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# 5 Californians Named in Deportation Suits

## Deaths of Suspected Nazis End 2 Cases; 3 Others Remain in Legal Limbo

By DAN MORAIN, *Times Staff Writer*

The U.S. Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations has brought suits to deport five Californians suspected of being Nazi war criminals.

Following are brief accounts of those cases:

**Talivaldis Karklins**—In 1963, about the time he was becoming a U.S. citizen, Karklins was being tried in absentia for war crimes committed during World War II in his native Latvia.

In 1963, however, the U.S. government was not interested in Karklins, who was raising a family in Monterey Park. It wasn't until 1981 that the Office of Special Investigations sued to revoke his citizenship and deport him for his wartime activities.

Basing its case largely on testimony taken in Latvia, now a part of the Soviet Union, the office charged that he was the commandant of a small concentration camp—actually a converted two-story school house—in the town of Madona.

Some of his fellow guards said he took charge of transporting several hundred Jews to a large pit in a forest outside Madona, and there, along with others working for the Nazi puppet regime, opened fire on the Jews.

The denaturalization effort came too late. On Feb. 7 of this year, a month before he was to stand trial in U.S. District Court in Los Angeles, Karklins died of a heart attack at age 68.

**Andrija Artukovic**—He served as interior minister of Croatia—a short-lived Nazi-dominated regime in what is now Yugoslavia—and is the highest-ranking official of any pro-Hitler government known to be living in the United States, those involved in the deportation effort say.

But at 83, Artukovic appears to have beaten the deportation attempt against him. Most likely, he will live the rest of his life in Surfside Colony in Orange County, his home for the last 35 years.

Artukovic has been accused of signing orders sending hundreds of thousands of people to their deaths, charges that he has steadfastly denied since the accusations started more than three decades ago.

He entered this country as a tourist under a false name in 1948. In 1951, the middle of the Cold War, the Yugoslav government asked for his extradition. A federal judge in Los Angeles denied the request, ruling that Artukovic would be persecuted if he were forced to return.

About the same time, the Immigration and Naturalization Service tried to deport him for overstaying his 30-day visa. An immigration

judge in 1952 ordered him to leave. That was stayed in 1959 by a second immigration judge who said it "would be mere speculation or surmise to find the acts charged were done upon orders from the defendant."

Two decades later, the Office of Special Investigations sued to have the stay revoked. In December, 1982, the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the government would have to file a new deportation suit if it hopes to deport him.

Such a suit could be appealed as far as the U.S. Supreme Court and would take years to prosecute. To date, no new suit has been filed.

**Otto Albrecht Alfred von Bolschwing**—As an SS officer, he wrote memos about the "Final Solution" to Adolf Eichmann, Hitler's chief of operations in charge of carrying out the policy of exterminating the Jews, said Allan A. Ryan Jr., director of the Office of Special Investigation.

Believing that von Bolschwing may have been more directly involved in the Holocaust than any other Nazi in this country, Ryan's office sued in 1981 seeking his deportation.

At the time, von Bolschwing claimed that he was a double agent

during the war who worked for the U.S. military, and served as a spy for U.S. intelligence agencies after the war, statements that the government denied.

Ten months after the suit was filed, he died at age 72 in a nursing home in the Sacramento suburb of Carmichael where he had lived for several years.

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