

port of Marko member of British-American Mission to General Draza
Mihailovich's Hq. from 19 October, 1943 to 28 May, 1944.

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I. CHRONOLOGICAL

On 23 May, 1943 I reached Cairo and was immediately prepared to parachute into Yugoslavia to become part of the British-American Mission to General Draza Mihailovich's Hq. I was assigned to the S.O. branch of O.S.S.

Early in July Capt. George Selvig, who was also assigned to Mvich, H.Q. and I flew from Cairo to our point of departure in Derna. We were returned to Cairo, however, to clear up some questions concerning our assignment and other complications which arose during our absence. The question of our having a radio set and the use of ciphers was being debated with British-American chiefs. British higher policy officials were asked to make a decision on the case. I was not permitted to use my own radio nor my own cipher. All communications would be handled through British Communications with H.Q.'s in Cairo. This was the arrangement prior to my departure.

On the night of Oct. 18 I left Tokra Airdrome by Liberator, complete with all my kit, a large supply of demolitions, one small trench mortar without ammo, personal equipment for British personnel, two containers of equipment for Major Seitz, Lt. Mansfield, and about a dozen rifles, without ammo, of German or Italian manufacture.

On or about 2400 hours Oct. 1943 I parachuted over a prearranged area marked by wood fire patterns and reached Yugoslav soil. There were no British officers or enlisted men waiting to receive me at the dropping area. However, the Yugoslavs received me with a great display of enthusiasm and when they learned that I was an American Officer who could speak their language, their joy knew no bounds. I was offered plenty to eat and drink and sleeping quarters were immediately arranged. The Corps Commander Lt. Rakovich welcomed me on behalf of his corps, which I learned to be the 2nd Ravno Gorski Corps. The area which I had come to was named Ujetince, a few kilometers south of Cacak. The lights in the city of Cacak were plainly visible from my position on the mountain range.

The British Mission, I learned, was located about four hours away in the little village of Pristlonica. I negotiated this distance on horse back and was surprised to find a peaceful, unwarlike atmosphere. The people were busy doing their chores, the farms were being worked in what appeared to be a normal manner. The surrounding country was beautiful, the high October green mountain ranges in the distance provided excellent cover for Guerilla troops. In discussions with the locals I learned that German and Bulgarian troops controlled only the larger cities and main communication lines and that the mountains were free and under control of General Mihailovich troops.

Once in a while, my informant added, the Germans would make a routine sweep of the terrain just to show the natives that there were still Germans in their area and for requisition purposes. "Don't you ever attack the Germans" I inquired. The immediate answer was, "No we must pay a terrific price for every German killed, our homes are burned and hostages are sent to concentration camps and shot." German terror methods were used against every act of violence or sabotage, I was told. This was my first bit of information in Yugoslavia and the reprisal question was always an important item for discussion during my entire stay there.

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On reaching the British Liaison HQ., I was met by two British N.C.O.'s Sgt. "Jock" Ainsworth and Sgt. Ken Jones. Both displayed great surprise as neither they nor Captain Maynard, who was on a routine business trip, knew anything about my arrival nor did Cairo inform them of any addition to their staff. I immediately cabled Cairo for instructions regarding my status and assignment to duty by Major Seitz. Cairo cabled to remain under Captain Maynard's command and fulfill all duties assigned to me by said officer and that I should be careful not to allow the locals to put a wedge between British and American personnel by playing one against the other.

I spent the next few days adjusting myself to my new location. There wasn't much to do and most of the day was spent in conversation with the locals about life in America, the war and other topics of interest to the Yugoslav people. I was asked many times if America would send them supplies, weapons, and equipment to carry on the war against the troops of occupation. I clearly explained that I was not empowered to make any promises and that my assignment in Yugoslavia did not deal with the question of supply.

The local people showed a great affection for America. America to them was a world of Idealism, democracy, freedom, and opportunity. Just being an American Officer made me the most popular fellow in the whole district. To be able to speak their language made my presence most welcome everywhere I went. I was called upon to inspect their troops and to give them little morale talks. These talks did not touch upon politics or the civil war question. After a few days of this routine I was informed by Lt. Rakovich, the Corps Commander, to be prepared to evacuate my present location and go "on the march" as the German Garrison in Cacak was going to make another "Check up" visit for requisition purposes. The next few days were spent moving about the mountain ranges, and the flat country adjoining Cacak and the banks of the Western Morava river. We were housed and fed by the local population.

In the course of this maneuvering I made contact with my superior officer Captain Peter Maynard.

On October 28th I completed my first duty as an American Officer when I made contact with a Robert Marjanovich from Aliquippa, Pennsylvania, who was studying theology in Belgrade, and who left there after the German occupation to join General Mihailovich forces. He was being used as an interpreter by the staff operating the Democratic Yugoslav radio station. I immediately gave him financial help and told him to remain at his post until I cable my office in Cairo for disposition concerning his case. I also asked for advice from Cairo as to how I could recruit Marjanovich as a member of the American Armed forces as he was subject to being shot as a spy if the Germans captured him.

