jewish men, women and children" in Madona, Latvia.

The Justice Department is seeking to revoke Bogdanovs' citizenship, claiming he entered the

country illegally and lied on his citizenship application.

There was no comment immediately from Bogdanovs.

Federal lawyer Jeffrey N. Mausner said the documents linking Bogdanovs to participation with the Nazis during World War II, include records written in German and Latvian and apparently signed by Bogdanovs as an officer in the Latvian Security Auxiliary Police.

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1944 in which he said he attained the rank of a second lieutenant in the Latvian SS Volunteer Legion.

Others list Jewish patients at Sarkankalns Hospital in Riga, Latvia, in 1941. Bogdanovs' signature appears underneath the lists, noting he has "taken custody" of the people listed.

English translations of the documents are included in the file, along with his applications for naturalization and other American immigration records. Bogdanovs came to the United States in 1956 and became a citizen in 1964.

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## Conn. architect was Nazi murderer: U.S.

**HARTFORD, Conn.** (UPI) — An architect for the city of Hartford has been accused by federal officials of taking part in the slaying of hundreds of Latvian Jews during World War II.

Documents filed Monday in U.S. District Court in Hartford claim Boleslavs Bogdanovs, 66, ordered and took part in the killing of "hundreds of Jewish men, women and children" in Madona, Latvia.

The Justice Dept.'s Of-

fice of Special Investigations is seeking to revoke Bogdanovs' citizenship.

Bogdanovs came to the U.S. in 1956 and became a citizen in 1964. He has refused to comment on the charges.

Federal lawyer Jeffrey Mausner said the documents include records written in German and Latvian, and apparently signed by Bogdanovs as an officer in the Latvian Security Auxiliary Police, and his SS personnel form.

NEW YORK POST, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1983

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OFFICE OF  
SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS

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THE HARTFORD COURANT: Tuesday, November 29, 1983 ★

# Documents Filed To Show Nazi Link

By PAUL FRISMAN  
*Courant Staff Writer*

The U.S. Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations has filed documents in Hartford federal court it says link a 66-year-old city man to participation with the Nazis during World War II.

The Office of Special Investigations earlier this month accused Boleslavs Bogdanovs, an architect with the city of Hartford, of taking part in the slaying of hundreds of Latvian Jews during World War II.

The documents filed by Justice Department lawyer Jeffrey N. Mausner include records written in German and Latvian and apparently signed by Bogdanovs as an officer in the Latvian Security Auxiliary Police. The documents include his SS personnel form and a German declaration, dated Nov. 25, 1944, in which Bogdanovs says he attained the rank of a second lieutenant in the Latvian SS Volunteer Legion.

Also included in the files are copies of lists of Jewish patients at Sarkankalns Hospital in Riga, Latvia, in 1941. Bogdanovs' signature appears underneath the lists,

noting he has "taken custody" of the people listed. The Justice Department says it obtained the documents from the Central State Historical Archives of Latvia, now a part of the Soviet Union.

English translations of the documents are included in the file, as are Bogdanovs' applications for naturalization and other American immigration records. He came to the United States in 1956 and became a citizen in 1964.

The Justice Department claims he took part in numerous mass killings of unarmed civilians, and ordered the killing of "hundreds of Jewish men, women and children" in Madona, Latvia.

The Justice Department is seeking to revoke Bogdanovs' citizenship, in part because it claims he entered the country illegally and lied on his citizenship application. Revocation of citizenship usually leads to deportation proceedings.

Bogdanovs has refused to comment on the charges. One of his lawyers, Brian Gildea of New Haven, has said Bogdanovs, on sick leave from the city, is terminally ill with cancer.

Journal-Courier (New Haven) 1/12/83

## Citizenship may be revoked

# State man linked to Nazis

By LYNNE GARNETT  
Staff Reporter

HARTFORD — The U.S. Justice Department has moved to revoke the citizenship of a 66-year-old Hartford man alleged to have murdered "hundreds of Jewish men, women and children" in Latvia during World War II.

U.S. Attorney Alan Nevas and Neal Sher, acting director of the Office of Special Investigations for the

Justice Department, jointly announced the denaturalization complaint filed in U.S. District Court in Hartford against Boleslavs Bogdanovs of 30 Woodland St.

