

Jewish Kapo Loses Citizenship, But Won't Be Deported From U.S.

NEW YORK (JTA) — A 76-year-old Jew from Brooklyn, who confessed he collaborated with the Nazis and brutalized Jewish concentration camp inmates, was stripped of his American citizenship.

But the Brooklyn federal court at which he surrendered his citizenship decided not to deport him, because of his deteriorating health.

Jacob Tannenbaum admitted before Federal Judge Leo Glasser that he had been a "lagerkapo" (inmate guard) at the Goerlitz concentration camp in Germany from September 1944 through May 1945.

The Polish-born Tannenbaum also admitted that he had beaten Jewish prisoners, even out of sight of Nazi guards and without their orders.

The decision not to deport Tannenbaum, who also admitted concealing his background upon entering the United States in 1949, was agreed upon between the prosecution and the defense after Tannenbaum agreed to admit to the charges.

Tannenbaum, a retired dairy worker with three children, reportedly suffers from a heart condition and suffered a mild stroke in August. He lost his parents, five sisters, his first wife and their baby in the Holocaust. He was blinded in one eye by the Nazis, who sent him to three different concentration camps during the war.

Only three other Jews have been charged with war crimes in the United States, all in the 1950s. None was deported.

Two Jewish organizations welcomed the resolution to the case. Rabbi Abraham Cooper, associate dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles, issued a statement that noted "before Tannenbaum was a criminal, he was a victim. As a result, the degree of his culpability should never be confused with the Nazi war

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Wiesenthal Center Applauds British Action On Nazi War Criminals

JERUSALEM — The Simon Wiesenthal Center hails the announcement that the British government has established a two-man inquiry team to investigate the issue of Nazi War Criminals in the United Kingdom. The announcement was made by British Home Secretary Douglas Hurd in the House of Commons.

"We applaud this long overdue decision," said Rabbi Marvin Hier, dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center. The Center submitted data on 17 alleged Nazi War Criminals believed to be living in the U.K. to the Home Office in several meetings over the course of the last two years.

"We are gratified to learn that these two investigators will be able to travel throughout the world, apparently including the Soviet Union. The Simon Wiesenthal Center pledges its full cooperation."

The inquiry team, which includes George Chalmers, a former senior law officer in Scotland, is expected to complete its work within a year and submit its findings to the Parliament. The Parliament would then be in a position to amend British law so that these criminals will not escape justice.

For further information, please call the Public Relations Department in Los Angeles, (213) 553-9036, or call Rabbi Marvin Hier, Rabbi Abraham Cooper or Lydia Triantopoulou in Jerusalem, (972) (2) 221-111, Rooms 220, 222 or 121.

criminals."

Cooper called the revocation of citizenship "an appropriate action from both a moral and legal point of view."

Elan Steinberg, executive director of the World Jewish Congress, said in a statement, "We feel that the Justice Department handled a very sensitive matter in a most fair and equitable way, insuring that justice was applied in a firm but proper manner."

The U.S. Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations brought the charges against Tannenbaum. Neal Sher, OSI director, said the decision "was a fair resolution of the case."

Tannenbaum's lawyer, Elihu Massel, said: "It is the best solution for all concerned. It will avoid a truly ghastly trial, in which Jews would have to testify against Jews, none of whom really want to remember."

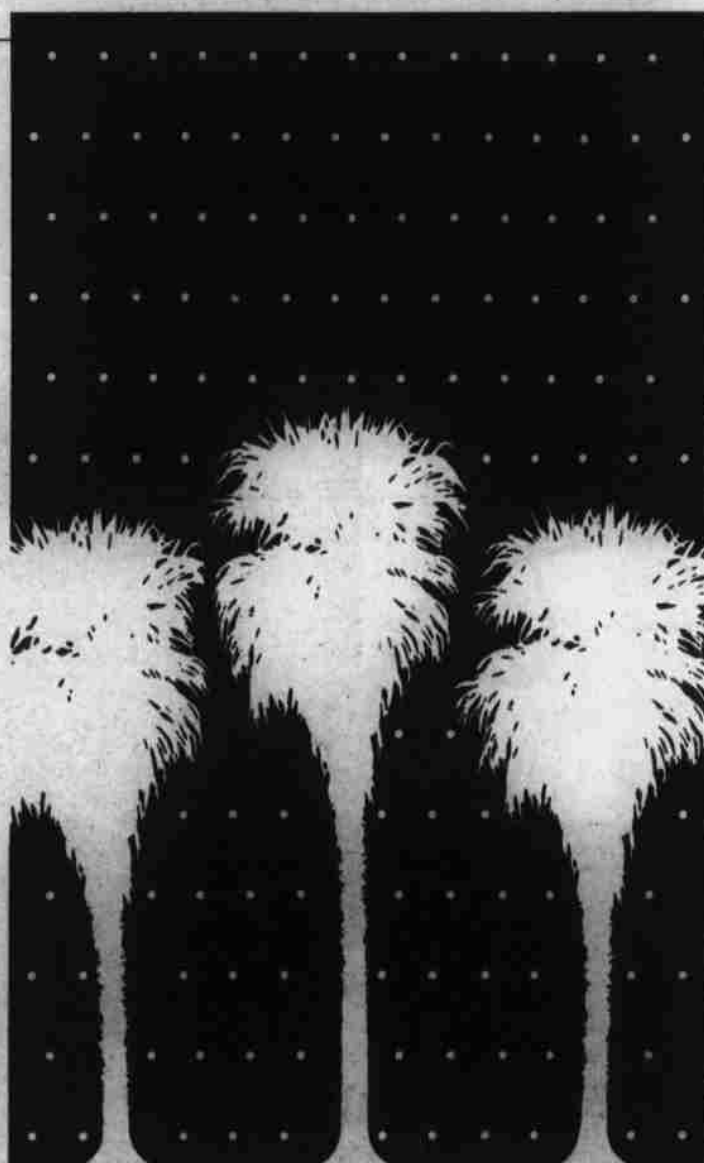
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