



mately 35,000 Latvians, many of whom were Jews, along with two of Maikovskis' brothers, were placed in cattle cars with basic sanitation and deported to Siberia.

During this time, Maikovskis remained inconspicuous, working under the radar as an accountant at the Rēzekne branch of the Highways and Land Roads Department.

When Nazi Germany invaded and occupied Latvia as part of Operation Barbarossa, completing their occupation by July 10, 1941, Maikovskis voluntarily assumed the position of Chief of Police of the second station of the Rēzekne district. Under his control were the parishes of Makašāni, Dricēni, Bērzgale, Rēzna, and Ozolaine. Understandably anti-Soviet, he was valued by the Germans for his expertise and willingly applied his skills to ferret out those who either supported the previous occupying force of the USSR or stood in opposition to the new regime.

To show his willingness to work with the Nazi occupiers as part of the Reichskommissariat Ostland, and to demonstrate his disdain for the Soviets, Maikovskis took a leading role in killing residents of Audriņi, who were suspected of helping pro-Soviet 'Red Partisan' combatants. Unlike today, where people use social media for self-promotion, Maikovskis was unknowingly recorded on film while participating in the organized killing of 200 people. For these actions, he received the German Order of Merit and the German Cross: Second Class.



Maikovskis in Nazi Uniform

Maikovskis did not only target Russians. As the Chief in Rēzekne, he also participated in carrying out Nazi racial policy. He oversaw the killing of 5,128 Jewish men, women, and children in his districts. In the Dvinsk Jewish ghetto, he rounded up over 600 children for execution. He also ordered other targeted killings, sometimes of smaller groups or individuals. In Riga, the name Boleslavs Maikovskis became associated with death.

Latvian residents made various choices for survival. Mrs. Lea Kaner survived by receiving a permit to clean the barracks of soldiers. In contrast, Maikovskis cooperated with the Nazis and the SS Einsatzgruppen, or mobile killing squads. Kaner's actions did not single out individuals for execution, while Maikovskis was involved in identifying and executing targets. The moral implications of such choices during conflict are complex and individual.

Near the end of 1944, Maikovskis left Latvia for Germany, likely due to the advance of Soviet forces and in anticipation of possible reprisals. His wife later joined him, and by the end of the war, in May of 1945, they were living in a Displaced Persons camp in Pinneberg, located in the British zone



LNA Latvian State Archives Latvian DP camp at Würzburg

of occupied Germany. There, among Jewish survivors and other refugees, he claimed to be another individual affected by the war.

Resuming life, Maikovskis enrolled at the local Baltic University, graduating in 1949 with a master's degree in legal sciences. The year before, he had applied for emigration to the United States, joining hundreds of thousands of refugees living in Displaced Persons camps in Germany, Austria, and Italy, primarily seeking to emigrate to either Palestine (Israel) or the United States between 1945 and 1952.

Although his initial request was denied, his second was successful, and Boleslavs and Janine Maikovskis left Europe for America in 1951. Unlike other immigrants, the Latvians built social connections through organizations, church congregations, and the American Latvian Association (ALA), founded in 1951, rather than by populating dense communities.

After establishing himself as a carpenter, Maikovskis toiled in virtual anonymity, except for his visibility as vice-chairman of the ALA, until the summer of 1964, when the Latvian Soviet Socialist Republic began a criminal investigation into the extermination of the residents of Audriņi during the German occupation. The probe culminated in a trial that took place from October 11th through the 30th of 1965 at the Vērtības Elegantā Formā (VEF) Culture Palace, constructed in 1960. Six former Rēzekne district police officers, Jāzeps Basankovič, Pēteris Vaičuk, Jānis Krasovskis, Alberts Eihelis, Boleslavs Maikovskis, and Haralds Puntulis, stood accused.



LNA Latvian State Archives MBoleslavs Maikovskis as Vuce Chairman of the ALA.

At the trial's conclusion, Vaičuk was sentenced to 15 years in prison; Basankovič and Krasovskis, who were both present at the trial, along with Eihelis, Puntulis, and Maikovskis, were sentenced to death, the latter three in absentia.

That same year, in an interview in a New York newspaper, Maikovskis railed against the charges, claiming the accusations were Cold War propaganda targeting organizations like the ALA and those exiled Latvians who were fighting the forces of communism. The charges, however, captured the attention of both the United States and Canadian government agencies, especially after they

received extradition requests for Maikovskis (US) and Puntulis (CAN). Both countries declined the expulsion requests.

