

Second Ukrainian immigrant to confront his past at trial

By Linda Loyd
Inquirer Staff Writer

When Serge Kowalchuk goes on trial here today on charges that he concealed his wartime occupation when he applied for a United States visa, the atmosphere in U.S. District Court is likely to be charged with emotion.

Kowalchuk, 61, a tailor who has lived in Philadelphia nearly 20 years, is the second Ukrainian-American to be brought to trial here on a charge of lying about a police job that connected him with Nazi persecutions of

Jews during World War II.

During the 16-day trial a year ago of Wolodymyr Osidach, another Ukrainian immigrant, the emotion among the Ukrainians and Jews who sat in separate clusters in the courtroom sometimes spilled into the open.

In light of the hostilities then, leaders of Ukrainian-American and Jewish groups have been meeting privately during the last year to try to heal the wounds and to build amity between the communities.

The Kowalchuk trial marks another

chapter in the federal government's efforts to find and deport men and women who, by disguising their activities during the war, emigrated to America in the postwar years.

Two years ago the Justice Department stepped up its investigation of alleged war criminals living in the United States, and Congress appropriated \$2.3 million to set up the Office of Special Investigations in Washington, which comprises 20 lawyers and 30 investigators, historians and legal aides.

Allan A. Ryan Jr., the director of

the special office, said that 22 cases of alleged Nazi war criminals currently were at some stage of litigation. Investigations had begun for 250 other people, naturalized Americans suspected of having collaborated with the Germans as prison camp guards and auxiliary police officers in occupied areas of the Soviet Union, mostly in the Ukraine, Byelorussia, Lithuania and Latvia, he said.

Since the first of the year, 49 new investigations have begun and eight new cases have been filed, Ryan said. The Osidach case was the first

brought to trial since the investigation unit was formed.

Since that trial, the government has tried cases against five suspected former Nazi collaborators. Defendants in two of the cases were found guilty and stripped of their U.S. citizenship; in the three others, the judge has not yet handed down a verdict.

Jewish groups support the federal crackdown in prosecuting war criminals who, they say, could number in the hundreds. They also believe that
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JDL Marches at War Crime Trial Site

By FRANK DOUGHERTY

Wearing armbands with a yellow Star of David and "Jewish Justice" inscribed, a dozen members of the local Jewish Defense League demonstrated this morning outside the federal courthouse at 6th and Market streets, where accused Nazi collaborator Serge Kowalchuk faces a denaturalization hearing.

Kowalchuk, 60, a naturalized U.S. citizen and an Oak Lane resident since 1949, is accused of lying on his immigration papers, to cover up an alleged role helping the Nazis murder 5,000 Soviet Jews during the German occupation of the Ukraine.

Kowalchuk claims the charges are "all lies," manufactured and spread

by officials in the Soviet Union because of his anti-Communist activity.

BUT FEDERAL investigators are trying to take away Kowalchuk's citizenship and have him deported. U. S. District Judge John P. Fullam is scheduled to preside.

The JDL demonstration outside the courthouse was non-violent. Ed Ramov, director of the local JDL affiliate, said Kowalchuk should get the death penalty — "but we'll just have to be satisfied with a good deportation."

A threatened counter-demonstration by members of Philadelphia's Ukrainian community did not take place.

The Justice Department's Office of

Special Investigations has charged that Kowalchuk, a tailor living on 67th Avenue near 2nd Street, lied about his past when he entered the United States in 1949 and again when he became a citizen in 1960 by failing to detail his role as a deputy commandant of the Ukrainian National Police from 1941 through 1944.

It was in the village of Lyubomyl where Kowalchuk, in his role as police chief, allegedly participated in the slaughter of 5,000 Jews in a brickyard. The October 1942 mass execution wiped out almost half the population of Lyubomyl, a tanning, flour-milling and wood-milling center in a part of the Ukraine that was part of Poland until the end of World War II.

Only 30 Jews are said to have survived the roundup.

ACCORDING TO SWORN statements obtained by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, Kowalchuk jumped into a pit filled with prostrate and naked Jews and shot them with his pistol.

Charges about Kowalchuk's wartime activities appeared in 1963 in Trud, a Soviet trade union journal. Serge and his brother, Mykola, 54, were accused of helping the Nazis carry out the extermination and confiscate the property of Jews.

"My brother ... and I absolutely deny the charge ... [It] is a malicious slur upon our family," Kowalchuk said in a statement that year.

Mykola, who lives on Fern Street near Mascher in Olney, was accused of beating people with whips, firing a rifle into a cellar where terrified Jews were hiding from the Nazis, and being involved in the shooting of an unarmed man in 1941.

WHEN QUESTIONED IN 1978 about their activities, Serge took the 5th Amendment 64 times, and Mykola who became a U.S. citizen in 1966 invoked the constitutional right 28 times. They even refused to answer personal questions, including whether they were brothers.

U.S. Attorney Peter Vaira announced in June that charges that Mykola lied about his background

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War Criminal In Oak Lane?

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were being dropped because a key witness had died in 1979.

Serge told a government investigator he had lived in Lyubomyl from 1933 through 1944 and admitted having worn the Ukrainian National Police Force uniform, but he denied participation in war crimes.

In 1977, a civil suit filed by Dale S. Page, regional Immigration and Naturalization Service counsel, listed 11 war crime charges against Serge, including the Lyubomyl massacre.

The non-jury trial which begins today is a civil action because the government cannot try individuals for war crimes committed in foreign countries before their emigration. The government can only try individuals for having made false statements about their backgrounds when they entered the country or were sworn in as citizens.

IF KOWALCHUK IS found guilty, he will lose his citizenship and face a deportation hearing. If all appeals on the loss of citizenship are denied and actual deportation is ordered, Kowalchuk would have to find a country to accept him, a process that could take years. Since the United States and the Soviet Union have no extradition treaty, it is doubtful he would return to his native Ukraine.

The trial is the second denaturalization proceeding heard in Philadelphia this year.

In March, Wolodymyr Osidach, a 76-year-old Logan resident, was ordered stripped of his citizenship. U.S. District Judge Louis Bechtel ruled Osidach lied in denying he had helped the Germans ship 14,000 Polish Jews to the Nazi death camp at Belzec in 1942 while serving as a National Ukrainian Police chief. Osidach died in May.

Prosecution contends Phila. man aided in killing of Jews in Ukraine

By Dick Cooper
Inquirer Staff Writer

Serge Kowalchuk, a trim, dapper man with a clipped, gray mustache, sat ramrod straight in his courtroom chair yesterday as a federal prosecutor told a judge that he had helped kill 5,000 Jews in his native Ukraine while it was occupied by the Nazis.

U.S. Justice Department lawyer Kathleen Coleman told U.S. District Judge John P. Fullam that Kowalchuk was a deputy commandant of the Nazi occupation police in the Ukraine during World War II.

"The Ukrainian police did far more than direct traffic or arrest people for larceny," Ms. Coleman said in her opening remarks in the civil, nonjury trial.

She said that the police assisted in the torturing of Jews and that "there was a significant role played by the police in the extermination of the Jewish people."

The Justice Department is seeking to revoke Kowalchuk's U.S. citizenship on the ground that he failed to reveal his affiliation with the occupation police department when he was seeking to come to the United States in 1948.

Kowalchuk, not charged with any war crimes, came to the United States as a displaced person in 1950 and became a naturalized citizen in 1960, Ms. Coleman said. He has lived on 67th Avenue near Second Street and has been employed as a tailor in Philadelphia for more than 20 years.

Ms. Coleman said she would call witnesses from Europe, Israel and the United States who would identify Kowalchuk as not only a member of the police force, but also as a killer.

She said one witness would testify he remembered Kowalchuk because Kowalchuk killed his brother.

Kowalchuk's attorney, John Rogers Carroll, countered that Kowalchuk had been falsely accused. He said the charges against Kowalchuk were based on a mistake of identity.

Kowalchuk was a civilian employee of the town of Lyubomyl, made records, issued rations and was not involved in police actions, Carroll said.

"Mr. Kowalchuk has not been a participant," Carroll told Fullam. "He has been misidentified."

Many of the 75 spectators — searched by metal detectors as they entered the courtroom — wore armbands with the Star of David and "Jewish Justice" printed on them.

Several Ukrainian-Americans were also in the courtroom.

Ms. Coleman told Fullam that on Oct. 1, 1942, with the help of the Ukrainian police, the Germans marched the Lyubomyl Jews out of town to a nearby brick factory, where they were shot to death. She said witnesses would testify that Kowalchuk was a leader of the Ukrai-

nian police force that day and gave orders to other policemen helping the Germans.

She said witnesses would testify that the killers used what was called "the sardine method." The doomed were marched into a pit and shot. The next group was then forced to lie on the bodies of the dead, and they were shot.

Philadelphia Inquirer Oct 20, 1951 p 8-B

Israeli tells of massacre on videotape

Witness says tailor aided
in slayings of 5 in Ukraine

Witness tells of massacre

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had been cut and five Jews were to be shot "as a warning to the others."

About 800 Jewish men were lined up in rows and Kowalchuk helped select those to be killed, Lifschitz said.

Kowalchuk helped escort the five doomed men over a hill where they were shot, he said.

Lifschitz said his mother was beaten by Kowalchuk, who was looking for Lifschitz's 14-year-old brother. He said he saw Kowalchuk and his men beat up a young man who didn't work fast enough.

Further, the witness said Kowalchuk searched Jewish homes for valuables and was present when the Germans executed three Jewish girls, aged 15, 13, and 11, and a boy for purchasing two eggs from a Ukrainian.

Lifschitz said Kowalchuk had beaten him and forced him to run a gauntlet of Ukrainian policemen because he went out on the streets without the yellow badge Jews were required to wear.

By A. W. GEISELMAN JR.
Of The Bulletin Staff

A week after the German army took over his home city in the Ukraine, 21-year-old Serge Kowalchuk showed up in the town market place in a new, neatly pressed policeman's uniform and wearing a pistol, according to testimony in federal court in Philadelphia yesterday.

