

# Local News

Wednesday, April 24, 1985

The Miami Herald

Section D



**Konrads Kalejs: World War II photo.**

## Captured Nazi fugitive wealthy man, U.S. says

By **FABIOLA SANTIAGO**  
*Herald Staff Writer*

Konrads Kalejs, a former Nazi commander accused of murdering thousands of Jews in Soviet forests and villages during World War II, has lived in expensive homes in Fort Lauderdale and St. Petersburg — often among unsuspecting Holocaust survivors.

The elderly fugitive, who was arrested Friday, is "quite wealthy," Justice Department attorney Jeffrey Mausner said Tuesday. Kalejs' attorney says

Kalejs simply built a "nest egg for his old age."

Kalejs, who will be 72 in June, has \$300,000 in certificates of deposit. He also owns, with a woman he has lived with for years, two luxury condominiums in Fort Lauderdale, a home in St. Petersburg and another in Winnetka, a Chicago suburb.

In a small immigration courtroom Tuesday at the Krome Avenue detention camp in West Dade, where Kalejs has been in

*Please turn to NAZI / 2D*

# Judge refuses to release Nazi on bond

NAZI/from ID

isolation since his arrest at a Miami Beach hotel, he wore a Krome-issue orange jumpsuit.

He sat quietly through the hour-long bond hearing, his arms tightly folded against his chest as an affidavit of his alleged crimes was handed to a judge.

Immigration Judge Keith Williams denied Kalejs bond.

"If he is released ... he may go underground again," Williams said.

The Justice Department says Kalejs directed and participated in the destruction of a village in Latvia, his homeland, after he joined the German army during the early months of Nazi occupation.

Kalejs became a first lieutenant and company commander of the Arajs Kommando, which "murdered thousands of Jewish men, women and children in the forests surrounding Riga," a Latvian seaport city, in 1941 and 1942, the affidavit says. Latvia, now one of the Soviet Union's 15 republics, is on the eastern shore of the Baltic Sea.

Kalejs' New York attorney, Ivars Berzins, called the allegations "hearsay" and said he

will appeal Tuesday's ruling.

Immigration and Naturalization Service officials want to deport Kalejs for lying about his past when he arrived in the United States as a legal resident in 1959. He said then that he was a farmhand in Latvia, Nurmuiza and Talsi from 1941 to 1944. A sister who has since died had petitioned for him to travel here.

INS wants to deport Kalejs to his country of citizenship, Australia. An Australian official in Washington said the country probably will accept him, simply because he is a citizen. Australian embassy spokesman Herschel Hurst said it is uncertain if any legal action would be taken against Kalejs.

The U.S. government had issued a warrant for Kalejs' arrest in February, after he failed to appear at a deportation hearing in Miami.

Austra Kalnins, Kalejs' "longtime associate and friend," was arrested in Chicago Thursday and charged with harboring a fugitive. Kalejs was arrested Friday night at the Rosemary Apartments, 8118 Harding Ave.

U.S. marshals who traced Kalejs' cross-country travels through bank and credit card transactions and telephone records say he has lived for the past 26 years among Latvian immigrants in Florida and Chicago.

Kalejs is a retired engineer, according to attorney Berzins, and receives an undisclosed amount of Social Security benefits.

He has only one relative in the United States, a nephew who "doesn't like him," said Mausner, the Justice Department attorney.

Broward County property records show that Kalejs and Kalnins own two expensive apartments in the Sea Ranch Club, a luxury condominium development in Fort Lauderdale.

They bought unit 601 in Building A, 5100 N. Ocean Blvd., in 1976. The value of the \$64,000 unit has since risen to \$110,390. The apartment is leased to an elderly woman, said Eugene Hudak, the building manager.

The building has a sizable Jewish population, Hudak said. Few residents knew about Kalnins and Kalejs. "They would probably try to burn down that apartment," Hudak said.

Kalnins and Kalejs also are listed as owners of unit 1105 in Building B, 5000 N. Ocean Dr., though manager Roland Morrow said Kalejs is not on the deed. According to records, they bought the unit in 1979 for \$99,000. It now is worth \$139,720.

