

Trail of a Nazi Slaughter Leads to Phila.

By FRANK DOUGHERTY

ak Lane tailor Serge Kowalchuk been charged with participating he slaughter of 5,000 Ukrainian s during World War II in sworn ements obtained by the Daily vs.

he statements were supplied by a red U.S. Immigration and Natu- zation Service field investigator 3 obtained them on a recent trip he Soviet Union.

NE OF THE WITNESSES, all of om are Soviet citizens, watched as walchuk, now 57, allegedly ped into a pit filled with pro- le Jews and began shooting the ed people with his pistol during a kyard slaughter in the Ukra- n village of Lyubomyl.

wo others swore they saw Kowal- k shoot to death an elderly Jew- man and woman during a barba- is march to the brickyard in 1942.

I witnessed when Serge Kowal- ik, in the fall of 1942, personally t with his pistol an old man and man who were being convoyed, ong many other citizens of Jewish onality, to the place where they re then shot," said Joseph A. hotnitsky, who lives in Lyubomyl.

ther witnesses described Kowal- uk as the deputy commandant of rainian National (Nazi occupa- nal) Police, a man who never eared in public without his pistol a whip. Kowalchuk, according e witness, "was known to Lyub- l residents as a cruel cutthroat, a ndit and an organizer of the ar- ts and shootings of Soviet Jews."

owalchuk recently denied the arges in a telephone interview th the Daily News. His comments d been solicited in a registered ter sent to his home. One week o yesterday, his home on 67th Ave. ar 2d St. was picketed by the mili- t Jewish Defense League.

"The charges are all lies spread out me by the Russians," Kowal- uk said in heavily accented En- ish. "I am anti-Communist and ve always been and because of is, the Russians smear me with lies d accuse me of killing the Jews. It not true."

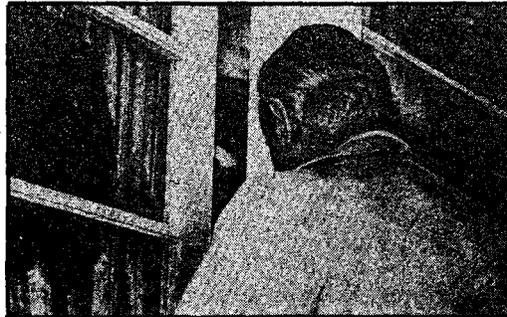
Kowalchuk, however, refused to scuss specific charges.

KOWALCHUK AND HIS brother, ykola, 52, who also was accused of ar crimes, were Lyubomyl natives.



Map shows Lyubomyl on Polish-Ukrainian border, scene of alleged atrocities

"I saw Kowalchuk ... shooting the prostrate Jews from his pistol"
— The witnesses talk on Page 18



Mrs. Kowalchuk accepts papers from U.S. Marshal Edward Schaeffer advising of denaturalization proceedings against her husband

The village, a tanning, flour-milling and sawmill center in the Soviet Ukraine, has bounced back and forth between Polish and Russian control for 600 years. It was part of Poland until the end of World War II.

Serge Kowalchuk fled the Ukraine

in 1944 in the face of advancing Red Army troops. He took refuge in a West German displaced persons camp where he remained until 1949, the year he emigrated to the U.S. He lives in his Oak Lane home with his wife, Lydia, also a Ukraine emigrant,

and their son.

Reports of the Kowalchuk brothers' alleged wartime activities first surfaced in 1963 in Trud, a Soviet Union trade newspaper printed in Moscow. The story also was carried in the Daily News and The New York

Times.

There was no mention of Mykola Kowalchuk's name in the Soviet documents supplied to the Daily News, nor was further information on his activities available.

In 1975, Serge Kowalchuk told a U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service investigator he lived in Lyubomyl from 1933-44 and admitted to wearing the Ukrainian National Police uniform. But, according to the INS affidavit, he denied participating in war crimes.

IN JANUARY 1977, the INS filed suit to revoke the Kowalchuks' citizenship, charging them with lying about their World War II past when they entered America. The affidavit accompanying the civil law suit, signed by Dale S. Page, regional INS counsel, listed 11 specific war-crime charges against Serge, naturalized in 1960, and three against Mykola, a citizen since 1966. The Lyubomyl massacre was included in the INS case.

One former INS official told the Daily News, "Serge's file (on war crimes) is one of the most extensive the INS has."