On the 17th of Nov. Captain Maynard sent me to the adjoining Corps. The first Ravno Gorski Corps under command of Capt Zvonko Vuckovich for the purpose of obtaining information regarding targets for eventual sabotage purposes. This information was obtained and turned over to Captain Maynard.

On the 26th of November, I received instructions from Major Seitz to meet him in Bjelo Polje in the 1st Sumadinski Corps under command of Major Smiljanich to spend Thanksgiving Day with him and to accompany Lt. Mansfield, Marko Hudson of the British Mission, and Col. Seitz on an inspection tour of the 1st Ravno Gorski Corps.

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In company with the Corps Commander and four hundred men I immediately set out on the ten hour journey to contact Major Seitz.

On December 4th inspection of the Corps and other intelligence information was completed and I parted company with the inspecting officers on the boundaries of the Javorski Corps under command of Major Gvetich. After returning to my base on Dec. 8th, I dispatched the following message to Cairo:

"Inspection my area with American mission complete. I am retained in operational capacity Mvich 1st Corps (Ravno Gorski Corps). Comply with my five and three cables. Intelligence data forwarded via "Dutch" (Major A. Seitz). signed "Marko".

On December 12th I made an inspection tour of villages that were partially burned by German, Bulgar, and Quisling, Ljotich troops. The villages burned included Banjani, Dubac, Kamenitza, Franjane, Mickovce, Kosjerici, Gorni Milanovac, Seca, Reka. These villages were burned and hostages were taken to concentration camps, shot or sent to labor camps as a reprisal measure against Mihailovich resistance.

It was during this tour that I first met General Draza Mihailovich whose HQ was at Pasina Ravna. It was during this meeting that I requested Mvich to permit me to destroy an Antimone Mine in Lissa, in the district of Dragacevno. Mvich gave me permission to prepare the operation and a promise to give me all the available support to complete the destruction of this target which was monthly producing 75 to 100 tons of valuable antimone for the German war effort. Returning to my base I received a letter by courier to return to the II Mvich Corps and take command of the British Liaison HQ's as Captain Maynard was urgently called to the British HQ for a conference.

I reached Captain Maynard's area Christmas Day and after a brief holiday rest, I dispatched the following cable to Cairo, "Inform Pub (Capt. Maynard) Wix Hq. (Brigadier Armstrongs British Hq.) Marko (My code name) arrived Rakovich (II Corps Area) Xmas Day. Will return Vuchovich (1st Corps Area) to complete arrangements for destruction of Antimone mine at Lissa. After which comply with one kit automatic weapons, rifles, ammo for eventual sabotage purposes for we can't fight Jerry with bare feet, brave hearts and radio London signed Marko". It was at this time I also learned of British plans to evacuate the American-British mission with Mvich. The paraphrase answer regarding this operation sent to me through Captain Maynard's radio from Cairo was that I was not repeat not to take part in the Lissa mine destruction." I showed this message to Sgt Victor Hunt a British escaped Prisoner of War who was staying with me at the time. This operation was closed as far as I was concerned.

On Jan. 15 I was invited to represent the Allied Mission at Yugoslav Youth Congress held in Pranjane, district of Tekovo. I made an appearance and collected a record of the proceedings which will be displayed in another section of this report.

On January 18 I was invited to attend the peoples National Congress at Ba which was being held on January 25 to 28. This congress was described by the locals as the most important function ever to be attempted by the people of Yugoslavia. There was no member of the British Mission present at this congress. I rendered a short speech of greetings to the delegates and arranged a banquet for the members at the close of the Congress. I obtained

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a record of the proceedings and sent the following cable to Cairo Feb. 7 th: "Attended Congress in which all political parties and peoples except communism were represented. Three hundred and seventy six delegates including Serbs, Croats, Slovenes, and Moslems formed Yugoslav National Democratic Union whose aim is reconstruction of new Federated Democratic Yugoslavia."

On or about April 6 Major Greenlees of the British Mission sent me a cable from Cairo marked "Urgent" to prepare a detailed report covering the Congress, with information as to how the delegates were elected. I immediately prepared a seven page report covering this request and sent it to Major Greenlees. It was approved by the Brigadier Armstrong and sent to Cairo. A record of the Congress will be included in the political phase of this report.

During my presence at the Congress General Mvich informed me of ten American airmen who crashed south of Nish. I was told that all the members were safe, well and being cared for by the Chetniks. I sent a cable to Cairo reporting this rescue on Jan. 31st.

On Feb. 1st a Second Bomber Crew was reported rescued by Mvich Chetniks in the vicinity of Uzice. All members of the crew were safe and well. I sent a message via Mvich radio channels for the members of both crews to reach my area for disposition.