*Herald Staff Writer Paul Shannon contributed to this report.*

# 'Bad advice' drove Nazi collaborator into hiding, kin says

MARILYN A. MOORE  
Miami News Reporter

The nephew of an accused Nazi war criminal says his uncle took "bad advice" from the close-knit Latvian community in going underground and evading U.S. authorities for more than a year apparently so that he could search for witnesses to testify on his behalf.

Juris Putnins, the only close relative of Konrads Kalejs who lives in the United States, also said that his uncle lied to immigration authorities about his military past in wartime Latvia, but doubts that he participated in atrocities.

"It's very hard to believe," said Putnins, 41, who owns a data processing and consulting firm in Milwaukee. "He's always been a very good uncle. I know war creates a lot of difficult situations. I think things can be overdramatized and distortions can occur."

Kalejs, 71, arrested in Miami Beach last week on immigration charges, is being held without bond at the Krome Avenue detention camp. U.S. prosecutors say that Kalejs admitted to them that he was an officer with the Arajs Kommando, a police unit supervised by the Nazi German SS in Latvia during World War II. U.S. officials say that the unit was responsible for exterminating "racially undesirable" Jews, Gypsies and other civilian Latvians.

Putnins said U.S. officials have told him the allegations that led to Kalejs' arrest originally came from the Soviet Union, which recaptured the small Balkan state of Latvia from the Germans at the end of the war.

"One has to look at the source of this information, and the source is the Soviet Union," Putnins said. "Latvia today is a puppet of the Soviet Union. I question the entire validity of anything that's provided by the Soviet Union."

But Neil Sher, director of the U.S. Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations, a Nazi-hunting unit, disagreed. "The notion that this is some kind of Soviet plot is sheer nonsense," Sher said. He said evidence of the Arajs Kommando's involvement in the mass murder of 13,000 to 14,000 Jews in Latvia "is overwhelming." Jeffrey Mausner, prosecutor in the case, said he could not comment on the source of government evidence.

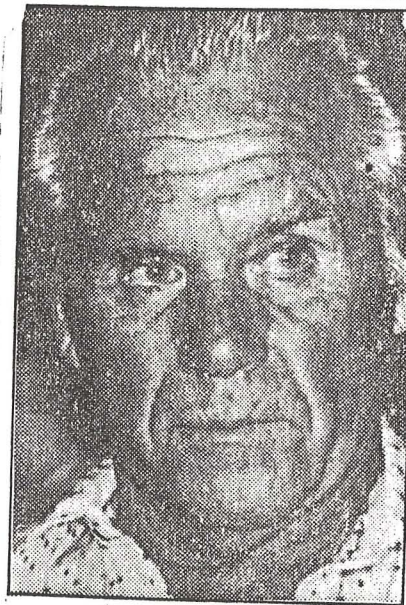
Putnins said his uncle rarely talked about his younger days in Latvia, but maintained close ties to Latvian émigrés after he arrived in the United States in 1959. It was that insular social life that led Kalejs to decide to evade U.S. immigration authorities for more than a year, his nephew believes.

"It's an unfortunate circumstance, because he made some very poor judgments in being on the run," Putnins said. "I have the impression that he received bad advice from a lot of Latvians in that age group. The thing that disturbs me is that when you talk to other Latvians, they indicate he was doing the right thing by running."

"It goes back to that whole situation in the war, where there was so much apprehension about the authorities. Those views never changed. The distress is still there."

Putnins said Kalejs was "apparently trying to find witnesses to testify on his behalf."

He described his uncle as a "very formal, very military-like"



Konrads Kalejs

man who lived quietly in Chicago and visited the Putnins in Milwaukee during holidays. For many years, he worked in data processing at A.C. Nielsen Co., the prime-time television ratings service, until his retirement several years ago, Putnins said. Company officials contacted yesterday in Chicago did not furnish information about Kalejs' employment.

Putnins' mother, Olga Putnins, was Kalejs' younger sister. She died three years ago in Milwaukee, where she settled in 1950 when Putnins was 5 years old. Putnins' father, who stayed in Europe, was a military captain captured by the Russians. He spent 12 years in a Siberian concentration camp and is alive today in Latvia, but Putnins has not seen him since he was a child.