The complaint alleges Bogdanovs served as lieutenant in the Arajs Komando from 1941-1944, during the Nazi occupation of Latvia. The unit was organized and commanded by Viktors Arajs, and conducted numerous mass murders of Jews and

other innocent civilians throughout Latvia, according to the complaint.

Viktors Arajs himself was convicted by a West German court in 1980 for the murder of at least 13,000 people during that period, and is serving a life sentence in a West German prison. It was during Arajs' trial in West Germany that Bogdanovs' name and alleged role in the Nazi campaign were revealed.

▷Continued on page 12

## ▷ Nazi link

Continued from page 1

Bogdanovs allegedly commanded a mobile squad of the Arajs Komando which, upon Bogdanovs' orders, murdered hundreds of Jews in Madona, Latvia. He also allegedly commanded a unit of the Arajs Komando in Liepaja, Latvia, where the unit forced Jews to live in an enclosed area under armed guard.

Bogdanovs immigrated to the United States in 1956, and became a U.S. citizen in 1964. He entered the country under the Refugee Relief Act, and swore in his immigration papers that he had not participated in the persecution of any person or group of persons because of race, religion or national origin.

# Man Accused by U.S. Is Dying, Lawyer Says

By PAUL FRISMAN  
Courant Staff Writer

A Hartford man accused of participating in the slayings of hundreds of Latvian Jews during World War II is dying of cancer and has nine months to live, his attorney said Wednesday.

A colleague said that Boleslavs Bogdanovs, 66, is on sick leave from his job as an architect for the city of Hartford, where he has worked for about 10 years.

Brian Gildea, one of two lawyers representing Bogdanovs, said he is surprised the government bothered to bring the case because his client is incurably ill.

The U.S. Justice Department, in a complaint filed Tuesday in U.S. District Court in Hartford, charges Bogdanovs participated in numerous mass killings of unarmed civilians in the Riga and Madona areas of Latvia. The complaint says he ordered a mobile squad he commanded to kill "hundreds of Jewish men, women and children" in Madona.

The Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations is seeking to revoke Bogdanovs' citizenship. He has been in the United States since December 1956 and became a citizen in Nebraska in May 1964.

"We bring cases where the evidence shows a case exists," Justice Department lawyer Jeffrey N. Mausner said in response to Gildea's statement.

Neither the city Personnel Department nor Public Works Director John C. Burke would discuss Bogdanovs' employment Wednesday.

A fellow employee said Bogdanovs has been on sick leave for about six months. "He's in tough shape," he said.

The colleague, who once worked with Bogdanovs on a daily basis, said he was a conscientious man who "always did his job very well." He said he "was very

much surprised" by the government's allegations.

Another fellow worker said she did not believe the charges. "Bo is a friend," she said. "I don't think anybody that knows him believes it."

Bogdanovs and his wife, Arija, live in a one-bedroom condominium at the Regency Towers, 30 Woodland St.

Neighbors and fellow workers described him as a slightly built, quiet man with thinning hair. They said he liked to play tennis and had been on the condominium's board of directors.

"He seems like a fairly dignified, quiet, polite, unassuming sort of fellow," said Steve Edwards, who is a member of the board.

"We're all quite upset about it over here, quite shocked," said Samuel Cagan, another board member.

The Justice Department charges that Bogdanovs served in the Latvian Security Auxiliary Police, also known as the "Arajs Kommando" after its commander, Viktor Arajs.

Arajs was convicted in West Germany in 1979 of taking part in the killing of more than 13,000 people during the German occupation of Latvia, the Justice Department said. He is serving a life sentence.

See Lawyer, Page A12

# Lawyer Questions U.S. For Timing of Its Case

Continued from Page 1

The complaint against Bogdanovs says Nazis used the Kommando to "aid in the persecution and murder of persons considered racially undesirable" in Latvia.

It says Bogdanovs rose to the rank of lieutenant in the Auxiliary Police and eventually became commander of the Liepaja section of Latvia, where he "personally maintained" a Jewish ghetto.

He then joined the Waffen Grenadier SS Division of the Latvian Legion in November 1944, attaining the rank of second lieutenant, the complaint says.

