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Boston lawyer sees conspiracy involving Nazi collaborators

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Contributing Reporter

In 1942, Emanuel Jasiuk, an apparently amiable and well-educated Byelorussian, was partly responsible for the brutal murder of 5000 people in a single day. Eight years later he had a comfortable house in New Jersey and was working for the US government.

Jasiuk was the Nazi-appointed mayor of Kletsk in Byelorussia, sometimes known as White Russia, occupied by the Germans between 1941 and 1944.

According to witnesses, he was instrumental in having the town's Jews marched to specially dug trenches where they were shot by Germans and Byelorussians. Guards were posted by the graves to kill anyone who tried to crawl out; after a while the ground stopped trembling and the muffled cries fell silent.

By the time Jasiuk came to America, however, he was not working for an organization ignorant of his past. He had been recruited in Germany after the war by a US intelligence agency that soon after his arrival in America had full knowledge of his war crimes and nonetheless continued to employ him. He died an American in 1979 and is buried in South River, N.J.

These startling charges have been made by John Loftus, a 32-year-old Boston attorney and former Justice Department prosecutor for the Office of Special Investigations who was assigned to hunt down Byelorussian Nazi collaborators entering the United States.

Top-secret documents

For two and a half years Loftus had access to top-secret documents, including those classified "Cosmic," "S.I." and "Q," and has now made his findings public in a book entitled "The Belarus Secret."

russian brigade that fought against the French resistance and Gen. George S. Patton's Third Army.

"More Jews perished in Poland and Germany, but the holocaust in Byelorussia was unique," Loftus writes. "In no other nation under German occupation did the inhabitants so willingly and enthusiastically visit such a degree of inhumanity upon their neighbors." This conclusion, however, has been questioned by historians of the period who argue that the involvement of collaborators in such areas as Latvia and Lithuania was equally brutal.

Although some of his findings were revealed earlier this year on CBS' "60 Minutes," the book, published Nov. 17, is a detailed attempt to prove that American intelligence agencies smuggled Nazi collaborators from Byelorussia into the United States against presidential and congressional orders and protected them from investigation and deportation.

Some find evidence tenuous

Loftus, however, is not without his critics. A number of former colleagues, who asked not to be named, said they found some of the evidence tenuous and that generalizations had been made without sufficient research. Nonetheless they thought it possible Loftus' overall conclusions were correct.

Loftus seeks to show that Jasiuk was not an isolated case. He estimates that more than 300 Byelorussian Nazi collaborators were brought into America after World War II, and that some are still working for government and quasigovernmental agencies.

Nor was the operation confined to the United States. He says he has been told by a Pentagon official that so many Nazis collaborators had been sent to Latin America that one country, either Chile or Argentina, "passed the word

Stanislaw Stankievich, the mayor of Borissov, who was alleged to have ensured the execution of 7000 Jewish citizens in one day, was a similar case. Even the German SS professed to be shocked by the carnival aspect of that slaughter, in which their quislings, dressed in black, raped young women, mutilated others and threw babies into graves to be buried alive.

Despite being identified to Congress in 1948 as a war criminal and forever forbidden entry to the United States, Stankievich was admitted to this country in 1959 and naturalized 10 years later.

He worked for the then CIA-funded Radio Liberty, which Loftus says knew about his war crimes. The Office of Special Investigations was in the process of starting legal proceedings against Stankievich when he died in 1980.

Head of puppet government

Even the head of the Byelorussian puppet government, Radislaw Ostrowsky, installed in power by the SS and promised the job of mayor of Moscow, was allowed to settle in the United States. He became, in Loftus' view, the highest-ranking war criminal to gain citizenship in the United States. Ostrowsky, too, is buried in New Jersey, alongside Jasiuk.

Why, then, did US intelligence agen-

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