April 26, 1985

MIAMI NEWS

Putnins said he, his mother and his grandmother fled Latvia as the Russians advanced east near the war's end. His uncle also fled east. They ended up in different cities in Germany, but Putnins doesn't recall where. Olga Putnins eventually arrived in the United States. Kalejs emigrated to Australia, where he became a citizen and lived for nine years.

In 1959, Kalejs applied for a visa at the U.S. consulate in Melbourne, saying he had been a farm worker in Latvia during the war years. He lived for six months with Olga Putnins in Milwaukee, then moved to Chicago.

For 25 years, Kalejs lived in the Chicago suburb of Northfield with a longtime friend, Dr. Albert Kalnins, who was killed in an automobile accident in 1982, and the doctor's wife, Austra. The woman was arrested last week for "aiding and abetting" Kalejs while he avoided U.S. marshals.

Kalejs invested in real estate with the Kalnins, acquiring properties in Florida and Illinois, some of which he still owns jointly with Austra Kalnins.

Putnins said he knew nothing about his uncle's travels between Chicago and Toronto, Australia and Florida during the past year while U.S. marshals tracked him. Putnins said he talked to him once by telephone, but his uncle refused to say what he was up to.

"Around the Christmas holidays, I was looking for him but nobody seemed to know where he was," Putnins said. "Apparently he was over in Australia looking for possible witnesses on his behalf."

The mystery was solved when U.S. marshal's deputies came to Putnins' house to ask about Kalejs.

*From Associated Press in  
Miami News, Ap. 29, 1985*

## **Australia says it couldn't try Kalejs for alleged war crimes**

SYDNEY, Australia — A suspected Nazi war criminal who holds Australian citizenship could not be tried for wartime atrocities here if he is deported from the United States, said Attorney General Lionel Bowen.

Konrads Kalejs, 72, suspected of having led a Nazi SS execution squad in Eastern Europe during World War II, could be charged only "in the country where the crimes were committed," Bowen said.

Bowen made clear he would comply with an extradition request if Kalejs returned to Australia.

Kalejs, now a property owner in Florida, is being held in Miami pending a deportation hearing May 15. Under U.S. law, he cannot be tried there for war crimes, but could be deported for falsifying entry documents.

The government today said it was contacting the United States for more information about the case.

"In particular, we want to know if, and by whom, this man is wanted," a spokesman at Bowen's office told The Associated Press. "We don't know which government wants this fellow."

KALEJS, Konrads

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### US holds Aust citizen as Nazi

A wealthy Australian citizen accused of being a Nazi war criminal was held without bail yesterday by a US federal immigration judge. Latvian-born Konrads Kalejs, 72, had lived in Australia for several years until 1959 and has been a legal resident in the United States since. He was arrested at Miami Beach. The Justice Department claims Kalejs was a senior officer at the Salaspils concentration camp and in March 1942 directed the destruction of the Latvian village of Sanniki. All the inhabitants were killed.

- \* Short report on Channel 9 (Sydney) television news on April 28, 1985, also, stating the Kalejs would probably be deported back to Australia. . .

## Australian accused of war-time atrocities could not be tried here

A NATURALISED Australian who is suspected of having led a Nazi SS execution squad and who may be deported from the United States to Australia, could not be tried for war crimes here, the federal Attorney-General, Mr Bowen, said yesterday.

Such a person could be charged only "in the country where the crimes were committed", Mr Bowen said.

Konrads Kalejs, who was born in Latvia, was reported to have held a government position with the Australian Immigration Department from 1950 to 1953.

He apparently had power to document thousands of refugees through the Bonegilla immigrant camp near Albury in southern NSW.

Kalejs, now a wealthy prop-

erty owner in Miami, Florida, is being held there pending deportation hearings on May 15 in connection with his suspected war atrocities.

Under US law, former Nazis cannot be tried for their war crimes but can be deported for having falsified entry documents.

Mr Bowen said that because such crimes were committed in Europe, it was up to the Europeans to call for extradition of war criminals for trial there.

If Kalejs was wanted in Europe, his Australian citizenship would not save him from extradition to the country of the alleged crime.

"There is always a provision for extradition — the question is one of proof," Mr Bowen said.

However, if the US authorities decided to deport Kalejs to Australia, the Government would have no option but to accept him.

The federal Attorney-General's Department or State legal authorities would have to decide what to do with him.