"His uniform was a nice one, an elegant one," said the witness, a man who said he knew Kowalchuk before and during those World War II days.

All the young Jewish males in the city of Lyuboml had been ordered to gather and Kowalchuk helped choose five men to be shot in retaliation for a minor act of sabotage, the witness, Moshe Lifschitz, said.

The testimony was part of a videotaped interview of Lifschitz, now a resident of Israel, who said he was one of only 30 of 5,000 Jews to escape death during the German occupation of Lyuboml.

According to the U.S. Justice Department, Kowalchuk was the town commandant of the Ukrainian National Police Force, which was organized by the Germans to control the civilian population and exterminate the Jews there.

Kowalchuk, now 61, is on trial to determine if he should be stripped of his United States citizenship because he allegedly concealed his membership in the Nazi-sponsored police unit when he applied for admission to this country.

Kowalchuk came to the United States in 1950 and is a tailor living in the 200 block of 67th ave. in the Oak Lane section of Philadelphia. He became a citizen in 1960.

U.S. District Judge John P. Fullam has been hearing the case without a jury since Monday.

Kowalchuk has denied that he was a member of the Ukrainian police and his lawyer, John Rogers Carroll, said he is a victim of misidentification.

Lifschitz, however, said, he had known the Kowalchuk family since about 1931, that he knew the accused man and his brother, Mykola, and that his sister had gone to school with Kowalchuk.

Last June, the government dropped denaturalization proceedings against the brother after a key witness died. Mykola Kowalchuk, 58, of Philadelphia, also had been accused of abusing Jews in Lyuboml.

In his videotaped testimony, Lifschitz, now 69, said he learned that Serge Kowalchuk was a police official when he saw him in a resplendent uniform standing with the German commander in the city's center square. This, he said, was during the summer of 1941 a week after the Germans invaded an area that was at that time a part of the Soviet Union but was once part of Poland.

Speaking Yiddish through an interpreter, Lifschitz said the German officer announced that a field telephone line

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Ukrainian helped choose 5 Jews for death in 1941, Phila. court told

By Dick Cooper
Inquirer Staff Writer

It was a young Serge Kowalchuk, tall and handsome in his police uniform and officer's cap, who helped a German officer and a Ukrainian official select five Jews to be shot in the summer of 1941, according to testimony presented in U.S. District Court here yesterday.

Kowalchuk, who was discribed as being the "town commandant" of the Nazi occupation police in Lyubomyl, in the western Ukraine, then joined other Ukrainian and German police

officers in escorting the five men to a hill, where they were killed, according to Moshe Lifschutz, 69, of Tel Aviv, Israel.

A videotaped recording of testimony given by Lifschutz in 1979 was played for more than four hours yesterday in Kowalchuk's civil, nonjury trial.

The U.S. Justice Department, contending that Kowalchuk did not reveal his membership in the Nazi occupation police force when he sought to enter the United States after World War II, is seeking to revoke

his citizenship. He is not charged with any war crimes.

Kowalchuk, 61, of 67th Avenue near Second Street in the city's East Oak Lane section, has denied that he was an active member of the force that aided the Germans who killed more than 5,000 Jews in Lyubomyl. He has contended that he was a civilian employee of the town government and that he is the victim of mistaken identity.

On the videotape, Lifschutz testified that he had known Kowalchuk since Kowalchuk was a boy. Lif-

schutz served as secretary of the Jewish Council of Lyubomyl and had regular business dealings with Kowalchuk's father, a civil servant under the Polish regime in the Ukraine in the 1930s, he said. He remembered several occasions during the 1930s when he met Serge Kowalchuk on the streets of the town and exchanged pleasantries, he testified, and his sister went to school with Kowalchuk.

In the summer of 1941, the German army took control of the Ukraine and set up its own civilian government

and police force, Lifschutz said. Speaking in Yiddish through an interpreter, Lifschutz told of the summer day when 800 Jewish men were ordered by the German commander to assemble in the town.

"The German officer told everyone to line up in rows of five," Lifschutz said. The officer told them that a field telephone had been sabotaged and that "he knew the Jews did it," he testified.

To pay for that action and to show the rest of the Jews that they should behave quietly, five of those assem-

bled would be shot, the German officer said, according to Lifschutz.

The German officer, the Ukrainian mayor of Lyubomyl and Kowalchuk then moved through the men and selected five to be killed, he said.

The men were marched off to the small hill, and shots were heard, he said. The German officer returned and told Jewish leaders to get a horse and wagon and carry off the bodies, Lifschutz testified. Lifschutz said he escaped from the Lyubomyl ghetto just before its 5,000 residents were killed in October 1942.

NAZI HORRORS HAUNT TRIAL



By KEVIN FEELEY

It was a voice from a long-buried past, come alive on videotape to haunt a West Oak Lane immigrant tailor named Serge Kowalchuk.

Kowalchuk, 61, sat passively in a federal court yesterday as prosecutors rolled the videotaped

deposition of a Ukrainian Jew who charged that Kowalchuk, while serving as deputy com-

mandant in the local Ukrainian police during World War II, helped the Nazis beat, shoot and torment the 6000 Jewish residents of his hometown of Lubomyl, a tiny Ukrainian village near the Polish border.

The witness, a 69-year-old accountant named Moshe Lifschitz, testified that shortly after the Germans invaded Russia in June 1941, he watched Kowalchuk help the Nazis pick five random Jews from a crowd for execution, and that Kowalchuk helped lead the group out of town to a tiny hillside, where they were shot to death.

"He (Kowalchuk) helped them select, walking among the rows of Jews standing there, selecting one man from each row," Lifschitz, speaking in Yiddish, said through a translator.

Hid in forest

Lifschitz, who escaped execution by the Nazis in October 1942 by hiding out in a nearby forest and living there for two years, now lives in Tel Aviv. His deposition was videotaped by federal prosecutors in August 1979.

His testimony is central to the Justice Department's demand that Kowalchuk, who has lived in Philadelphia since 1950 (he became a U.S. citizen in 1960), be stripped of his citizenship for omitting mention of his Ukrainian police service on his U.S. visa application.

U.S. District Court Judge

John Fullam and a full house of spectators, including many American Jews, watched the tapes as Lifschitz detailed other brutalities committed by the Nazis, and the Ukrainian police, in Lubomyl.

"Have you ever seen anyone shot?" he was asked.

"Yes," he replied. "On one occasion, Serge Kowalchuk was present.

Two eggs

"They (the Germans) arrested three girls and one young man. Two of the girls were my cousins. The accusation was that they bought two eggs from a Ukrainian," Lifschitz explained that the Jewish community in Lubomyl struck a deal with the Nazis to buy freedom for the four at an exorbitant sum.

"The next day, he (the German commander) ordered everyone to appear. . . . He said he sentences these four to be shot to death, and then he said, 'I promised I would give them to you — I will give you their bodies.'

"I saw the first girl fall (shot dead, he said), and I couldn't bear to look anymore. . . ."

Lifschitz testified that Kowalchuk once beat up his mother — "I was standing in the same room," he said — for failing to cooperate in the police search for her 14-year-old son.

In October 1941, Lifschitz testified, he himself was beaten by 20 Ukrainian policemen — including Kowalchuk — for failing to wear the yellow badge all Jews were required to stitch to their clothes.



Journal photo by Bob North

Serge Kowalchuk, on trial for aiding Nazis, arrives at Federal Court.



UPI photo

NAZI ESCAPE EPISODE RELATED BY N.Y. JEW

By KEVIN FEELEY

Nathan Sobel was 10 when the Germans occupied his native Lubomyl in 1941.

He was 12, still living in the Ukrainian hamlet near the Polish border, when the Nazis found his father and young sister in a secret hideout and shot them to death.

At 13, Sobel himself was the target, together with his mother and the remaining members of his family. He escaped the death place — a rotting farmhouse in Lubomyl — by scampering to the roof. He watched in horror as the bullets destroyed what was left of his family.

"That's when they counted the bodies and realized I was missing," Sobel, now 50, said yesterday. "They figured I was on the roof. They set the house on fire, but I escaped."

Six days later he was captured, briefly, and shot in the lower right leg while making his escape.

Today, having survived the dark terror of his days in Lubomyl, Nathan Sobel works as a city planner in New York.

All week long, however, Sobel has been a fixture in the courtroom during the denaturalization hearing for Oak Lane tailor Serge Kowalchuk, a Lubomyl native charged with having participated in war crimes against the Jews while serving as deputy commandant for Lubomyl's Ukrainian police force.

Sobel won't talk about Kowalchuk because he hopes to be called as a witness in the pro-

ceedings.

He did talk about the memories of his birthplace. "I lost everybody," he said. "Just about every Jew in Lubomyl was wiped out. The town had 6000 Jews (out of 10,000 residents), and no more than 30 of them made it out alive.

"That you don't forget. It's carved in stone in my memory. It stays with you forever. This hearing is very, very painful for me. It reopens old wounds.

"You know, the Nazis murdered six million Jews. Who can fathom that? Six million! The same question keeps going through my mind: Why? Why?"

"I can't answer the question. I can't turn off the memories."

KILLER BOMB IN BELGIUM

ANTWERP, Belgium (UPI) — A powerful car bomb exploded outside a synagogue just before a Jewish religious ceremony yesterday, killing two women and injuring 99 others in a blast that heavily damaged buildings in the thriving diamond district of Antwerp's Jewish quarter.

An anonymous caller told the Belgian news agency Belga the bombing was the work of the "Group of Direct Action" and warned of further attacks. Police said they had no information on the group.

The Israeli Embassy in Brussels blamed Palestinian terrorists and said in a statement, "Once more we have to note that the blind Palestinian terrorism strikes at Jews wherever they are."

Prime Minister Mark Eyskens said, "This was clearly another attack against the Jewish community," and added, "Our society must defend itself."

