

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE A-5

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Former Nazi reportedly had U.S. intelligence ties

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — A former Nazi SS captain who died this year after giving up his U.S. citizenship said in newly released documents that he worked for several U.S. intelligence agencies, the Sacramento Bee reported.

The documents, obtained by the newspaper through the Freedom of Information Act, also show that Otto von Bolschwing admitted in 1970, long after he was granted U.S. citizenship, that he had had ties with Adolf Eichmann, since executed for war crimes.

Von Bolschwing had been charged with concealing his Nazi Party membership when applying for U.S. citizenship.

Von Bolschwing died March 7, 1982, at age 72. He had voluntarily given up his U.S. citizenship in an agreement under which he would not be deported as long as his health was bad. He suffered from supra nuclear palsy, a rare and incurable brain disease.

Nazi-hunters in this country had accused him of war crimes, including the persecution and forced emigration of Jews, and encouraging the 1941 Iron Guard rebellion in Romania, during which Jews were killed.

But Von Bolschwing was not allowed to reply to the charges in public because the U.S. Department of Justice had obtained a court order sealing his answer — the government apparently

feared revealing military secrets.

Von Bolschwing contended that he aided U.S. intelligence agencies during and after World War II. Justice Department documents carry testimony saying the Central Intelligence Agency had instructed him to keep secret his activities prior to applying for citizenship in 1945.

The Bee reported that it obtained a copy of an interrogation conducted on Dec. 22, 1970, in which Von Bolschwing admitted ties with the Nazi Party, the elite SS corps and Eichmann.

In the interrogation, he said he fell out of favor with the Nazis in 1942, was arrested by the Gestapo and held seven months without charges. Later he moved to Vienna where he acquired a small business.

After the July 1944 attempt on Adolf Hitler's life, a friend warned that he was to be arrested. Von Bolschwing said he fled to the Tyrol and hid in a mountain hut in the Otz Valley until U.S. forces arrived.

After the war, Von Bolschwing said he worked for several U.S. intelligence agencies. He said he came to the United States in 1954 with his son Gus, now a San Francisco attorney.

In 1959, Von Bolschwing became a U.S. citizen, and started a career as a financial officer and consultant. His health began deteriorating during the 1970s.