It is understood the Immigration Department is investigating Kalejs's alleged activities when he worked there and it has asked the US authorities for details of the allegations against him.

Kalejs was granted Australian citizenship in 1957.

Between 1950 and 1953, he reportedly worked for the Immigration Department as a documentation and processing clerk.

AAP

## Bond denied suspect in Nazi massacre

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A divided Board of Immigration Appeals denied bond Friday to a man whose deportation is being sought by the U.S. government on the ground that he directed a massacre in a Latvian village while serving as an officer at a Nazi concentration camp.

David B. Holmes, chief attorney-examiner for the board, said the panel voted 3-2 to deny bond to Conrads Kalejs, 72, who was arrested by the U.S. Marshals Service last month and is being held in Dade County, Fla.

On April 23, an immigration judge in Florida denied a bid by Kalejs' attorneys to set the man free, saying that Kalejs represented "an extremely poor bail risk," Holmes said.

It was that decision which was appealed to the five-member appeals board.

The board action Friday means that Kalejs must continue to be held in custody pending proceedings to deport him from the United States, Holmes said.

He said the two members who voted in the minority had indicated that while they believed Kalejs represented a bail risk, they thought he should be set free on \$200,000 bond.

Kalejs was alone and unarmed in a Miami Beach hotel room and he offered no resistance when arrested April 19, Bill Dempsey, a spokesman for the U.S. Marshals Service, said at the time.

Kalejs was arrested on a Feb. 22 warrant charging him with failing to appear for a deportation hearing, Dempsey said.

In March, the Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations, its Nazi-hunting unit, filed an order requiring Kalejs to show why he should not be expelled from the United States.

Kalejs is accused of being a senior lieutenant at the Salaspils concentration camp in Latvia, a formerly independent country on the Baltic Sea which is now part of the Soviet Union, according to an announcement of the arrest by Assistant Attorney General Stephen S. Trott.

# Accused Nazi 'bored to death' at Krome Center

LARRY LIPMAN  
Cox Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Accused Nazi war criminal Konrads Kalejs is "bored to death" at Miami's Krome Detention Center and should be released on bail to assist in his defense, his attorney told an immigration appeals board yesterday.

But Justice Department attorney Jeffrey Mausner said Kalejs, 71, who evaded arrest for several months by temporarily fleeing the country and using an assumed name, may risk losing even a substantial bond in order to escape once again.

Kalejs' attempts to avoid capture "cost the taxpayers \$42,000," Mausner said. "He should not be released so he can do it again."

Kalejs was captured by U.S. marshals and Metro



Kalejs

police April 19 at a Miami Beach hotel and has been held without bond at the Krome center awaiting deportation proceedings. A preliminary hearing is set for May 15.

A three-member appeals panel heard the conflicting arguments as it considered whether to overturn Immigration Judge Keith Williams' decision to deny Kalejs bond. The entire five-member board must vote on the case. Panel chief David Milhollan said the board would attempt to "expedite" its decision.

Kalejs' attorney, Ivars Berzins of Babylon, N.Y., identified by panel members and court documents but who refused to give his name to a reporter, said his client has strong family and friendship ties to the United States and is unlikely to attempt to escape if he must place his assets as collateral. Berzins recommended setting bond at \$200,000.

Pointing to a man in the Falls Church, Va. hearing room, Berzins told the panel that the man was Kalejs' nephew and that the man resented findings by Judge Williams that Kalejs was not close to his nephew. Berzins did not identify the man by name, and the

man refused to give his name to a reporter at Berzins' direction.

Kalejs' nephew has previously been identified in The Miami News as Juris Putnins, 41, a Milwaukee businessman, whose mother was Kalejs' younger sister.

Berzins urged the panel to consider the lengthy process involved in deportation proceedings and noted that three of five such cases in the last seven or eight years are still unresolved.

Noting that he had spent two days recently with Kalejs at the Krome center, Berzins said his client was suffering from boredom because his age prevents him from participating in the basketball or soccer games there and because the inmates all speak either Creole or Spanish.

Berzins told the panel he needs Kalejs to assist in a worldwide search to find witnesses to refute allegations that Kalejs participated in the slaughter of thousands of 13,000 people — mostly Latvian Jews — while serving as company commander in a Latvian Auxiliary Police unit known as the Arajs Kommando.