The Palestine Liberation Organization office in Brussels said it "firmly condemns and has always condemned attacks like the one committed this morning" in Antwerp — one of the world's biggest diamond centers.

Son testifies officer sent father on ride to his death in Ukraine

By Dick Cooper
Inquirer Staff Writer

Abraham Getman testified yesterday in U.S. District Court in Philadelphia that he remembered Serge Kowalchuk as the police commander who ordered his father onto a truck to be taken to a work detail a month after the Nazi occupation of his home town in the Ukraine in the summer of 1941.

"I never saw my father again," said Getman, 55, who now lives in New York.

He told U.S. District Judge John P. Fullam that he was the only member of a family of nine to escape alive from the town of Lyubomyl during the Nazi occupation.

Getman was called as a prosecution witness in the civil, non-jury trial of Kowalchuk, 61, of 67th Avenue near Second Street. U.S. Justice Department officials have asked that Kowal-

chuk be stripped of his American citizenship for not revealing that he was a member of the Ukrainian police during the Nazi occupation. He has contended that he was the victim of mistaken identity.

Getman testified that he was in his home with his parents, his grandmother a brother and sister the day a truck pulled up outside their home.

It was Kowalchuk who entered the home and ordered Getman's father into the street, Getman said.

He said his father got onto the truck, and Kowalchuk went back into the Getman house looking for shovels.

When Getman's mother asked where her husband was being taken, Kowalchuk replied, "We are taking them to work," Getman testified.

Getman said he followed the truck to a new Jewish cemetery, where he heard shots.

Later, he said, he returned to the cemetery and found freshly turned dirt.

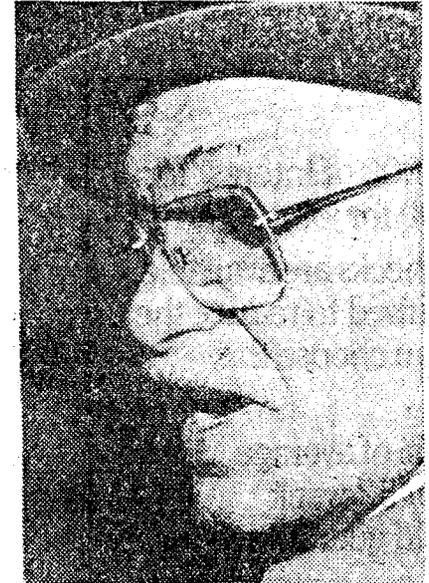
"My older brother was also taken that day from his work," said Getman, who was 15 at the time of the incident.

He said he knew Kowalchuk before the German occupation because Kowalchuk had bought shoes at his father's shoe store in the town.

Getman also testified about a day in 1941 when he said he saw Kowalchuk beating a crippled Pole outside the Lyubomyl police station.

When Getman decried that incident, Kowalchuk smiled broadly and shook his head.

Kowalchuk's lawyer, John Rogers Carroll, asked Getman why he could remember only Serge Kowalchuk's name out of all of the Ukrainian police officers who were in power dur-



Serge Kowalchuk
Defendant in trial

ing the German occupation of Lyubomyl.

"How can I forget this name after what he did to my family?" Getman replied. "I sleep with my nightmares and he is sitting here free."

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Kowalchuk watched slaughter, court told

By Dick Cooper
Inquirer Staff Writer

Serge Kowalchuk stood with a group of German officers at the lip of a long, deep pit and watched as thousands of Jews were stripped, forced to lie on layers of bodies in the pit and systematically shot, according to the testimony of a former Ukrainian police officer.

Kowalchuk was the commanding officer of the Ukrainian police during the Nazi occupation of the town of Lyubomyl during World War II and supervised the death march of 5,000 Jews from the town ghetto to the pits where they were killed, Dem'yan Fedchuk testified.

Fedchuk, 69, gave his account in a videotaped recording made in the Soviet Union in January.

The recording was played yesterday before U.S. District Judge John P. Fullam in the trial of Kowalchuk, 61, of 67th Avenue near Second Street. The U.S. Justice Department contends that Kowalchuk should be stripped of his U.S. citizenship because he did not reveal his membership in the Nazi occupation police force when he applied to enter the United States after the war.

Kowalchuk has denied any active role in police actions and says he is a victim of mistaken identity.

Fedchuk, a square-jawed man who spoke through an interpreter, testified that he joined the Ukrainian police force after the German occupation in 1941 and that Kowalchuk was his commanding officer.

He said Kowalchuk assigned him and other police officers to patrol in the streets of Lyubomyl and to guard the entrances to the crowded ghetto in the town.

In the ghetto, Jews had little to eat

or drink, Fedchuk said. He said he was under orders from Kowalchuk to shoot any Jew who tried to leave without permission.

Fedchuk said that, in late September 1942, Ukrainian police under Kowalchuk's command were ordered to drive the Jews out of the ghetto into the town square. If anyone resisted, they were to be beaten, he said.

Fedchuk said that the police officers entered the ghetto at about 10 p.m. one night in September and were told to have the Jews formed in the square by morning.

Early the next morning, he said, the Jews were in the square guarded by about 60 Ukrainian police officers armed with rifles or carbines as well as a smaller group of German officers.

Fedchuk testified that "a Jewish priest" blessed the people and the police then formed them into columns for the march a short way out of town to the grounds of a brick factory.

Kowalchuk told his men to be on the alert for partisans who might try to attack the police and free the Jews, Fedchuk said.

Two or three pits about 60 feet long and 10 feet deep had been prepared there, he said. The Jews were stripped and forced into the pits where they were shot by Germans, he said.

"There were elderly, some very old and young and very little children, even sucklings," Fedchuk said of the victims.

"Kowalchuk was standing near the pits with the German officers," Fedchuk said. "Kowalchuk did not shoot into the pit. He was on the surface watching together with Germans."

Philadelphia Inquirer Oct 23, 1981 p. 3 B

Kowalchuk helped hang woman in Ukraine, trial told

By Dick Cooper
Inquirer Staff Writer

Alexandr Trofimovich did not recall why the woman was hanged in the Polish Catholic church in his home town of Lyubomyl in the Ukraine, but he testified that it was Serge Kowalchuk who kicked the stool out from under her after a rope had been put around her neck.

"She hang there for three, maybe four days," Trofimovich said.

His testimony was recorded on videotape in the Soviet Union in January and was played yesterday in

U.S. District Court in the civil, nonjury trial of Kowalchuk, 61, of 67th Avenue near Second Street.

Trofimovich testified that he was 16 when he and other townspeople witnessed the hanging of the Ukrainian woman in October 1943.

Two German and three Ukrainian police officers set up a table in the church and put a stool on top of the table, Trofimovich said. The woman stood on the stool and a rope was looped around her neck, he said.

"Kowalchuk kicked out stool legs from under the feet of this woman," Trofimovich testified through an

interpreter.

He said he knew Kowalchuk because they lived in the same neighborhood in the town before Kowalchuk became an officer in the Nazi occupation police force and moved to another house.

The U.S. Justice Department is seeking to have Kowalchuk's U.S. citizenship revoked on the ground that he failed to reveal that he had been a member of the Nazi occupation police when he sought to come to the United States after World War II. He is not charged with any crimes.

Kowalchuk has contended that he

was a civil employee of the town of Lyubomyl and was not involved in any police actions against Jews and Ukrainians in the town.

Trofimovich was the seventh witness to identify Kowalchuk as the deputy commandant of the occupation police force.

He said he and a boyhood friend chanced the possibility of a beating to watch the German and Ukrainian police march 5,000 Jews to pits outside the town where they were shot in 1942. He saw Kowalchuk give directions to other police officers, Trofimovich testified.

"He beat anybody who lagged behind," Trofimovich said. "When some old people could not move, he shoot them down. He shoot down a man and a woman."

Trofimovich said he was about 100 feet away from Kowalchuk when he witnessed the shooting.

A former Ukrainian occupation police officer who served 15 years in a Russian prison for his role in the herding of Lyubomyl Jews to their death testified that Kowalchuk beat Jews during the march to the pits.

"He speeded them with a lash, making them move severely," said

Gerasim Kotsura, 68, whose testimony was taped in January in the Soviet Union and played in the courtroom yesterday.

Kotsura said Ukrainian and German police forced the Jews down into the long, deep pits where the Germans systematically shot them.

At one point during the day-long killing operation, he said, he saw Kowalchuk descend into one of the pits.

"He entered the pit to prepare people for shooting, positioned people for shooting," Kotsura said.

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TORTURE TALES UNVEILED AT NAZI TRIAL

BY STEVE WEAVER

A Soviet builder testified that accused Nazi collaborator Serge Kowalchuk kicked a stool out from under a woman with a noose around her neck and shot old people who were hobbling to their execution too slowly to suit him.

"He always had his lash with him and he beat everybody who lagged behind (in groups going to their death)," said Alexander Trofimovich, 54, during Kowalchuk's denaturalization trial in U.S. District Judge John Fullam's court.

"When he saw old people lagging behind he shot them down, the men and the women. I saw him personally shoot down a man and a woman on a crossroad."

Trofimovich said he and Kowalchuk,

61, were neighbors in the small Ukrainian town of Lyubomyl in the Western Ukraine. There, after the Nazis occupied the city in World War II, Kowalchuk allegedly worked as a police assistant commandant, doing the Nazis' dirty work against the Jews. He denied having committed any crimes when he came to the U.S. in 1950, and background checks at that time turned up nothing.

But several witnesses have testified

that the former tailor, of 67th Ave. near 2nd Street, was the man who ordered about 5,000 Jews to march from a ghetto in Lyubomyl to a brickyard where they were told to lie down in pits and then were systematically shot.

Trofimovich described Kowalchuk's alleged crimes in a videotaped recording made in the Soviet Union last January. The Soviet citizen said Kowalchuk killed non-Jews as well as Jews.