Fearing possible deportation, Maikovskis applied for citizenship with the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) the following year, 1966. In his application, he noted a desire to change his name to Mike Boleslavs Armans, possibly to add a measure of anonymity, but the request was not approved.



Maikovskis Passport Photo

It took another ten years before the INS began to consider the possible deportation of Maikovskis. Its review revealed that the Latvian had lied to U.S. authorities at least twice. On his visa application, he had claimed that he had worked as an accountant in the Latvian Railway Department in Riga during the Nazi occupation years, and secondly, while housed in the DP camps in Allied-occupied Germany, he indicated his wartime occupation as both carpenter and gardener. He never noted his employment as the chief of the 2nd police station of the Rēzekne district.

By the mid-seventies, the investigation and testimony regarding the possible deportation of Maikovskis were in full swing before immigration judge Francis Lyons, while then-representative Elizabeth Holtzman (D-NY) accused the INS of spinning its wheels and not being aggressive enough in its pursuit of former Nazi sympathizers. Much of the evidence against the Latvian had been assembled over the years by interested Jewish organizations and the Soviets and had been turned over to INS prosecutors.

The charges against Maikovskis were not even reflective of his war crimes, as those, surprisingly, are not violations of U.S. law, but instead were simply based on the Latvian's lying on his visa application. Even more unbelievable, if convicted, Maikovskis could have chosen the country to which he would have been deported.

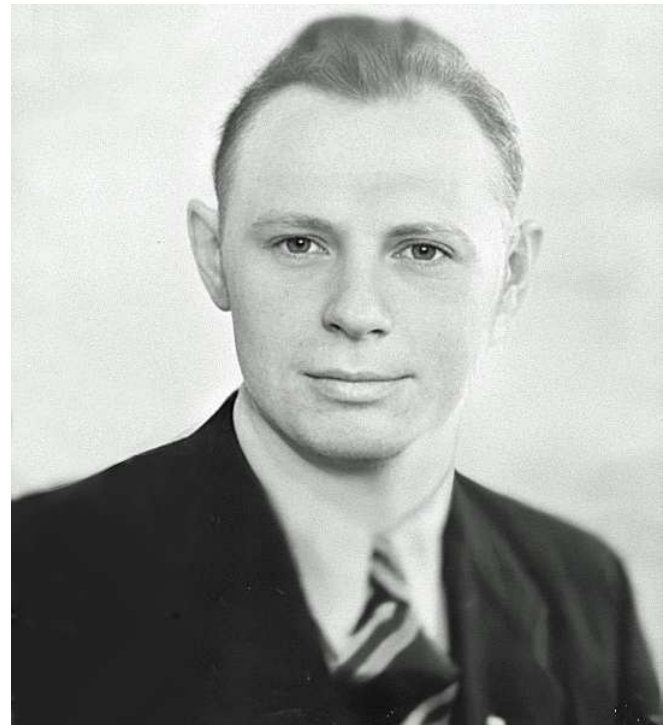
In the middle of the following year, 1978, Maikovskis was still a free man, nimbly avoiding the INS's best attempts to bring the investigation to a close. In May, the Jewish Defense League (JDL) assembled outside the Latvian's home, hurling rocks and demanding the Nazi sympathizer's death, requiring more than 50 helmeted officers to quell the demonstration. Three months later, the Butcher of Riga, as he was being referred to in tabloids, was shot in the knee while alone in his kitchen in his Mineola home. In June of the following year, another attempt was made on the accused war criminal, injuring instead a friend of Maikovskis who had been visiting for the weekend. The following year, in May of 1980, a bomb exploded in front of 232 Grant Avenue, yet another anxiety-producing disruption for the neighborhood.

In 1978, Holtzman brought the muscle to bear, proposing what became known as the Holtzman Amendment, which sought to modify the Immigration and Nationality Act to allow for the deportation of Nazis, or those who assisted in Nazi persecution, between 1933 and 1945. The amendment, which was passed in 1979, led to the creation of the Office of Special Investigations (OSI) within the Department of Justice. With its passage, the gloves were off, and the INS could move forward, unrestricted in its pursuit of Nazi collaborators living on American soil.

Thwarting all attempts to execute or intimidate him, Maikovskis, then 75, faced a new set of deportation hearings in 1981, five years after the INS began its initial investigation. In 1984, after another three years of testimony, the results of the trial were different, with Maikovskis being ordered deported from the country that had welcomed him as a refugee 33 years earlier.

But the 81-year-old Boleslavs Maikovskis wasn't done yet. His attorneys filed an appeal of the order, arguing that the decision was akin to a death sentence for the immigrant. The appeal was rejected in 1986, which removed the final obstacle to deportation to the Soviet Union.