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# Attorney seeking bond for accused war criminal

By Larry Lipman  
Cox News Service

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WASHINGTON — Accused Nazi war criminal Konrads Kalejs is "bored to death" at Miami's Krome Detention Center and should be released on bail to assist in his defense, his attorney told an immigration appeals board Wednesday.

But Justice Department attorney Jeffrey N. Mausner said Kalejs, 71, who evaded arrest for several months by temporarily fleeing the country and using an assumed name, may risk losing even a substantial bond in order to escape once again.

Kalejs' attempts to avoid capture "cost the taxpayers \$42,000," Mausner said. "He should not be released so he can do it again."

Kalejs was captured by U.S. marshals and Dade County sheriff's deputies April 19 at a Miami Beach hotel and has been held without bond at the Krome center awaiting deportation proceedings. A preliminary hearing

is set for May 15, but the case is expected to take years.

A three-member panel of the five-member appeals board heard the conflicting arguments as it considered whether to overturn Immigration Judge Keith Williams' decision to deny Kalejs bond. The entire board must vote on the case. Panel chief David L. Milhollan said the board would attempt to "expedite" its decision but would not say when a ruling could be expected.

Berzins told the panel he needs Kalejs to assist in a worldwide search to find witnesses to refute allegations that Kalejs participated in the slaughter of thousands of people — mostly Latvian Jews — while serving as a first lieutenant and company commander in the Latvian Auxiliary Police, also known as the Arajs Kommando.

According to the Justice Department, Kalejs has admitted being a member of a Latvian police auxiliary and acknowledged that he joined the 15th SS Grenadier Battalion, but denied that he served with the Arajs Kommando.

Palm Beach Times

# Accused Nazi at Krome camp is denied bond

LARRY LIPMAN  
Cox Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Immigration Appeals Board today denied bond for accused Nazi war criminal Konrads Kalejs, ordering that he remain in Dade County's Krome Detention Center.

In a 3-2 vote, the board upheld the decision of Immigration Judge Keith Williams that Kalejs should be held without bond while awaiting deportation proceedings.

The board majority concluded that the 71-year-old Kalejs, "has given us good reason to believe that nothing less will assure that he will be available for further proceedings."

In a dissenting opinion, board members James P. Morris and Fred W. Vacca said Kalejs should be released on \$200,000 bond.

During an appeal hearing last week, U.S. Justice Department attorney Jeffrey N. Mausner argued against setting bond at \$200,000 because Kalejs' assets may have assets of more than \$1 million and might be willing to forfeit his bond in order to attempt to evade deportation.

Kalejs has admitted being a member of a Latvian police auxiliary and said he joined the SS Grenadier Battalion — information he did not reveal to immigration officials when he came to the United States after World War II. But Kalejs denies that he was a member of the notorious Arajs Kommando, a Latvian police death squad.



Kalejs

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May 17, 1985

# 41-year odyssey ends for war fugitive

By GEOFFREY TOMB  
Herald Staff Writer

On Sunday, April 14, Austra Kalnins stepped into a telephone booth not far from her yellow and white winter home in St. Petersburg. Nearby, two city detectives working in cooperation with the U.S. Justice Department's Nazi-hunting Office of Special Investigations were watching.

When the 67-year-old widow completed her call, she crumpled up a slip of paper. One of the detectives suddenly appeared and grabbed her hand. On the piece of paper was scribbled a telephone number belonging to a 13-unit hotel on Miami Beach.

The 41-year odyssey of Konrads Kalejs was about to end.

In 1944, escaping the advancing Russian Red Army, then-Lt. Konrads Kalejs fled west from the marshy lowlands of his hometown of Riga, capital of Latvia.

Today, 41 years later, he is a prisoner,

## Konrads Kalejs is accused of being an officer in an army unit that murdered 13,000 people under the direction of Nazi Germany's SS.

held without bond in the Krome Avenue detention center in the swamps at the edge of Florida's Everglades.

For the first time since he left Latvia, Kalejs' past has been made public. He is accused of being an officer in a Latvian army unit responsible for murdering at least 13,000 people, mostly Jews, under the direction of Nazi Germany's SS.