Trial of Ukrainian Immigrant Revives Bitterness on 2 Sides

Special to The New York Times

PHILADELPHIA, Oct. 25 — All last week, Jews sat on one side of a Federal courtroom here and Ukrainian-Americans sat on the other as the second denaturalization trial in a year involving charges of collaboration with Nazis revived ancient bitterness.

So far, testimony that a Philadelphia tailor, Serge Kowalchuk, 61 years old, participated in the massacre of 5,000 Jews in his hometown in the Ukraine has not spurred the open hostility and angry letters to the editor that the trial of another Ukrainian immigrant, Wolodymyr Osidach, brought. Stripped of his citizenship last March, Mr. Osidach died two months later, before any appeals could be made or a deportation hearing could be held.

Both men were charged with illegally entering the United States after World War II by not mentioning their roles in the Ukrainian national police force, which was set up by the Nazis after Hitler's forces invaded the Soviet Union.

Among the spectators at the current trial are members of the Jewish Defense League, who picketed with signs urging "Deport Serge Kowalchuk Now" when the trial opened last Monday, and who sit in court wearing armbands with the slogan "Jewish Justice."

Fifth Case to Be Tried

Mr. Kowalchuk is the fifth immigrant to be tried in the past year by the Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations. All but one of the defendants have been Ukrainian. The other cases were in Cleveland, West Palm Beach, Fla., and Long Island.

Mr. Kowalchuk, who has lived in Philadelphia for 20 years, listened quietly last week as witnesses described him as the commandant of the Ukrainian occupation police in the town of Lyu-

borni, whose 5,000 Jewish residents were machine-gunned and buried in mass graves in October 1942.

Mr. Kowalchuk says he was a civilian employee of the town government and that witnesses have mistaken his identity in describing his role in the roundup of Jews who were murdered.

"In the last half-dozen years, many Jews are coming to terms with the Holocaust almost since the first time since World War II," said Murray Friedman, the Middle Atlantic director of the American Jewish Committee.

He added that in many Jewish families, "folk memories" had left images of a "hostile populace" in the country of their origin that could be revived by testimony on war crimes.

But the trials have stirred equally strong reactions in the Ukrainian-American community of 40,000 here, which considers itself a powerless minority stereotyped by unwarranted sensationalizing of a few court cases.

"Because of the way things like this are reported, the minute people see 'Ukrainian' they think we're all anti-Semitic, and that's certainly not true," said Alexandra Shwed, president of the Ukrainian Anti-Defamation League here.

Allan A. Ryan Jr., director of the Justice Department's special unit, said he had received protests from national Ukrainian-American organizations contending, among other things, that videotapes of Soviet nationals used at the trial were engineered by Moscow to stir animosity between Jews and Ukrainians.

Mr. Ryan said he believed that the tension last week was "not nearly as high" as at the Osidach trial, in part because of peacemaking efforts by leaders of the two communities.

Tipoff

P.6

Philadelphia Daily News Oct 26, 1981

It Takes the Cake

Sorry I mistya last week, Dears, but I was in Cincinnati. I got home just in time for Philly's 299th birthday, and I wanna tellya I had a nice time at the City Hall party thrown by Century 4 Chief Fred Stein.

The highlight of the bash was a 100-pound cake baked by Oteri's of South Philly. But City Councilman Brian O'Neill got a touch of indigestion when he tried to cut the cake, which was shaped like the city and divided by councilmanic districts. O'Neill's 10th District is the largest — until next year's redistricting. Then, Harry Jannotti and Joan Krajewski will get chunks of the 10th, just like Stein gave them at the party.



O'Neill

When O'Neill complained — jokingly — Stein compensated by sawing off a piece of lower Bucks County.

Ya know, Dears, I've long suspected that some of my colleagues were heavy novocaine users, but Fred Stein's party proved it.

During the festivities, City Rep Dick Doran let it rip that a highlight of next year's 300th birthday celebration would be a Grace Kelly film festival hosted by Her Serene Highness. Here it is five days later. Have ya read it anywhere else? I didn't think so.

Stein says Grace wantsta come in the last week of February. He wants her here in September, but says she can show up any time she wants to!

Remember earlier this year when I was givin' it to Inquirer reporter Mark Bowden pretty good for schlepping off to Africa in search of rhinos? Remember how I scooped him with all that background info on how many are left and all?

Well, have you seen his stuff yet? I thought I might have missed it when I went to Cincinnati.

Seriously, I hear it's enormous in its cost — \$20,000 to \$30,000 — and in its length — 1,500 column inches. And I hear — believe it or not — that Bowden didn't see one single rhino the whole time he was over there.

Wanna know what he did? He went to the zoo here for a whole day and watched the rhinos there to get the stuff he needed.

Now, I can understand watchin' rhinos for a whole day, but I'll be damned if I can understand smelling them for that long.

Anyway, Bowden's been set up in a room with his own desk and video display terminal, and word is his stuff runs next month.

Then there's the swinging door in detective headquarters beyond which reporters are forbidden to tread.

Police Commissioner Morton Solomon established the barrier last week after the Daily News busted the story of how the city was gonna have a "Five Most Wanted List." Solomon is said to believe that Daily News reporter Jack McGuire got the story by rifling a trash can. McGuire denies it. Says good old-fashioned legwork did the trick.

This is Serge Kowalchuk. He's on trial in federal court here — charged with lying about his allegedly pro-Nazi past when he came to America after World War II.

The other day, with the help of federal police, he ducked photographers for an hour and 10 minutes before slipping out a back door of the courthouse, and we figured that anyone who worked that hard to stay out of public view ought to have his picture drawn by Rob Lawlor.

After all, if Serge gets convicted, he could get the boot. It'd be a shame if he left without feeling welcome, wouldn't it!

And finally, condolences to the Washington Post's Ear, which was severely pinned back in a confrontation with Jimmy Carter.

It ain't easy when you're on journalism's cutting edge, is it?



Kowalchuk

JDL prays, is ousted at trial

By A. W. GEISELMAN JR.
Of The Bulletin Staff

Members of the Jewish Defense League conducted an unusual memorial service in a federal courtroom in Philadelphia yesterday during a recess in the denaturalization trial of Serge Kowalchuk.

The prayers were conducted over the protests of U. S. deputy marshals, who tried to stop it.

Edward Ramov, the league's executive director, concluded the brief service with a declaration that Kowalchuk should not be deported but should be put to death.

A deputy guarding the courtroom evicted another member of the group, Bonnie Pechter Kassof, former national director of the JDL, who shouted at Kowalchuk: "You're a Nazi, murdering pig!"

Kowalchuk, 61, a Philadelphia tailor and native of the Ukraine who came to the United States in 1950, sat quietly at the defense table during the outburst.

The prayer service in memory of 6 million Jews killed by Germans during World War II began after U.S. Dis-

trict Judge John P. Fullam called a 10-minute recess and left the bench. About a dozen persons who had been attending the trial participated in the service. Some wore yarmulkes and prayer shawls. They lit candles while the deputies warned them to stop chanting. Finally they left the courtroom.

Kowalchuk has been on trial since last Monday to determine if he should be stripped of his United States citizenship because of his alleged membership in the German-sponsored Ukrainian National Police Force during World War II. The government contends that he was a policeman who took part in atrocities against Jews and others. He denies the allegations, saying he was only a clerk.

Yesterday, defense lawyer John Rogers Carroll put into evidence the taped interview of a Ukrainian who said Kowalchuk had severely beaten him. He was, however, during the taping, unable to pick out Kowalchuk's photograph from eight shown him. The interview of the man, Akim Yarmoluk, was conducted with government lawyers present in January in Lutsk, a Ukrainian city now part of the Soviet Union.

Philadelphia Bulletin Oct 27, 1981 P.2

JDL THREATENS NAZI SUSPECT IN COURTROOM

By KEVIN FEELEY

Declaring themselves determined to seek what they called "Jewish justice," an angry group of Jewish Defense League members and friends yesterday confronted accused Nazi war criminal Serge Kowalchuk in federal court, branding him a "murderer" and threatening him with the warning that "Jewish justice means death to all Nazi war criminals."

The courtroom disturbance came shortly after Justice Department attorneys rested their case against Kowalchuk, 61, an Oak Lane tailor who is charged with lying about his wartime activities on his application for a U.S. visa in 1947.

Impromptu prayer

After a 10-minute recess had been called by U.S. District Judge John Fullam, Kowalchuk and his family gathered near the defense table. At that point, JDL members and several supporters in the packed courtroom stood up, lit candles and began an impromptu prayer service for the victims of the Jewish massacre in the Ukrainian town of Lubomyl — a massacre said to have been carried out with the help of Kowalchuk and the Ukrainian police.

When federal marshals moved to clear the room, the protestors shouted insults at Kowalchuk, who was standing about 10 feet away.

'Not get away'

"You're a Nazi murderer pig!" yelled Bonnie Pechter Kassof, formerly the head of the local JDL. "You got away with it all this time, but you'll never get away with it now, Mr. Kowalchuk."

Kowalchuk smiled at his opponents. "You're gonna have your day, Kowal-

chuk," she shouted.

Current JDL leader Ed Ramov stood next to Kassof. "Jewish justice means death to all Nazi war criminals, Mr. Kowalchuk," Ramov said. "All Nazi murderers must pay with their lives for what they did."

The government charges that Kowalchuk served with the Ukrainian police during World War II as a deputy commandant in Lubomyl, near the Polish border. The police force, or "schutzmannschaft" as the Nazis called it, was the indigenous security force controlled by the Nazis during their occupation of the Ukraine from 1941 to 1944.

Denies charges

Kowalchuk, who lives in the 200 block of 67th Avenue, has denied both that he belonged to the Ukrainian police and that he lied on his U.S. visa application. His attorney, J.R. Carroll, insists that his client has been the victim of "misidentification" by the eight prosecution witnesses who testified that Kowalchuk had participated in scores of brutalities against Lubomyl Jews.