In setting forth the reasons for seeking to revoke Bogdanovs' citizenship, the Justice Department charges that he entered the country illegally, lied on his citizenship application and "acquiesced in conduct contrary to civilization and human decency." Revocation

of citizenship usually leads to deportation proceedings.

Justice Department officials said some of the information that led to the charges against Bogdanovs was disclosed at the Araj trial.

Bogdanovs has refused to speak to reporters about the charges. His wife said they have been told by their other lawyer, Ivars Berzins of Babylon, N.Y., not to discuss the case.

"I would love to give you an interview to tell the truth," she said Wednesday. "They (the charges) are all lies."

Gildea, the New Haven lawyer whom Bogdanovs retained Monday, also represents Feodor D. Fedorenko, a former Waterbury factory worker who faces deportation on charges he persecuted inmates at the Treblinka concentration camp in Poland. Gildea said he plans to meet with Bogdanovs in the next week.

Hartford Courant 11-6-83

# Time Runs Out for Nazi-Hunters

By PAUL FRISMAN  
Courant Staff Writer

They hunt people accused of committing the most heinous crimes of the century. But time is running out. Memories are fading, and those they seek are old and dying.

They work for the U.S. Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations, tracking down Nazi war criminals living in this country. In the past four years, OSI lawyers have begun denaturalization and deportation proceedings against 30 people, four in Connecticut.

Last Tuesday, OSI lawyer Jeffrey N. Mausner accused Hartford resident Boleslavs Bogdanovs, 66, a naturalized American citizen, of participating in the murder of hundreds of men, women and children in Latvia. Bogdanovs' wife, Arija, says the charges are false.

Mausner would not say on what evidence he bases his accusation. But he and his colleagues rely more on tedious paper work than on interviews and daggers.

The office's 17 lawyers, four investigators and six historians pore over 40-year-old records, review transcripts from European war crimes trials, compare U.S. immigration registers against lists of SS officers, and question witnesses, here and abroad, whose memories and health often are failing.

They are now reviewing the cases of about 300 suspected war criminals.

Once OSI decides there is enough evidence to bring a case, it moves to deport the accused war criminals. If those it accuses have become American citizens, OSI must first seek to revoke their citizenship.

The legal process is time-consuming, and there is little time left.

"Slowness is something we've learned to live with," acting OSI director Neal Sher said. "We move as quickly as we can."

Sher says an accused war criminal "will never had seven reviews . . . by the time a final order of deportation is entered . . . If a mass murderer was picked up today in Hartford he'd have one, maybe two appeals."

OSI has won 15 of the 16 cases that so far have been decided. Its lawyers have won deportation orders against five people, and the courts have stripped more than a dozen accused war criminals of their citizenship.

Sher, 36, was in private practice before joining OSI. He was promoted to deputy director in 1980 and made acting director in March.

He says he joined because the work is important and challenging. "You're talking about events that are unparalleled in history," he said.

Spokesmen for organizations concerned with the Holocaust praise OSI's dedication and accomplishments. Their criticisms deal mostly with the slow-moving legal system.

"The (legal) process is interminable," said Justin J. Finger, director of the National Civil Rights Division of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith. "That's a big problem, but it's something OSI has no control over."

Citizenship is something the courts are very loath to take away."

Abraham Cooper, associate dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center at Yeshiva University in Los Angeles, believes one way to speed up the process would be to allow other countries to extradite accused war criminals for prosecution. Sher said Israel is considering making such requests.

Finger and Cooper said they generally are pleased with the job OSI has done since it was moved from the Immigration and Naturalization Service to the Justice Department's criminal division four years ago. OSI now has a staff of 45 and a \$2.5 million budget.

"It's the first time there's been positive action and positive results" by the government, Finger said.

OSI was moved to the Justice Department only after repeated urging by members of Congress, including Elizabeth Holtzman of New York and William Lehman of Florida, who felt that nothing was being done about Nazis in this country.

"The whole question of Nazis in this country . . . was discovered almost by accident in the early '70s," said one lawyer familiar with OSI's history.

Despite its more aggressive approach, OSI's efforts have resulted in only one person actually being deported.