Kalejs' defenders claim he is the victim of character assassination by the KGB, the intelligence service of the Soviet Union, which now occupies Latvia. The Justice

Department is basing its accusations on KGB "disinformation," said Lotar Rudzitis, a Latvian American newspaper publisher.

Kalejs will be 72 next month. He is 5 feet 8 inches tall, weighs 185 pounds. His brown hair is streaked with gray. Eyes are sharp blue. His feet are swollen. He walks stiffly from rheumatism.

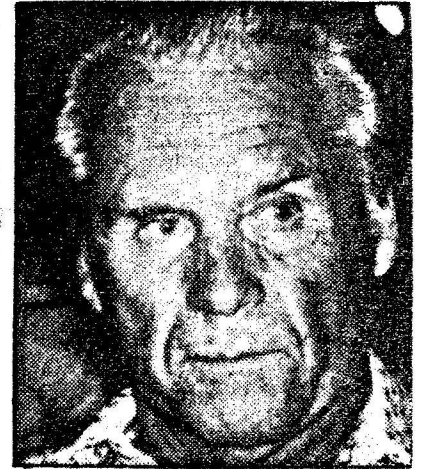
He says little. When he speaks, his English has a heavy European accent. Most of his fellow prisoners speak Spanish or Creole. Kalejs (pronounced "Kal-ess") prefers his unique Latvian language, a deriva-

tive of ancient Sanskrit.

Federal authorities claim Kalejs has admitted lying about his Nazi past when he entered the United States in 1959. A hearing is set for May 15 on whether he should be deported back to Australia where he obtained citizenship after he left Europe in 1950.

Tracking Kalejs' 41-year flight from Latvia is difficult. There are numerous gaps. Since his arrest on April 19, Kalejs has refused three requests from The Miami Herald for interviews.

Several things are known. By most standards, Kalejs is a wealthy man. He owns \$300,000 in certificates of deposit. He is co-owner, with Kalnins, of two apartment buildings in Skokie, Ill.; a home in the expensive Chicago suburb of Northfield; a \$35,700 home in St. Petersburg on 41st



Konrads Kalejs: Defenders call him KGB victim.

Please turn to FUGITIVE / 2D

✓ MIAMI HERALD

MIAMI NEWS

OTHER

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DATE 5-2-85

# War fugitive's 41-year odyssey ends at Krome center

## FUGITIVE / from ID

Avenue North; and two ocean-front condominiums valued at more than \$250,000 at the Sea Ranch Club on North Ocean Boulevard in Fort Lauderdale.

When he was arrested he had \$5,000 in cash with him, \$3,500 in traveler's checks and a money order for \$1,397 that investigators claim could be used to pay for a one-way airline ticket to Australia.

At almost every stop along his four-decade journey, Kalejs has stayed within the protective shadows of Latvian emigrés.

It is not known how he made his way from Europe to Melbourne, Australia, where he lived from 1950 to 1959.

Kalejs entered the United States on Feb. 6, 1959, at Blaine, Wash., the main crossing between Vancouver and Seattle. On immigration forms he said he had been a farm worker during World War II, which began when he was 26.

He was granted resident alien status and lived for six months with his younger sister, Olga Putnins, and his nephew, Juris, in Milwaukee.

In the final year of the Eisenhower administration, Kalejs moved to Chicago. He enjoyed a close friendship with a physician named Albert Kalnins and his wife, Austra, both of whom were Latvians. Kalejs worked as a data

processor. He invested in property with the Kalnins. When Dr. Kalnins was killed in a 1982 auto accident, Kalejs became co-owner with the widow of the property investments.

In 1983, acting on a tip that it refuses to discuss, the Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations began looking into Kalejs' past.

He was interviewed in March 1984. Investigators claim he admitted then that in 1941 he joined Latvia's Arajs Kommando unit. Its leader, Viktors Arajs, was convicted in West Germany in 1980 of collaborating with the SS in the extermination of 13,000 men, women and children in death camps in the woods outside Riga. Villages were sacked and burned.

Kalejs' lawyer, Ivars Berzins of Brentwood, N.Y., who has previously defended three other Latvians accused of war crimes, claims evidence against his client is "hearsay."