Carroll's defense opened quietly yesterday. He will not confirm whether he will ask Kowalchuk to take the witness stand, though prosecutors suspect that Kowalchuk will testify in his own behalf.



A 1945 photo shows Nazi victims at the Lager Nordhausen, Germany, camp. UPI photo

PARLEY FOCUSES ON HOLOCAUST

WASHINGTON (UPI) — It was the spring of 1945, shortly after the German surrender in World War II, and representatives of allied nations swept through Nazi concentration camps.

Llewellyn Zullinger of Chambersburg, Pa., was among the liberators. He can remember all too well the sights and smells of dehumanizing horror and human incineration.

"Piles of bodies, starved naked skin and bones," he recalled. "Bodies, stacked like cordwood in a shed near the human incinerator, and sprinkled with quicklime. I went through the camp, taking pictures of the inhuman sights."

Zullinger's remembrances are part of a three-day international conference by camp survivors and some of the soldiers, doctors and correspondents who freed

them.

The first International Liberators Conference, which began yesterday at the State Department, is sponsored by the United States Holocaust Memorial Council.

One of its purposes is to publicize the mass murder of European Jews and other Nazi victims so that the world will not forget or doubt the stories about Adolf Hitler's henchmen, officials said.

Representatives of 13 nations, including the Soviet Union, are scheduled to take part in discussions and proposals for applying the lessons of the Holocaust to

those too young to remember the torture, monstrous experiments and terrible deaths inflicted on Jews and others by the Nazis.

Secretary of State Alexander Haig was to give the opening address.

For the conference, the State Department has turned the meeting rooms into an exhibit hall, with vivid photographs recalling the horror that was uncovered when Allied troops liberated such Nazi concentration camps as Auschwitz, Bergen-Belsen and Buchenwald.

A series of documentary films about the Holocaust will be run continuously in another State Department auditorium.

Council chairman Elie Wiesel, the novelist, Mellon professor of humanities at

Boston University and an authority on the Holocaust, calls the meeting "an extraordinary diplomatic event."

● An elderly St. Petersburg, Fla., man was accused yesterday of being a Nazi sympathizer who helped round up and kill Soviet Jews during the German occupation of Lithuania.

The charges were filed against Jurgis Juodis, 70, in a civil complaint that seeks to strip him of his U.S. citizenship. If convicted, Juodis could be deported.

● Bohdan Kozy, a Polish-American who runs a Fort Lauderdale, Fla., motel, is awaiting a verdict in his non-jury citizenship trial on similar charges. Kozy is accused of killing as many as 10 Jews while working for the Nazis in the occupation of Poland.

Tailor: Never saw slayings

By A. W. GEISELMAN JR.
Of The Bulletin Staff

Serge Kowalchuk took the witness stand yesterday at his denaturalization trial in federal court in Philadelphia and said he had never been a policeman in the Ukraine and had not been involved in, or even seen, atrocities there against the Jews.

Kowalchuk, a Philadelphia tailor, disputed earlier testimony by eight witnesses who said they had seen him in a police commander's uniform, carrying a pistol, brutalizing Jews and other Ukrainians during the German occupation of his home city of Lyuboml during World War II.

"I never saw any mistreatment of Jews," he declared. "I had nothing to do with arresting people."

Kowalchuk, 61, said he was a clerk working in a city government ware-

house during the occupation. He noted that upon occasion he wore a uniform when out on a date but, he added, he never carried a weapon.

Kowalchuk said he wasn't authorized to wear the uniform but put it on once in a while so he wouldn't have to worry about the German-imposed curfew placed on townspeople.

His testimony came on the seventh day of his nonjury trial before U.S. District Judge John P. Fullam on the U.S. Justice Department's effort to strip him of the United States citizenship he received in 1960. He lives in the 200 block of 67th ave. in the Oak Lane section.

The government contends that he lied about his background when he applied for admission to this country. It contends that he didn't reveal that he was Lyuboml District deputy commander as well as town commander of the German-sponsored

Ukrainian National Police Force. Those activities would have disqualified him from entering the United States in 1950, the government said.

Questioned by his lawyer, John Rogers Carroll, Kowalchuk said his warehouse job consisted of "paper work" and distribution of rations, some to Ukrainian police.

He denied contentions by witnesses that on Oct. 1, 1942, at the age of 21, he led Ukrainian police in rounding up the city's 5,000 Jews to be massacred by German soldiers. Testimony from most of the witnesses had been videotaped earlier, some in the Soviet Union.

Kowalchuk said he attended a business school in another city from July 1942 until January 1943 "and never came home for a visit." He said he only "heard about" the mass killings when he was at school.

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.

Tailor helped hang woman, witness says

By A.W. GEISELMAN JR.
Of The Bulletin Staff

A witness testified yesterday that accused Nazi sympathizer Serge Kowalchuk helped to hang a Ukrainian woman, whose body was left for the town's people to see for three days during World War II.

Aleksandr Trofimovich, speaking in Russian on videotape, through a translator, said Kowalchuk was one of five men who hanged the woman. He said he did not know why she was killed.

Kowalchuk, a Philadelphia tailor, is the subject of a denaturalization hearing being held in U.S. District Court in Philadelphia.

The U.S. Justice Department contends that Kowalchuk was commander of police in the town of Lyuboml during the German occupation and was involved in atrocities against Jews and others.

The government wants to strip him of the U.S. citizenship he received in 1960 because, it says, he failed to disclose membership in the German-sponsored Ukrainian National Police Force. Kowalchuk applied for admission to the United

States in 1947, and would have been barred from entering the country if his membership in a pro-Nazi force had been declared.

Kowalchuk, who lives in the 200 block of 67th ave., in Philadelphia's Oak Lane section, has denied the allegations. He said he was not a policeman, but a clerk.

In an interview, Trofimovich described the hanging.

"One of the policemen put the noose over the woman's neck and Kowalchuk kicked the stool out from under the feet of this woman," Trofimovich said.

"Many people saw this woman because she hanged about three or four days."

Trofimovich said the woman was hanged in 1942, in front of a Catholic church in Lyuboml. He said he did not know why she was hanged, but that Kowalchuk, two other Ukrainian policemen and two German soldiers participated in the hanging.

Trofimovich, 54, also said he saw Kowalchuk shoot a Jewish man and woman along a road outside Lyuboml in 1942. The two, he said, were part of a group of Jews being taken by Kowalchuk and policemen under him to a Jewish cemetery for execution.

Kowalchuk escorted many groups of Jews to the place where they were killed by the Germans, the witness said.

"He always had a lash with him," the witness said. "A rubber lash and he beat everybody who bogged down."

Trofimovich said his anti-Fascist father was executed by the Germans in 1943 and that Kowalchuk arrested him.

Trofimovich was the seventh person to testify against Kowalchuk. Testimony from all but one of the witnesses was videotaped.

Trofimovich's interview was taped last January by the Justice Department in Lustk, a Ukrainian city, part of the Soviet Union. It was shown, as were tapes of other government witnesses, on monitors in the courtroom of U.S. District Judge John P. Fullam, who is trying the case without a jury.

George Warren, who as an official for the Displaced Persons Commission, and who approved Kowalchuk's admission to the United States in 1950, testified on videotape that Kowalchuk had twice been cleared by Army counter-intelligence agents.

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P. 33

Witness is confused by pictures

Slow to identify Kowalchuk photo

By Dick Cooper
Inquirer Staff Writer

A man who contended that Serge Kowalchuk beat him with a rubber club in the summer of 1942 hesitated and seemed unsure of himself when he was asked to pick Kowalchuk's photograph from eight shown to him during questioning earlier this year in the Soviet Union, according to a videotape shown by the defense at Kowalchuk's citizenship trial here yesterday.

Despite his detailed account of the beating and other actions he said Kowalchuk had been involved in, Akim Yarmolyuk at first selected the wrong photograph, the videotape showed. He was questioned at length by a Soviet prosecutor before he picked a photograph of Kowalchuk that had been taken in the late 1940s, according to the testimony.

At one point, the Soviet prosecutor offered his eyeglasses to Yarmolyuk, telling him to take his time and look carefully, the videotape showed.

The videotaped testimony by Yarmolyuk, recorded in January, was the first defense evidence in the civil, nonjury trial of Kowalchuk, 61, of 67th Avenue near Second Street. Yarmolyuk, a Ukrainian who lives in the Soviet Union, did not appear at the trial at U.S. District Court here.

The U.S. Justice Department is seeking to have Kowalchuk's American citizenship revoked, contending that he entered the country illegally in 1950 because he did not reveal that he was a member of the Nazi occupation police force in his native Ukraine during World War II.

Kowalchuk has maintained that he was a civil employee of the town of Lyubomyl during the Nazi occupation. He has said he was the victim of mistaken identity.

For a week, Justice Department lawyers played videotapes of Jews and Ukrainians who testified that Kowalchuk was the deputy commander of the occupation police force in the town of Lyubomyl. They said that during the war he took part in herding 5,000 Jews of Lyubomyl from the town to a nearby brickyard, where the Jews were systematically slain by the Nazis. The witnesses all identified Kowalchuk through the same photograph that seemed to confuse Yarmolyuk.

Yarmolyuk said on the videotape that he first saw Kowalchuk in the summer of 1942, when Yarmolyuk was taken to police headquarters in Lyubomyl and questioned about the harboring of escaped Russian prisoners of war.

Yarmolyuk said that the Nazis had tied his feet to a bench and that while he was being beaten, his head had been sat on by Kowalchuk. Kowalchuk suggested, Yarmolyuk said, that pins be shoved under his fingernails. Instead, Yarmolyuk said, his head was beaten by a rubber club wielded by Kowalchuk.

Yarmolyuk testified on the tape that he had been jailed and that in the autumn of 1942 he was forced to dig the long, deep pits at the brickyards that were to be used as mass graves for the Jews.