"The number of people denaturalized is impressive," Martin Mandelsohn, a former

deputy director of OSI, said, but "the bottom line in my judgment is the number of people who have left the country."

The one person to leave so far is Hans Lipschis, a guard in the SS's "Death's Head" Division at the Auschwitz concentration camp. He returned to West Germany one week before he was to be deported.

One person still appealing deportation is Feodor D. Federenko, a former Waterbury factory worker accused of serving as a guard at the Treblinka concentration camp in Poland.

Two other state residents also face deportation: Vladimir Sokolov-Samarin, 69, of Milford, a former lecturer at Yale University's Slavic department who is accused of writing anti-Semitic, pro-Nazi propaganda; and Antanas Bernotas, 75, of Waterbury, charged with serving in the Lithuanian security police from 1941 to 1944.

All four state residents are represented by Brian Gildea of New Haven.

"Overall most of the (OSI) attorneys have been pretty fair and honorable," Gildea said last week. But he was highly critical both of those who want swifter legal action and of the OSI's reliance on Soviet witnesses and documents.

Gildea charges OSI with having a "sweetheart deal" with the KGB, or Soviet secret police, that oversees the testimony given on OSI by Russian witnesses. OSI lawyers have received videotaped depositions from more than 100 Russians.

Gildea said KGB agents intimidate witnesses who give those depositions, and sometimes tell witnesses not to answer defense lawyers' questions. He is skeptical as well of the validity of Soviet documents.

"They are great people for manufacturing false statements," he said, adding OSI "tries to get the courts to accept everything as the gospel truth."

Sher denies the charges. "We go wherever the evidence is," he said. "We analyze it to see if it meets American standards. Unless we're satisfied, we won't use it."

Sher said one court in New Jersey has expressed concern about some Soviet evidence, but he said there is "not one instance (where there is) any evidence that documents are forgeries."

"In many cases the defendants themselves have authenticated materials sent by the Soviets," he said.

One lawyer familiar with OSI's work, who asked that his name not be used, said the office has "done an excellent job," considering it is "litigating cases 40 years after the fact with evidence (from) foreign countries, many behind the Iron Curtain."

"Many of the witnesses have died. Many of the defendants have died," he said.

"The tragedy of it all," he said, "is as good a job as it's done, had things been done 10 years ago it would have been much better and much easier."



# AM News Summary for The Attorney General

WEDNESDAY MORNING, NOVEMBER 30, 1983

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## BABY JANE DOE

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Advocacy groups assert that doctors should always choose treatment of handicapped infants (Wa. Times p. 4-A)

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Paul Bator argues program-specific limitation of federal law barring sex discrimination in education (NYT p. A-21, Wa. Post p. A-2, Wa. Times p. 3-A, Phil. Inquirer p. 9-A)

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# War crimes laid to Conn. aide

Hartford (UPI)—The Justice Department has accused a city architect of taking part in the slaying of hundreds of Latvian Jews during World War II.

Documents filed in United States District Court claim Boleslavs Bogdanovs, 66, took part in numerous mass killings of unarmed civilians and ordered the killing of "hundreds of Jewish men, women and children" in Madona, Latvia.

The Justice Department is seeking to revoke Bogdanovs' citizenship, claiming he entered the

country illegally and lied on his citizenship application.

There was no comment immediately from Bogdanovs.

Federal lawyer Jeffrey N. Mausner said the documents linking Bogdanovs to participation with the Nazis during World War II, include records written in German and Latvian and apparently signed by Bogdanovs as an officer in the Latvian Security Auxiliary Police.

One document is Bogdanovs' SS personnel form and a German declaration, dated Nov. 25,

1944 in which he said he attained the rank of a second lieutenant in the Latvian SS Volunteer Legion.

Others list Jewish patients at Sarkankalns Hospital in Riga, Latvia, in 1941. Bogdanovs' signature appears underneath the lists, noting he has "taken custody" of the people listed.

English translations of the documents are included in the file, along with his applications for naturalization and other American immigration records. Bogdanovs came to the United States in 1956 and became a citizen in 1964.

### Addenda

- The Justice Department has accused Boleslavs Bogdanovs, 66, a Hartford, Conn., city architect, of taking part in the slaying of unarmed civilians and ordering the killing of "hundreds of Jewish men, women and children" in Madona, Latvia, during World War II.