The INS can only try the brothers for allegedly making false statements about their World War II backgrounds. The U.S. Government cannot try individuals for war crimes allegedly committed in foreign countries.

"It's a case of whether or not they misrepresented themselves at time of entry in this country and at their naturalization," said Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert Forster, who refused to discuss specifics of the case, as did INS officials in Washington.

The INS suit against the Kowalchuk brothers was to be heard before U.S. District Court Judge John P. Fullam. Forster said he had no idea when that would happen. One source said it could be six months to a year because of the turmoil in the U.S. attorney's office here after David Marston's firing.

In the event the Kowalchuks lose their citizenship, they would face a deportation hearing. If ordered deported, the brothers would have to find a country to accept them. The Soviet Union was seeking to prosecute them for alleged war crimes, but since the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. have no extradition treaty, they would not be compelled to return to the Ukraine.

War-Crime Suspect on Nazi Cop List

By FRANK DOUGHERTY

The name of a Philadelphia man under federal investigation for allegedly sending 14,000 Polish Jews to their deaths in 1942 has turned up on a list of World War II Nazi occupational police received by the Daily News.

Logan resident Wolodymyr Osidach denied, however, that he was ever a police chief in Nazi-occupied Poland when the Daily News, in an exclusive report last December, identified him as the subject of a

special investigation by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service.

OSIDACH, 73, TOLD a reporter, "I was never chief of police — I had nothing to do with police."

According to the documents turned over to the Daily News by a retired INS field inspector, Osidach was a police officer in 1942, and by 1943 was a police chief with 10 men under his command. He was paid 20 German occupational marks a month for his work.

Two Israeli witnesses told the Daily News last November that Osidach was a Ukrainian police commander in the ghetto slave labor camp at Rawa Ruska, a section of southeastern Poland annexed by the Soviet Union in 1945.

There was no known evidence, however, that Osidach personally committed atrocities.

Osidach was among 80 persons in the U.S. under investigation by the INS for allegedly lying about their wartime activities when they en-

tered this country. After his arrival in Philadelphia from a West German displaced persons' camp in 1949, Osidach moved to Logan and went to work in a slaughterhouse. He became a naturalized American citizen in 1963.

Osidach did admit to INS investigators that he had been in Rawa Ruska during World War II. He claimed he worked as a carpenter. He said he only cooperated with police as an interpreter, translating Ukrainian and Polish for German officers.



Wolodymyr Osidach: investigated



German troops round up Polish Jews: "... the doomed people were ordered ... to get undressed and stark naked, were forced down the pits ..."

Serge Kowalchuk Portrayed as Murderer

Following statements charge Lyubomir Kowalchuk with a Nazi collaborator who robbed Polish Jews while serving as a commandant of police in the village of Lyubomyl during World War II. They were taken sworn statements given to war crimes investigators by citizens. Kowalchuk, whom victims would like to prosecute for crimes, has denied the allega-

losii Z. Konuru, 67, a resident village of Pechora, who served Lyubomyl police force: "In the Jewish ghetto in Lyubomyl fall of 1942, all the Jews were up in several columns and ordered) ... toward the place shootings ... Serge Kowalchuk participated in the conveying of Jews ... the Jews were ordered to get undressed at a short distance from several large pits ... Taking part in the shooting were several Germans guarding the pits, I saw Kowalchuk descend one of the pits, ordering the prostrate Jews from his (Several) policemen followed Kowalchuk's example and volunteered to shoot the Jews from their ..."

Anders S. Trofimovich, 51, a Lyubomyl resident. He and Serge Kowalchuk were schoolmates: "Serge Kowalchuk was ... directly involved in the arrests, tortures and deaths of Soviet citizens and was the command of almost all the punishments in Lyubomyl ... being in charge of the escorting the doomed ghetto inmates, Kowalchuk ... shot with his pistol ... a man and an old woman

— who, exhausted, could walk no further. Like I said, it happened before my very eyes ..."

Joseph A. Okhotnitsky, 72, a Lyubomyl resident:

"I witnessed when Serge Kowalchuk, in the fall of 1942, personally shot with his pistol an old man and woman who were being convoyed, among many other citizens of Jewish nationality, to the place where they were then shot. It happened on the crossing of Red Army and Border Guard Sts."