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Tailor denies any role in Nazi atrocities in the Ukraine

By A. W. GEISELMAN JR.
Of The Bulletin Staff

Serge Kowalchuk took the witness stand yesterday at his denaturalization trial in federal court in Philadelphia and said he had never been a policeman in the Ukraine and had not been involved in, or even seen, atrocities there against the Jews. Kowalchuk, a Philadelphia tailor,

disputed earlier testimony by eight witnesses who said they had seen him in a police commander's uniform, carrying a pistol, brutalizing Jews and other Ukrainians during the German-occupation of his home city of Lyubomyl during World War II.

"I never saw any mistreatment of Jews," he declared. "I had nothing to do with arresting people."

His testimony came on the seventh day of his nonjury trial before U.S. District Judge John P. Fullam on the U.S. Justice Department's effort to strip him of the United States citizenship he received in 1960. He lives in the 200 block of 67th ave. in the Oak Lane section.

The government contends that he lied about his background when he applied for admission to this country. It contends that he didn't reveal that he was Lyubomyl District deputy commander as well as town commander of the German-sponsored Ukrainian National Police Force. Those activities would have disqualified

him from entering the United States in 1950, the government said.

Questioned by his lawyer, John Rogers Carroll, Kowalchuk said his warehouse job consisted of "paper work" and distribution of rations, some to Ukrainian police.

He denied contentions by witnesses that on Oct. 1, 1942, at the age of 21, he led Ukrainian police in rounding up the city's 5,000 Jews to be massacred by German soldiers. Testimony from most of the witnesses had been videotaped earlier, some in the Soviet Union.

Kowalchuk said he attended a business school in another city from

July 1942 until January 1943. He never came home for a visit. He said he only "heard about" the killings when he was at school.

He said he and his family fled westward when the Soviet troops turned in 1944 because his father had been mistreated by the Russians after World War I.

Earlier yesterday, Kowalchuk's brother, Mykola, 56, also a Philadelphia tailor, testified that Serge never been a policeman and had been at the district school at the time of the mass killings. Last June, the government dropped denaturalization proceedings against Mykola after a key witness died.

Kowalchuk denies he was policeman during Nazi reign

By Dick Cooper
Inquirer Staff Writer

Serge Kowalchuk testified yesterday in U.S. District Court here that he was not a police officer during the Nazi occupation of his Ukrainian home town of Lyuboml and was 20 miles away when 5,000 Jews were murdered there.

Kowalchuk said that the only time he wore an officer's uniform during the German occupation of the Ukraine was when he illegally put one on to slip out of his home after curfew.

His testimony contradicted the statements of prosecution witnesses, who testified last week that Kowalchuk was deputy commander of the Ukrainian police in Lyuboml during World War II. The witnesses said they saw Kowalchuk, in an officer's uniform, direct the herding of Jews from a ghetto in Lyuboml to pits outside the town, where they were systematically shot by the Germans. The witnesses testified that they saw Kowalchuk standing with German officials at the edge of the pits during the killings.

Kowalchuk, 61, of 67th Avenue near Second Street, took the witness stand in his defense in his civil, non-jury trial before U.S. District Judge John P. Fullam.

The U.S. Justice Department is seeking to have Kowalchuk's U.S. citizenship revoked on the ground that he failed to reveal his affiliation with the Ukrainian police when he came to the United States after the war. He has not been charged with any war crimes.

As Kowalchuk gave his account of what he did during the war years, about 70 Jews and Ukrainians sat quietly in the courtroom.

He said he had been a tailor's apprentice before the Germans invaded the Ukraine in June 1941 and set up a civilian government in Lyuboml the next month.

The civilian mayor gave Kowalchuk a clerical job in a storehouse, he said. As part of his job, Kowalchuk said, he gave food rations to the local police and occasionally did paper work for them.

In August 1942, he said, he went to a business school in Mitia, about 20 miles from Lyuboml. He said that he

did not return until January 1943.

The Germans murdered the 5,000 Jews from the Lyuboml ghetto Oct. 1, 1942, earlier witnesses testified.

When asked by his lawyer, John Rogers Carroll, how he had learned of the massacre of the Lyuboml Jews, Kowalchuk said, "I heard from the local population [of Mitia]."

After he returned to Lyuboml, he said, he again had a civilian clerical job with the government.

Witnesses had testified that Kowalchuk had worn a finely tailored military uniform when they had seen him directing police activities in the town. Carroll asked him if he had worn a uniform as part of his job.

Kowalchuk said that at work he had worn civilian clothing. He said that the only time he had worn a uniform was when he had stolen one to break curfew one night in Lyuboml.

"I took illegal," he said with a thick accent. "Local people know me, and I took risk."

Witnesses had testified that they saw Kowalchuk flee from Lyuboml with German officials as Russian soldiers advanced toward the town in 1944.

Kowalchuk said that it was his father who had made the decision to take his family west and that it had been out of fear of the Russians, not loyalty to the Germans.

He said that when the Russians occupied the Ukraine from 1939 to 1941, his father was persecuted because he had worked for the town government under the Polish occupation of Lyuboml.

When the Germans took control of Lyuboml in 1941, Kowalchuk said, they found a Russian list of former Polish government employees who were to be imprisoned, and his family was on it.

"If the war had been delayed by two, three weeks, we be in Siberia now," he said.

Kowalchuk said he and his brother, Mykola, had been separated from the rest of their family during their flight to the West, and they had been unable to locate their father, mother and sisters until 1958, when they were found in the Soviet Ukraine.

Kowalchuk was to continue his testimony today.

Oak Lane Man Denies WWII Atrocities

By FRANK DOUGHERTY

Over the past 18 years, Serge Kowalchuk listened in silence when allegations were made that he had helped the Nazis murder 5,000 Ukrainian Jews during World War II. Yesterday, in heavily accented English, Kowalchuk spoke out:

"My job was to supply government employees. I gave out supplies to everyone, including militia," said the 61-year-old Oak Lane tailor who emigrated to Philadelphia in 1950 and has been a naturalized U.S. citizen for 21 years. He denied participating in atrocities committed by the Ukrainian National Police Force, an occupational arm of the Nazi SS.

The nattily dressed tailor branded "untrue" U.S. Justice Department accusations that on October 1, 1942, while a police commandant, he helped the Nazis drive the Jews from the western Ukrainian town of Lyubomyl to a brickyard where they

Liberator recalls Dachau: Page 18

were shot to death. He said he was in a town 25 miles away at the time, studying office procedures.

"IN SUMMER 1942, Germans appointed me to a school for studying secretarial and administrative work," he testified. "I stayed there from August 1942 to early 1943, returning on our Christmas [of the Ukrainian Orthodox faith], which is January 7th."

His denaturalization trial is being heard without a jury before U.S. District Judge John P. Fullam. If Kowalchuk is found to be lying, he would lose his citizenship and face a deportation hearing.

"Did you ever see the Germans do anything to the Jews? Did you personally observe mistreatment?" defense attorney John Rogers Carroll

asked his client. "No," said Kowalchuk, flatly. "I was in my office, working from 8 in the morning, to 5 or 6 at night."

WITNESSES IN videotaped depositions have described Kowalchuk as a brutal policeman. Lyubomyl resident Alexandr Trofimovich testified he saw Kowalchuk shoot two elderly Jews to death during the 1942 brickyard march. Shimone Koret, now living in Israel and one of 30 Jews to survive the massacre, testified Kowalchuk helped the Nazis shoot his brother, Baruch, to death in the garden of their home in 1941. Other witnesses testified he frequently walked around the Lyubomyl central square, dressed in his militia uniform.

Kowalchuk testified yesterday he never owned a uniform, but sometimes borrowed one to violate the law. "If I went out after the 8 p.m. curfew, I would wear the uniform. I took it illegally. If caught, I would

have been arrested." He denied ever carrying a weapon during the 34-month Nazi occupation of the Ukraine. He fled the town with his family in 1944.

EARLIER IN THE DAY, his 56-year-old brother, Mykola, testified Serge never wore a uniform while they were living together in Lyubomyl. "He was a clerk, giving rations to people in civic government. No money was paid. He appropriated only supplies, produce and food."

When asked by Carroll, "Was he ever a policeman?" Mykola Kowalchuk, who now lives on Fern Street near Mascher, said, "No!" He also testified Serge was away in school, "getting more knowledge in secretarial work," in October 1942 when the Jews were massacred in the abandoned brickyard. The trial, now in its second week, is expected to end today. A verdict isn't expected until sometime in 1982.



Serge Kowalchuk takes witness stand

TAILOR DENIES NAZI ACTS

By KEVIN FEELEY

His sonorous, heavily accented baritone ringing through the packed federal courtroom, Serge Kowalchuk declared yesterday that he never saw any atrocities committed against the Jewish residents of his native Lubomyl, and he flatly denied participating in any acts of brutality.

Kowalchuk, 61, a Ukrainian tailor who has lived in Oak Lane since 1950, also denied having been deputy commandant of Lubomyl's Ukrainian police, a security force set up by the Ukraine's Nazi rulers during World War II that aided the Germans in their acts of violence against Ukrainian Jews.

Together with his brother, Mykola Kowalchuk, and two other witnesses presented by defense attorney J.R. Carroll, Kowalchuk insisted that he was not even living in Lubomyl when 5,000 residents of the Jewish ghetto there were "liquidated" in October 1942. All testified that Kowalchuk had been sent

to a Ukrainian business school from August 1942 to January 1943 to learn clerical duties.

Upon his return, they said, Kowalchuk worked as a bookkeeper and clerk for the Ukrainian police.

Kowalchuk did admit, however, that while serving as a clerk in a food distribution center for city employees in Lubomyl, he managed to steal a police uniform in 1941 and that he occasionally wore the uniform on dates to avoid being caught for breaking the Nazi-imposed curfew.

"Usually I was in civilian

clothes," said Kowalchuk, who testified that he left Lubomyl for good in 1944, "but this uniform I took illegally . . . I took risks."

"He was never a policeman at anytime," said Mykola Kowalchuk, 56, an Olney resident who was himself the focus of a war crimes probe until 1979.

