



Rescuers search for survivors in the wreckage.

helicopters about 32 km north-east of the airport in Long Island's exclusive Cove N about 9.30.

Mr Thomas Gulotta, chief executive of Long Island's Nassau County, said an estimated

850 war murders: man charged

By PETER HUGHES



Polyukhovich leaves court in Adelaide yesterday.

ADELAIDE: The Commonwealth alleged yesterday that a 73-year-old pensioner living in Adelaide is a war criminal who was involved in the murder of about 850 Jews and killed 24 other men, women and children during World War II.

Ivan Timofeyevich Polyukhovich, the first person charged under the Federal war crimes legislation following two years of special investigations, appeared in the Adelaide Magistrates' Court on nine counts laid by the special investigations unit of the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department.

It was alleged that Polyukhovich, who is believed to have emigrated to Australia from Poland when he was about 41, committed the offences in the Ukraine between 1941 and 1943.

The fifth charge against him alleges that in September 1942, near the village of Serniki in the Rovno district of the Ukraine, he was "knowingly concerned" in the murder of about 850 Jews from the Serniki ghetto.

The other charges allege he committed 24 murders in Serniki and two other villages in the Ukraine's Rovno district, Alexandrovo and Brodnitsa.

In a five-minute hearing yesterday, Polyukhovich was granted bail of \$20,000 to reappear on March 2 and ordered to report to the Australian Federal Police headquarters in Adelaide on Saturday, Tuesday and Friday each week.

He was ordered to reside at his address — which was suppressed by the magistrate, Mr Grantley Harris — and not to change houses without the court's permission.

He was also ordered to surrender any passport he might have in the name he was charged under or any other name, not to apply for a passport, not to approach any international departure points, and not to approach any prosecution witnesses.

In seeking an adjournment to March 2, Polyukhovich's lawyer, Mr David Stokes, said police had taped interviews with Polyukhovich which had still to be transcribed.

The defendant, a solid, tanned, fit-looking man with bushy black eyebrows, dressed in casual trousers and a blue, open-necked shirt, stood silently in the dock during the hearing, nodding to acknowledge he accepted each bail condition.

As he left court he said he had "nothing to say at all. I not say nothing... nothing to worry, I no understand. That's the trouble."

Asked if he had been a soldier, he said: "Never a soldier, never, nothing."

The charge sheet giving details of Polyukhovich's alleged offences says he is also known as Ivanekho, as Jan Poluchowicz, and as John Poluchowicz.

He was arrested at his home on Thursday night and held in the Adelaide Watchhouse overnight.

Each of the nine charges has been laid under section 9 of the War Crimes Act, 1945.

Polyukhovich's lawyers are considering asking the High Court to strike out the charges on the ground of abuse of process because of the long delay in bringing the prosecution.

Mr Bob Greenwood, QC, the Federal investigator who set up the special investigations unit to discover whether alleged World War II criminals were living in Australia, attended yesterday's hearing.

The chairman of the Australian Institute of Jewish Affairs, Mr Isi Leibler, when asked if he was glad that the first prosecution was launched, said: "I am neither glad nor sad as long as justice is achieved by due process."

Mr Leibler said he maintained his position in the debate on war crimes laws, which was that there should be "no statute of limitations on mass murder".

THE CHARGES

The charges allege that Polyukhovich:

- Between about August 1 and September 30, 1941, murdered 3 women and a child near Alexandrovo in the Rovno district of the Ukraine.
- Between June 1 and September 30, 1942, murdered a woman, her child and her grandchild near Alexandrovo.
- Between June 1 and September 30, 1942, murdered a woman and two men, members of the Yankiber family, near Alexandrovo.
- Between September 1 and September 30, 1942, murdered a woman, 3 children aged about 14, 9, and 1 near Serniki in the Ukraine.
- Between September 1 and September 30, 1942, was knowingly concerned in the murder of about 850 Jews from the Serniki ghetto.
- Between September 1 and September 30, 1942, murdered a woman and 2 children aged about 7 and 3 near Serniki.
- Between April 1 and April 30, 1943, near Brodnitsa in the Ukraine, murdered Dmitry Kuzmich Turuk, Antonia Semionovna Turuk, Kondrat Yefimovich Delidon, Alexei Kondratyevich Delidon and Lida Mesnikovich.
- Between April 1 and May 31, 1943, murdered Pyotr Stepanovich Krupko near Alexandrovo.
- Between April 1 and May 31, 1943, murdered a woman near Serniki.

WEATHER

Metropolitan: Very warm to hot with lengthy sunny periods. Temps: City 19-27, Liverpool 18-33, Pollution: low. Yesterday: City

21-25, Liverpool 18-33, Pollution: low. Yesterday: City

NSW: Very warm to hot with lengthy sunny periods. Temps: City 19-27, Liverpool 18-33, Pollution: low. Yesterday: City

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