Eighteen miles east of Mineola lay the town of Greenlawn, where Karl Linnas, an Estonian immigrant and naturalized citizen, worked as a land surveyor and lived comfortably with his family. Similar to Maikovskis, Linnas had been convicted in absentia and sentenced to death by a Soviet Court in 1962 for his role as the lead officer of a Nazi concentration camp in Tartu, Estonia, where 12,000 people were put to death, 2,000 while under his watch.



Karl Linnas Passport Photo

Originally granted in 1959, Linnas's citizenship was stripped in 1981 by the Federal District Court in Westbury, New York. This was the first step in deporting the former war criminal, which occurred after a four-day hearing before U.S. District Judge Jacob Mishler that same year.

Two years later, in 1983, Linnas was still living in America. Despite the declarations of the Moscow Agreement, which had been agreed to between the United States and Russia during World War II, that committed both nations to return individuals who had committed war crimes to the same place where they had been carried out, the U.S. had yet to do so. The world was watching, and the American government was beginning to lose credibility.

Three more years passed, and by May of 1986, a three-member federal appeals court panel ruled that Linnas could be deported to the Soviet Union. Linnas's lawyer filed an appeal with the U.S. Supreme Court, which rejected his arguments in early December, thereby finally exhausting the

former Estonian's attempts to avoid justice.

But the emotional appeal of the holidays was too great for then Attorney General Edwin Meese, and, at the behest of former Attorney General Ramsey Clark, he issued a one-month stay to allow Linnas to find a country willing to take him in to avoid deportation to the U.S.S.R. No such allowances had been made for those who died at Linnas's direction.

Clark, a fervent opponent of the death penalty, had begun to represent Linnas as pure political theater, using the case as a vehicle to challenge the use of Soviet provided evidence to convict the Nazi collaborator. What had been a clear-cut case of lying to obtain entrance into the United States as a Displaced Person was being treated as a human rights football.

By March of 1987, President Ronald Reagan offered his own opinion, captured and submitted to Meese by White House Communications Director Patrick Buchanan, that Linnas should be put on trial in this country rather than be sent to a sure death in Russia. The next month began with the granting of another deportation delay by the Second U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals to allow Linnas's lawyers to file a new petition with the Supreme Court.

In a rapid series of events, Panama first agreed to accept the mass-murdered into their country, and then, within less than 24 hours, withdrew their offer. Karl Linnas was quickly becoming an embarrassment for the American government.

Finally, on April 21, 1987, Linnas was flown out of the country. Not to the Soviet Union, but to Estonia, where the war crimes had originally occurred, seemingly adhering to the terms of the Moscow Agreement.

Citing ill health without providing any details, the Soviet government transferred Linnas from a jail in Estonia to a hospital in Leningrad on June 26, where he died six days later.

As the Estonian drew his last breath, unbelievably, the 82-year-old Boleslavs Maikovskis remained stateside, somehow nimbler in his avoiding deportation than his fellow Nazi collaborator Linnas had been, the Estonian's case overshadowing the Latvian's.

By the Fall of 1988, under pressure from the Anti-Defamation League, the new Attorney General of the United States, Richard Thornburgh, admitted that Maikovskis had fled to West Germany the previous year as a tourist, although how he could have done so remained questionable, as he had no passport. The West German officials admitted to providing a visa to the war criminal to allow for his entry into the country for humanitarian purposes.

Maikovskis was arrested by West German authorities in October 1988 in Muenster. The Bonn government stated that the Latvian would be put on trial for his alleged crimes.

After six years, in a turn that would almost seem laughable if not for the seriousness of the charges,



Maikovskis in Germany 1992

the Muenster Court halted the trial of Boleslavs Maikovskis, as his physician testified that the 90-year-old's heart was too compromised to continue the trial. Even more obscene than the termination of the proceedings was the fact that the Latvian might be awarded damages for having spent three years in a German prison while on trial.

On April 18, 1992, Maikovskis died following a heart attack at the age of 92, reaching a milestone in his life that he had denied so many others.

At first seemingly disassociated, a disturbing connection among numerous Latvian émigrés has been revealed through their participation in the ALA and the society known as Daugavas Vanagi (Hawks of the Daugava), which was commanded and financed through a central command in Muenster, Germany, the same city where Boleslavs Maikovskis had been tried and released. The Latvian nationalist organization was founded in 1945 by former members of the Latvian Waffen-SS Legion in the Zedelgem Prisoner Of War (POW) camp in Belgium.

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