"My job was tailoring," Serge Kowalchuk testified, adding that his work at the distribution center was part-time. When Carroll asked if he had ever observed acts of brutality against Jews, Kowalchuk replied: "No."

Asked if he knew about the Nazis' extermination of the



Jews, Kowalchuk answered, "Yeah, I heard about it . . . I think it was in October."

The Oak Lane tailor's testimony, which continues today before U.S. District Judge John Fullam, is expected to be the last in the emotional eightday denaturalization hearing.

A REMEMBRANCE OF HORRORS PAST

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The soldiers who liberated Adolf Hitler's infamous death camps recalled in voices of sadness and outrage yesterday the horrors they witnessed, and defied anyone to doubt the carnage of 6 million Jews.

Soviets and Americans, Canadians and Poles, Frenchmen and Jews vividly described what they found 36 years ago when they opened the gates of Auschwitz, Bergen-Belsen, Dachau and other death camps where German troops imposed Hitler's "final solution" on Europe's Jews.

The liberators joined with survivors of the Nazi camps attending a conference at the State Department in an appeal to the world to guard against a repeat of the slaughter.

To a retired Soviet general, this means a nuclear holocaust as well.

"We must do our best to prevent another catastrophe, especially that of nuclear missiles," said Maj. Gen. Alexei Kirillovich Gorlinsky.

The conference was called by the United States Holocaust Memorial Council, which Congress established last year to

memorialize the 6 million Jews who perished in World War II.

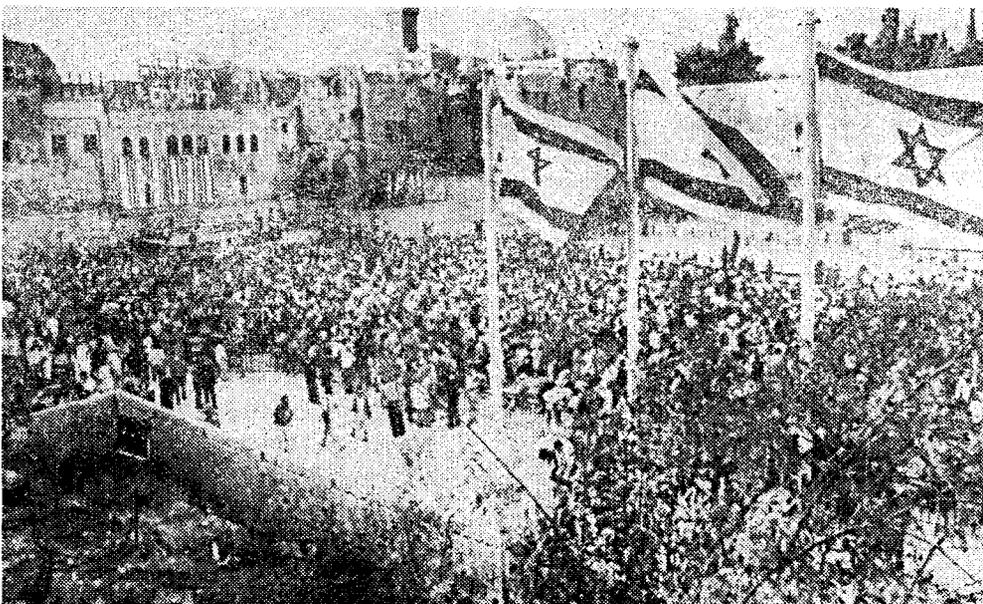
Lt. Gen. William Quinn, now retired and living in Washington, was an intelligence officer in the 7th Army that liberated Dachau. He arranged within hours for Army photographers and writers to record the scene.

"People decry the fact of Dachau," Quinn said, his voice rising. "It is as if there were no San Francisco earthquake, no great Chicago fire.

"These people are either not reading their history or they are trying to change it."

Gorlinsky took part in the liberation of Terezin, a debarkation center in Czechoslovakia for 88,196 prisoners who were taken to death camps and 33,529 who died in the prison ghetto.

Recalling the historic meeting of Soviet troops with advance units of the American 1st Army at the Elbe River in Germany on April 21, 1945, he said, "This



Holocaust survivors gathered in Jerusalem last June for a memorial service.

UPI photo

symbolized U.S.-Soviet military cooperation. We spoke the same language — cooperation.

"Soviet war veterans still have faith in the spirit of the Elbe River. It is important that U.S.

Soviet cooperate for peace."

Alan Rose of Montreal was a tank sergeant when he helped liberate Bergen-Belsen near Hanover, Germany, in July 1943.

"No human being then could

conceive, at least not a 20-year-old, of what we saw," he said. "It was littered with people who had once been human beings. We saw mankind's inhumanity."

Tailor admits making police duty list

By A. W. GEISELMAN JR.
Of The Bulletin Staff

Serge Kowalchuk, the Philadelphia tailor accused of being an official in the Nazi-sponsored Ukrainian police during World War II, acknowledged in federal court yesterday that he made up the duty roster for police in his home city of Lyuboml.

But, he said during his second day of testimony at his denaturalization trial, he was only a civilian secretary who was not involved in police work.

He said he was just following the orders of the police commandant in making police assignments. Some of these policemen, he acknowledged, guarded the Jewish ghetto in Lyuboml.

Kowalchuk repeated his denial that he had been involved in atrocities

against Jews and had ever seen them mistreated.

The testimony came during cross-examination by Assistant U.S. Attorney John E. Riley, who is in charge of the government's case against Kowalchuk.

The Justice Department is trying to strip Kowalchuk, 61, of his United States citizenship, alleging that he concealed his membership in the Ukrainian police when he applied for admission to this country in 1949. Some witnesses described him as deputy district police commander, while others said he was town commander.

U.S. District Judge John P. Fullam, who is hearing the case without a jury adjourned proceedings for from 10 days to two weeks to give Kowalchuk's lawyer, John Rogers Carroll, an opportunity to find addi-

tional defense witnesses. The trial began Oct. 19.

Kowalchuk admitted yesterday that he was untruthful when, in 1947, he told the International Refugee Commission that his wartime occupation was tailor's apprentice and when he said he was from the Ukrainian city of Kremianec, nearly 200 miles from Lyuboml.

He said he lied to protect his family who, he said, may have been persecuted by the Soviets if they learned he had been a civilian working for the Ukrainian police.

The government contends that Kowalchuk repeated and verified this false information two years later when he applied for a visa to enter the United States. Membership in the Ukrainian police would have disqualified him from admission, the

government contends.

Kowalchuk testified that after the Germans arrived in his hometown, he at first was only a part-time secretary for the Ukrainian police while spending the rest of his time working in a city warehouse.

Eventually, he said, he became a full-time secretary at the police headquarters in Lyuboml. He said he had his own office there but no authority and he did mostly paper work and typing for the police commander.

During direct examination by Carroll on Tuesday, Kowalchuk disputed testimony by eight government witnesses that he was a commander of a police detachment that had taken part in the massacre by German troops of the city's 5,000 Jews on Oct. 1, 1942.

ACCUSED WAR CRIMINAL SAYS TALES ARE FALSE



By KEVIN FEELEY

Accused war criminal Serge Kowalchuk had an answer yesterday to the allegations — pressed by the U.S. Justice Department — that as a Ukrainian police commandant, he helped the Nazis brutalize Jews in the Ukrainian town of Lubomyl.

"It's false," said Kowalchuk, 61, who has lived in Oak Lane since 1950. "It's all fabricated."

His testimony, together with that of a Ukrainian dissident and a string of character witnesses called in his behalf, brought Kowalchuk's denaturalization hearing — being heard by U.S. District Court Judge John Fullam — to a close temporarily.

Defense attorney J.R. Carroll yesterday requested and got a two-week delay in the hearing to arrange the testimony of at least

that Kowalchuk lied about his wartime activities on his U.S. visa application by neglecting to mention his service in the Ukrainian police force, which was set up by the Nazis during the German occupation of the Ukraine from 1941-44.

Kowalchuk yesterday denied ever having participated in any Nazi atrocities against the Jews, and likewise insisted that he never served as a Ukrainian police official.

Instead, Kowalchuk said that during the Nazi occupation he worked part-time as a city employee, charged with the task of distributing food to city workers.

The rest of his workday, he said, was spent as a secretary/clerk in his private office — one of three such offices in the building — at Lubomyl's Ukrainian police station, where he typed up police patrol schedules and served as a bookkeeper.

Under cross-examination by Asst. U.S. Attorney John Reilly, who asked whether he had ever seen any Jews arrested or brutalized by Ukrainians in Lubomyl, Kowalchuk replied, "Not in my knowledge. . . . No Jews were brought into (the police station) under arrest."

If Jews violated the curfew or otherwise slipped out of the ghetto and were caught by the Ukrainian police, Kowalchuk said, "they just returned them to the ghetto."

Later, a defense witness named Nina Strokata-Koramvaska, a Ukrainian microbiologist who immigrated to the U.S. in 1979 after being convicted of "anti-Soviet activity" for her advocacy of an independent Ukraine, testified that the Russians are "without question" trying to discredit Ukrainian independence movements all over the world.



UPI photo

The United States Holocaust Memorial Council listens to correspondent Fred Friendly in Washington.

U.S. COUNCIL PLEDGES HOLOCAUST WILL STAY IN WORLD'S MEMORY

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Survivors of World War death camps and their children joined with American, Soviet and other Allied liberators yesterday in pledging to keep fresh the memory of the Holocaust so there will never be another.

Romanian-born novelist Elie Wiesel, chairman of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council, denounced those who questioned if there was a Holocaust and thus softened the history of Nazi Germany's extermination of 6 million Jews.

Those who doubt there was an Auschwitz or Dachau, he said, are "morally disturbed."

Wiesel was joined by a Soviet general who remembered the loss of 20 million of his countrymen in World War II. Lt. Gen. Pavel Danilovich Gudz

said more than 100 Soviet Jews won the Hero of Lenin award for valor in the defense of their homeland.