LEVEL 1 - 2 OF 7 STORIES

Proprietary to the United Press International 1983

November 29, 1983, Tuesday, AM cycle

SECTION: Domestic News

LENGTH: 259 words

DATELINE: HARTFORD, Conn.

KEYWORD: Nazi

## BODY:

An architect for the city of Hartford has been accused by federal officials of taking part in the slaying of hundreds of Latvian Jews during World War II.

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The U.S. Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations is seeking to revoke Bogdanovs' citizenship, claiming he entered the country illegally and lied on his citizenship application.

Bogdanovs came to the United States in 1956 and became a citizen in 1964.

He has refused to comment on the charges. One of his lawyers, Brian Gildea of New Haven, has said his client is terminally ill with cancer.

Federal lawyer Jeffrey N. Mausner said the documents linking Bogdanovs to participation with the Nazis during World War II, include records written in German and Latvian and apparently signed by Bogdanovs as an officer in the Latvian Security Auxiliary Police.

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Proprietary to the United Press International 1983

November 29, 1983, Tuesday, PM cycle

SECTION: Domestic News

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LEVEL 1 - 6 OF 7 STORIES

Proprietary to the United Press International 1983

November 29, 1983, Tuesday, PM cycle

SECTION: Regional News

DISTRIBUTION: Connecticut

LENGTH: 266 words

HEADLINE: Architect accused as former Nazi

DATELINE: HARTFORD, Conn.

KEYWORD: Ct-Nazi

## BODY:

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## OBITUARIES

# Man Accused in Deaths Of Latvian Jews Dies

By JOSEPH RODRÍGUEZ  
Courant Staff Writer

A Hartford man federal officials accused of participating in the mass slayings of Latvian Jews during World War II died Wednesday at his home.

Boleslavs Bogdanovs, 66, of 30 Woodland St. had been suffering from cancer of the colon. He had been employed as a city architect for the last 10 years.

Bogdanovs was on sick leave from his city job. He died at the Regency Towers condominium that he shared with his wife, Arija, said a relative who asked that she not be identified.

The U.S. Justice Department's Office of Special Investigation, which was seeking to deport Bogdanovs, filed documents U.S. District Court in Hartford last November linking him with a Latvian execution unit that aided the Nazi death campaign against Jews.

Justice Department officials claimed Bogdanovs, as a second lieutenant in the Latvian SS Volunteer Legion, took part in numerous mass killings of unarmed civilians and ordered the slaughter of "hundreds of Jewish men, women and children" in Madona, Latvia.

U.S. Attorney Alan H. Nevas said Wednesday night he would inform the Justice Department of Bogdanovs's death. He said he expects the case will be dropped.

Bogdanovs's physician, Dr. Peter K. Schauer, said in a statement filed in federal court earlier this month that Bogdanovs was bedridden because of a "continued progression of his metastatic cancer of the colon. . . . He is too weak to come up to the office even by ambulance."

Brian Gildea, attorney for Bogdanovs, has questioned why the government bothered to pursue the case against a man who was incurably ill.

Gildea, in asking Judge Jose A. Cabranes last week to stay the proceedings, said, "I cannot see how the ends of justice can be served by adding additional burdens to the defendant, including counsel fees, during his last days on earth." Gildea was unavailable for comment Wednesday.

Justice Department lawyer Jeffrey N. Mausner has said, "We bring cases where the evidence shows a case exists."

The Justice Department was

seeking to revoke Bogdanovs' citizenship on the grounds that he had entered the country illegally in 1956 and lied on his citizenship application. He became a citizen in Nebraska in 1964. Revocation of his citizenship would have allowed federal officials to file for his deportation.

Bogdanovs had refused to speak to reporters about the charges. His wife has said, "They are all lies."

Neighbors and fellow workers had described him as a slightly built, quiet man who liked to play tennis and was active on the condominium's board of directors.

Federal officials said they learned of Bogdanovs's alleged war crimes after the 1979 trial in West Germany of Viktor Arajs, commander of the Latvian death squad. Arajs is serving a life sentence.

Funeral arrangements were unavailable Wednesday night.