

DEPORTATION PROCESS BEGINS AGAINST MAN / THE LANSDOWNE MAN WAS FOUND TO HAVE LIED ABOUT HIS WARTIME ACTIVITIES IN LITHUANIA.

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Body

The Justice Department **began deportation** proceedings yesterday **against** an 80-year-old **man** who served in a Lithuanian police unit that helped Germans murder Jews during World War II.

The U.S. Supreme Court in May turned away Jonas Stelmokas' appeal of a judge's decision to revoke his U.S. citizenship.

Yesterday, officials with the Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations (OSI) filed **deportation** papers **against** the retired architect from Lansdowne in immigration court in Philadelphia.

Stelmokas' legal battle may not be over, though. Federal officials have said Stelmokas could challenge his **deportation** before an immigration judge and, failing that, could appeal back up to the Supreme Court.

Stelmokas' attorney, John Rogers Carroll, did not immediately return a call seeking comment.

Stelmokas lost his citizenship in 1995, when a federal judge ruled that he had **lied about** his **wartime activities** to gain entry into the United States.

When Stelmokas applied for immigration to the United States in 1949, he said he was discharged from the Lithuanian army in 1940 and then worked as a teacher. He repeated those claims when he became a naturalized citizen in 1955.

But OSI officials say Stelmokas served in an auxiliary police unit from 1941 until he entered the German Air Force in 1944. And the judge determined he had served as a guard commander at a Lithuanian ghetto where Jews "were subject to extreme deprivation, brutality and arbitrary shootings."

The Third U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the judge's decision, saying that even though no eyewitnesses testified that Stelmokas committed atrocities, his service in the police unit disqualified him from getting a U.S. visa.

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