"This tragedy can never be repeated," Gudz said through an interpreter. "It can be done by an exchange of delegations, by documents that show undoubtedly that we have clear answers."

The conference brought together Jews who survived Adolf Hitler's death camps in Germany and Poland with allied soldiers and generals who liberated them in the spring of 1945.

Underlying the horrors they described was concern that the world may gradually forget the Holocaust. To Wiesel this would be the ultimate tragedy.



Journal photo by Bob North
SERGE KOWALCHUK

one other unnamed defense witness.

Accusations

Kowalchuk, a tailor by trade, is said to have beaten, shot, and otherwise brutalized the Jewish community of his native Lubomyl, a tiny town near the Polish border, during World War II. He is also said to have aided the Nazis in their "liquidation" of Lubomyl's Jewish ghetto on October 1, 1942.

The government has charged

Kowalchuk testifies he concealed truth to protect family

By Dick Cooper
Inquirer Staff Writer

Serge Kowalchuk testified here yesterday that he had given refugee workers in Austria false information about his occupation and home during World War II to protect his family in the Soviet Union, not to hide any role in the Nazi persecution of Jews in his native Ukraine.

Kowalchuk testified during his denaturalization trial in U.S. District Court here that after the war he had been afraid that Soviet officials would find out he worked part time as a clerk for both the Ukrainian police and the Lyuboml town government during the German occupation, from 1941 to 1944. Therefore, he said, he told them he was a tailor in another Ukrainian town during that period.

He said that when Soviet troops occupied the Ukraine from 1939 to 1941, they shipped all the officials from the former Polish administration of Lyuboml and their families to Siberia. The Soviet Union took control of the town in 1944.

Soviet officials had access to the information given to Allied refugee workers after the war, and his father, mother and two sisters were then believed to be in Soviet-controlled Eastern Europe, he said.

"I was afraid for my family," he said. "Everyone who worked for the city government the Soviets can per-

secute."

Kowalchuk, 61, of 67th Avenue and Second Street, has been accused by the U.S. Justice Department of failing to reveal his affiliation with the Ukrainian police force during the Nazi occupation when he applied to come to the United States after the war.

There have been eight days of testimony in the nonjury trial before Judge John P. Fullam. During the first six days, federal attorneys pre-

sented witnesses who said that Kowalchuk had been a deputy commander of the Ukrainian police in Lyuboml. Several of the witnesses said they had seen him in an officer's uniform, leading other Ukrainian police as they herded 5,000 Jews to pits outside the town, where they were shot by Germans in October 1942.

Kowalchuk said yesterday that he was shocked when the allegations against him were printed in a Soviet

magazine in 1963.

"It caught me by surprise — like thunder from heaven," he said.

When asked by his attorney, John Rogers Carroll, if he had ever been involved in any persecution of Jews in Lyuboml, he said, "That is false, total fabrication."

Under questioning by Assistant U.S. Attorney John E. Riley, Kowalchuk said he had had one of three private offices in Lyuboml police headquarters. However, he said, he

had been given the office because he was the secretary for the police, not because he had any command power. He said the other two private offices had been those of the chief of police and his deputy.

Riley also questioned Kowalchuk about his testimony Tuesday that he had not worn a uniform as part of his job but that he had worn a uniform illegally to break curfew.

He said that the uniform was his old Boy Scout uniform and that it

looked like the Polish Army uniforms that the Ukrainian police wore.

"I was a Boy Scout, like in America the Eagle [Scout]," he said.

Kowalchuk said all his functions for the police had been clerical. He said he had prepared work schedules that assigned officers to patrol duties, including patrols in the ghetto. He added that he had typed the schedules from information that had been given to him by the police chief.

Philadelphia Inquirer Oct 29, 1981 p4B

Ukrainian police not on blacklist, official says

By EDWARD N. EISEN
Of The Bulletin Staff

The head of the Displaced Persons Commission for the British who served in Hamburg, Germany, during World War II testified in U.S. District Court yesterday that Serge Kowalchuk's Ukrainian police was not listed among organizations

whose members were banned from entry into the United States.

Kowalchuk, 61, is the Philadelphia tailor accused of being an official in the Nazi-sponsored Ukrainian police during World War II. Kowalchuk claims he was 20 miles away when 5,000 Jewish people were murdered in his home town of Lyuboml.

Prosecution witness Abraham P. Connan — the final witness to testify — said the list used by his commission to determine members of organizations who should be excluded from U.S. entry, was only used as a guideline.

He maintained that the list was not exclusive. Those not on the list could also be kept out of the United

States, he said.

The nonjury trial started last October before U.S. District Judge John P. Fullam, who set Jan. 18 for closing arguments.

The Justice Department, which brought the case to trial after a series of suits by the Jewish Defense League, is trying to strip Kowalchuk of his United States citizenship. It has alleged that he concealed his membership in the Ukrainian police when he applied for admission to this country in 1949.

Some witnesses described him as deputy police commander while others claimed he was town commander.

Kowalchuk has disputed testimony by eight government witnesses that he was a commander of a police detachment that had taken part in the massacre by German troops of thousands of Jewish people on Oct. 1, 1942.

Kowalchuk has admitted that he lied when he told an International Refugee Commission that his wartime occupation was tailor's apprentice in a city 200 miles from his hometown of Lyuboml.

He said he lied to protect his family, who, he said, may have been persecuted by the Soviets if they learned he had been a civilian working for the Ukrainian police.



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Did Tailor Help Nazis In the War?

By JIM SMITH

U.S. District Judge John P. Fullam has begun considering whether to revoke the citizenship of Serge Kowalchuk, an Oak Lane tailor accused of helping the Nazis murder 5,000 Soviet Jews during World War II.

Attorneys completed arguments yesterday in the case, in which federal prosecutors contend that Kowalchuk failed to disclose he was a deputy commandant of the Ukrainian National Police in the village of Lyubomyl when 5,000 Jews were slaughtered there in October 1942.

If convicted of lying when he entered the U.S., Kowalchuk would lose his citizenship and face a deportation hearing.

KOWALCHUK, 61, has maintained he merely served as a clerk for the wartime police in Lyubomyl, distributing food and doing paperwork. He has denied any personal knowledge of atrocities committed by the police, an occupational arm of the Nazi SS.

During a non-jury trial last fall, the U.S. Justice Department played eight videotaped depositions, recorded in the Soviet Union, in which witnesses now living in the Ukraine and Israel described Kowalchuk as a brutal policeman who had murdered both Ukrainians and Jews.

Kowalchuk, however, says he was attending business school 20 miles away from Lyubomyl.

DURING THE TRIAL, he admitted he had lied about his World War II background in 1947, while he was living in a displaced persons camp in Austria, claiming to have worked as a tailor far from Lyubomyl. But he said that was because he feared that the Russians might harm members of his family still living in the Ukraine if they learned of his work for the Germans.

The Justice Department charges that Kowalchuk lied about the killings when he came to the U.S. in 1950 and again when he became a citizen in 1960. Charges about his wartime activities first appeared in 1963 in Trud, a Soviet trade union journal.

"These charges are all lies spread about me by the Russians," Kowalchuk has said. "I am anti-Communist and have always been, and because of this, the Russians smear me with lies and accuse me of killing Jews. It is not true."

NE Jewish Group Seeks Ruling on Kowalchuk Case

by Alan Jaffe

Jewish Times Associate Editor

A group of Northeast Jewish activists held a press conference last Thursday night to publicize the fact that a ruling has not yet been handed down on the denaturalization trial of Serge Kowalchuk, a 61-year-old Oak Lane tailor who has been accused by the U.S. Justice Department of concealing his participation in the Nazi-controlled Ukrainian militia when he entered the U.S. and obtained his citizenship.

Under the auspices of a newly formed organization, the Society to Prevent a Future Holocaust, which spokesmen said consist of 250 members, some of whom are survivors of the Nazi death camps, the group met in the home of Yaakov Riz, 1453 Levick St. Riz is the founder and curator of a Holocaust museum located in the basement of his home.

NORMAN YANOFF, chairperson of the committee that met last week, said the group was asking U.S. District Court Judge John P. Fullam, who presided over the

hearings, to rule on the Kowalchuk case without any further delay.

The trial of Kowalchuk began Oct. 19, 1981, and proceeded for approximately four weeks (including the two week extension requested by the defense). The case for the prosecution consisted of testimony from 10 witnesses, including several who survived the annihilation of the 5000 Jews of Lyuboml conducted by the Nazis and the Ukrainian militia in 1942.

THE WITNESSES, some of whom appeared via videotapes made in the Soviet Union and Israel, said Kowalchuk was an officer in the Ukrainian police and that he participated in the mass execution and other atrocities against the Jewish population of the village. The defense maintained that Kowalchuk only served as a clerk for the indigenous police force and was not in the town at the time of the mass murders.

If Kowalchuk is found guilty, he will be stripped of his American citizenship and may face deportation proceedings.

In a similar denaturalization trial held in 1980, Wolo-

dymir Osidach, a Logan man who was 76, was found guilty of falsifying information on his emigration documents by District Court Judge Louis Bechtle. Judge Bechtle handed down his 109-page statement around two months after the conclusion of that trial. Osidach died shortly after the guilty verdict was delivered.

At last week's press conference in the Northeast, Yanoff said his group wanted to show Judge Fullam that the Jewish community has not forgotten about the case. He also said the Society to Prevent a Future Holocaust has sent approximately 60 letters to Judge Fullam asking for a prompt, guilty verdict.

"WE WANT SERGE KOWALCHUK found guilty. We want Serge Kowalchuk out of the United States. Judge Fullam, now is the time to act," Yanoff said.

Michael Berlin, a Northeast resident who was a child when he was liberated from the Auschwitz concentration camp, said at the press conference that the delay has made him question the effectiveness of the American judicial system and that he has lost faith in it.