Boris Trachtenberg, 71, one of the few Jewish residents of Lyubomyl to survive the brickyard massacre:

"In November 1941, Kowalchuk,

together with a number of policemen, burst into my apartment ... Kowalchuk beat me with his whip and fists. On the eve of the shooting, the police chased the Jews into the brickyard where they were forced to dig the pits ... Only a few people escaped their death. I escaped mine when I hid down a cellar and, by sheer chance, wasn't discovered by the policeman ..."

Demyan M. Fedchuk, 66, a resident of the town of Prokopievsk. He served with Lyubomyl police:

"Serge Kowalchuk ... was a diligent servitor of the Germans, ambitious and quite arrogant ... Police Commandant (Joseph) Prikazyuk and his deputy Kowalchuk often

visited the ghetto. They robbed the Jews, taking away their jewelry and other valuable belongings ..."

"The doomed people were ordered by the Germans to get undressed and, stark naked, were forced down the pits (in the brickyard) in groups of five or six people ... While the shooting was going on, Serge Kowalchuk and we policemen stood around the pits, guarding the Jews."

Alexander Satsyuk, 64, a Lyubomyl police officer during the Nazi occupation:

"After the ghetto was formed in Lyubomyl in 1941 ... Prikazyuk and Kowalchuk ordered their policemen to guard the ghetto ... Police guards were instructed to shoot on the spot whoever would attempt to escape ... The Soviet inmates of the ghetto suffered dreadful living conditions, lacking fresh water, fuel and foodstuffs. People there were literally starving."

Mrs. Zilia M. Zuckerman, 68, a Jewish Lyubomyl resident. She hid in a pile of garbage during the brickyard massacre:

"In the fall of 1942, early in the morning, the policemen surrounded the ghetto and set to chasing Jewish tenants out of their homes ... All of us realized our death had come ... I was fortunate enough to run away, but ... was (later) arrested ... with other Jews who tried to hide from the police ... Serge Kowalchuk visited us several times. We pleaded with him to let us free, but he wouldn't listen. During one such visit, he unlocked all the rooms and ordered all the inmates to walk out in the corridor, leaving whatever valuable belongings they had ..."

She then took advantage of the

general confusion, stole into the yard and hid in a garbage can. Kowalchuk watched from that vantage point and watched the less fortunate go to slaughter. She left her place at nightfall, ran to the village and hid until liberation by the Red Army 18 months later ..."

Akim Yarmolnyuk, 56, a resident of the village of Zgorany, Lyubomyl. Kowalchuk tortured him in a station after his arrest in 1942:

"... The Germans and Kowalchuk started torturing me ... Kowalchuk sat on my head ... the German whipping me until I fainted. It was then Serge Kowalchuk hit me severely on my face. Three of them started beating me again, hitting my back, but other parts of the body with sticks. I would also like to tell you about the fall of 1942, when the Germans, with their police, were cringing Soviet Jews ... in the Lyubomyl, Serge Kowalchuk actively participated ..."

Kuzma S. Kozel, 76, a resident of the village of Skiby:

"Most people (Jews) in the columns were women, elderly children ... Both mothers and children were weeping ... they (beat) them with clubs and butts ... Near the brickyard, police circled the site ... I lowered (was) something I had before — a dreadful mass of Soviet citizens."

"While some of the victims were being shot, others stood by, stripped and awaiting their fate. As the shooting began, the started shouting ... weeping and pleading with the policemen to spare nobody ..."

Documents Obtained in U.S.S.R.

The information in this Daily News special report was obtained from a former U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service investigator who acquired the documents during a recent trip behind the Iron Curtain.

The source, who requested the Daily News not reveal his name, spent three weeks in the U.S.S.R. and 10 days in Poland earlier this year. He returned to the U.S. with a suitcase filled with copies of official documents relating to war crimes committed in Eastern Europe.

The original documents are on file in U.S.S.R. archives. The Daily News has copies of the documents pertaining to Serge Kowalchuk in the original Russian, along with an English translation provided by the Soviet

Union.

THE SOURCE TOLD the Daily News all the witnesses were alive and in good health, mentally and physically. He said Soviet officials had told him they would permit Soviet witnesses to testify in U.S. trials and deportation hearings.

"I specifically asked if the witnesses would be permitted to travel to America. The Soviets replied 'absolutely,'" the source told a Daily News reporter in the living room of his New York State home.

He said, "Memories of Nazi atrocities are still vivid in the U.S.S.R.," a nation that lost 20 million people and 75,000 villages during the savage fighting on the Eastern Front.