Juris Putnins, who was born in Latvia in 1944, now operates a data processing firm in Milwaukee. He said his uncle is the victim of "fabricated evidence from a suspect source," namely Russia, which took over Latvia in 1940 and again, permanently, in 1944.

He said his uncle joined the Latvian army to fight Russians.

"Germans, basically, were considered liberators when they first

## Latvia: Facts, Figures

**SIZE:** 25,000 square miles, which is smaller than the state of South Carolina

**POPULATION:** 2.5 million

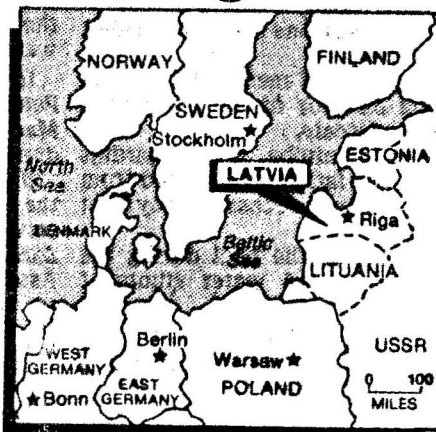
**CAPITAL:** Riga

**LANGUAGE:** Letts

**RELIGIONS:**

Lutheran, Roman Catholic, Russian Orthodox, Judaism

**CURRENTLY** part of the Soviet Union; previously occupied by the Teutonic Knights, Poland, Sweden, Russia and Nazi Germany



The Miami Herald

came in" in June 1941, Putnins said.

"All Latvians were drafted by the SS," said Rudzitis, publisher of the 11,000 circulation Latvian-American newspaper *Laiks* (Time), printed twice a week in Brooklyn, N.Y.

"They were conscripted. It was either that or death. There was no fooling around on the Eastern Front," said Rudzitis.

After they interviewed Kalejs,

federal investigators said he fled the country. In October, he traveled from Toronto to Australia. He returned in November, living in a \$50-a-week rooming house that rents exclusively to Latvians. He left Canada last winter, saying he was going to Florida.

In February, the Immigration and Naturalization Service issued a warrant for Kalejs' arrest. On March 19, Mrs. Kalnins told investigators she had not seen him

for a year.

Evidence showed that from March 15 to April 2, he lived at the Blue Nose Motel on Treasure Island outside St. Petersburg. He registered under the name of C. Mikelson. Kalnins has since been charged with harboring a fugitive.

On April 13, Kalejs rented a \$175-a-week room at Rosemary Manor Hotel at 8118 Harding Ave., Miami Beach. Hotel owner Alfons Balodis said the two spoke Latvian when Kalejs arrived. He did not ask Kalejs his name or request that he register, Balodis said, because his guest told him he might stay longer than a week. Balodis told him the best place to eat was the nearby McDonald's at 79th and Collins.

"He was a nice old, little man," said Balodis, a Latvian who often gets Latvian-speaking winter guests from as far away as Toronto and Venezuela. He has been in business for 25 years.

He said he knows nothing of Kalejs' past.

Putnins said many older Latvians "lean on each other. They stick together to retain the old ties." He said his uncle got "bad advice" from a network of Latvian friends who told him to hide from federal authorities. Putnins expects his uncle to be deported, but doubts the man committed war crimes.

Rudzitis called Kalejs an "ob-

scure case" but said it was similar to others the Office of Special Investigations has made against Latvians.

"In a good number of cases, these accusations are totally fabricated. All kinds of atrocities are invented about the killing of Jews. Witnesses are found. The OSI gets it straight from the KGB," said Rudzitis.

"They throw these accusations around 40 years later. It can destroy a man."

Neil Sher, director of the 6-year-old OSI, has insisted evidence against Kalejs is overwhelming but refused to be interviewed about the case.

U.S. right-wing groups such as the Liberty Lobby also have criticized the office.

"There is a battle now to destroy the OSI. It is under a great deal of pressure," said Arthur Teitelbaum, Southern area director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

Teitelbaum said it has been estimated that as many as 10,000 former Nazis or their collaborators are living quietly, like Kalejs, in the United States.

"What the Nazi war criminal wants is to disappear. They want obscurity, concealment and lies. It is important that justice never sleeps in the pursuit of Nazi war criminals. There is no time limit on the crime of murder."

MIAMI DISTRICT

ALD