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## Some Suspected of Nazi War Crimes Are Known as Model Citizens

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By RALPH BLUMENTHAL

On national holidays they are often the first in their neighborhoods to hang out the American flag. They go to church, work hard, and tend their flower gardens. They are called model neighbors — friendly, kind and unobtrusive.

Their neighbors do not understand how they could be under investigation for Nazi war crimes.

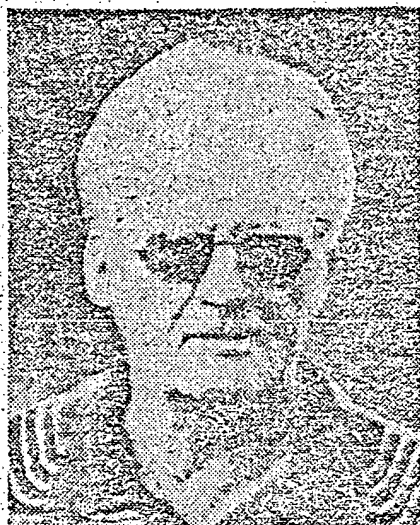
But, according to the Immigration and Naturalization Service, at least 85 naturalized American citizens and resident aliens, including some most ardently praised by their neighbors, are suspected of having concealed participation in World War II atrocities in order to enter the United States after the war.

Who are some of these people? Where do they live? What are they doing? What do they and their neighbors have to say about the allegations? And why has it taken until now, 31 years after the end of World War II, to step up or resolve the investigations?

Many of the names were first provided to the Immigration Service more than a decade ago by Jewish groups and other war crimes archivists. Those who came under official investigation might never have been known publicly except for the fact that the Immigration Service, in response to some charges of foot-dragging on the Nazi cases, released the names of 37 suspects in June 1974. Many are being investigated today, and the list has been expanded through additional allegations from Israel and other sources.

Almost all the suspects are from Eastern Europe, particularly the former republics of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia that were overrun by the Nazis in World War II and pressed into the liquidation of the Jews and the war against the Soviet Union. The territories were taken over by the Soviet after the war, and that remains an emotional issue with the suspects, most of whom are fiercely anti-Communist.

The Government has said that 85 persons are under investigation for participating in Nazi war crimes. Last week, two Latvians and a Lithuanian became the first resident aliens to face United States deportation action in more than



Edgars Laipenieks of Solana Beach, Calif., a former Latvian intelligence officer, is under investigation for wartime activities.

20 years, on the ground of concealing war crimes to enter the country. They face hearings on Nov. 15.

Also, the Government said that at least four naturalized American citizens charged with war crimes would soon face Federal civil suits for their denaturalization, a preliminary step to the deportation of citizens.

### The Case of Bishop Trifa

Another denaturalization case—only the second ever brought against an alleged war criminal here—is already under way. It charges Valerian D. Trifa, Bishop of the Rumanian Orthodox Episcopate in Grass Lake, Mich., with having lied to the immigration authorities about his activities as a student member of the Iron Guard and his alleged participation in wartime atrocities in Bucharest in 1941.

Most prominent of the three aliens charged last week was Boleslavs Maikovskis, a 72-year-old carpenter from Mineola, L.I., who entered the United States in 1951 as a purported displaced person. He was an alleged member of the pro-Nazi Latvian police department in Re-

zekne that was accused of selecting Jews, including children, for execution from 1941 to 1943. Mr. Maikovskis was tried in absentia in the Soviet Union and sentenced to death in 1965. The United States has refused Soviet demands for his extradition, a policy that the United States shows no signs of changing.

No one has been answering the doorbell at the three-story house in Mineola where Mr. Maikovskis and his wife have been living for more than a decade. Sometimes there are lights on inside but no one comes to the door.

Neighbors on the quiet, tree-lined avenue describe the couple as unobtrusive and friendly, and as two people who often sat quietly in their garden and attended a nearby church.

Another of the three aliens facing deportation action, Bronius Kaminskas of Hartford, initially appeared to be confused by the allegations. A 73-year-old Lithuanian who came here in 1947, he is accused of shooting 200 Jews, including 68 children, and selecting another 400 Jews for execution.

He denied the allegations and said that he was a wagonmaker in the war.

"Oh, no, no, no, no," said his Lithuanian landlady at the \$20-a-week room he occupies alone. Oh, no, he's not a Nazi. He ran from Communism. He hates Communism. He no can kill a fly."

Another neighbor, James Mellon, was quoted as saying that Mr. Kaminskas rides his bicycle around the neighborhood collecting material to make toys for children.

The third alien facing deportation, Karlis Detlavs, 65, of Baltimore, also denied allegations that, as a member of the pro-Nazi Latvian Legion, he had participated in the shooting and selection of Jews for execution at Riga. After coming here in 1950 he worked at the General Electric cable factory until 1973, when his left leg was amputated for cancer. Nearby residents called him a model neighbor and praised his well-tended garden.

In its denaturalization suit against Bishop Trifa in Federal Court in Detroit, the Government charged that, as head of the National Union of Rumanian Christian Students, Bishop Trifa had participated in anti-Jewish atrocities and con-