On Feb. 1st I received Dr. Peter Yovanovich, an American citizen from Ironton, Minnesota, who was under Gestapo control in Belgrade, and who escaped to the "Free Mountains" with his wife under my instructions. I contacted Dr. Yovanovich in Belgrade through Mvich Courier channels. He remained with me as medico in my area. I dispatched a cable to Cairo requesting under what status could Dr. Yovanovich be recruited as a member of the American Armed forces.

On Feb. 11 I received a report from Mvich source that Mvich was successfully organizing Bulgarian Nationalistic elements and former Stamboulski followers for eventual aid and material support. Bulgarian Garisitions, it was reported, with exception of Leftist groups, showed eagerness for closer Bulgar Chetnik relationship. I sent a cable to Cairo covering this report. In discussing this matter with Captain Peter Maynard I was shown a paraphrase Cable from Cairo instructing all members of the British mission who came into contact with the Germans to join Tito's Partisan ranks.

On Feb. 15th 10 members of the American Bomber Crew from the vicinity of Uzice reached my area and placed themselves under my command.

On Feb. 16th I sent a Cable to Cairo explaining that "I would be able to use Mvich channels to send American airmen to Adriatic coast. Would any craft from Italy be available for the evacuation." I also sent a request for funds to purchase (Black Market) transportation if necessary.

Cairo cabled March 6th: "Most immediate, Evacuation will be on lines previously notified and that the Yanks must accompany you when you move to Mvich Hq. for evacuation preparations."

On or about March 25th I became ill with a touch of malaria and was bedfast until April 7th. It was during my illness that I met Brigadier Armstrong for the first time. He instructed me to look after the Yanks and to remain within a restricted area until evacuation preparations were completed.

The remainder of my time in Yugoslavia was devoted to reporting Partisan Chetniks fighting in Bosnia, and Western Serbia, obtaining supplies for American Airmen, and acting as Liason officer for the British Mission Hq.

On March 19th I received the following Cable from Col. West, my commanding officer in Cairo:

"You are to return to Cairo quickest possible to report. Evacuation being arranged with military mission."

On or about May 20th I requested my office in Cairo to permit me to remain with Mvich, in order to gather intelligence, collect airmen who parachuted in Mvich territory, and to act as observer.

I was evacuated on the night of May 28th and reached Bari to report as instructed to the Bari office of O.S.S.

It may be noted here that the following American Air Corps personnel were also evacuated on the nights of May 28-29:
Rescued by Mvich Chetniks on January 24th near Toplica: Lt's S.D. Tomans, P.L. Reinhardt, J.L. Camara, H.D. Henton, Sgts. R. Greens, S.T. Crotti, S. Sika, L.W. Carver, S. Hock.
Rescued in Eastern Serbia near Bor:

April 4th-Robert Hanord, Erwin Frekeo, Edward Ford, Menly Kent, Robert Hupert, Robert Paksmur.

April 6th-John Lindstrom near Lazarevac.

April 8th-S.A. Gibson and W. Elvin, RAF pilot and Co-pilot rescued by Mvich men when their craft crashed into the Danube River near Belgrade.

April 15th-on Kaponik, Howard Baetjer.

April 15th rescued near Paracin, Thornton Carlough, Samuel Ferris, Robert English, Thomas McElroy, Ennis Burns, John Lane, Donald DeLuca, Anthony Russo.

Rescued in Toplica April 30: Forrest H. Jones, Charles Beall, Rodger Thomas.

Rescued near Pazega: Robert Weiss, G. Thomas, I. Foster, Willard Curtis, Wilbur Earl, Leslie Wolfe, and Julian. Entriken.

16 American Airmen rescued by Mvich Chetniks, near Zlatibor, Bilece in Hercegovina, and Zalengore, have been reported in Nevesinje, Hercegovina onedays journey from the Adriatic coast. Plans are being made to evacuate this personnel.

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Composition of A Corps, Arms and Equipment-

The following is a typical example of A Lvich Corps; basically all corps were organized in the same manner:

The First Rovno Gorski Corps numbered 1230 armed men, and had a potential mobilization strength of 12,000 men if supplied with arms. Captain Zvonko Vuckovich a regular Yugoslav Artillery Army Officer Commanded the 1st Rovno Gorski Corps. His Hq. included a Chief of Staff, Propaganda Chief, Communications Officer, Sabotage Officer, Couriers, Administration NCO and a Medical Officer. The Hq. security force numbered forty men equipped with rifles and light automatic weapons. The 1st Corps composed two Districts, Takovo and Dragacevo. Each District was divided into two brigades:

1st Takovo Brigade had 250 armed men,

2nd Takovo Brigade had 280 armed men,

1st Dragacevo Brigade had 320 armed men,

2nd Dragacevo Brigade had 400 armed men,

The Brigades were broken down into Battalions, two to each Brigade; and Battalions into Companies, Brigade and Battalion Commanders were Active Officers of the old Yugoslav Army.

ARMS-

The armament of 1st Rovno Gorski Corps included the following:

300 Model 24 Messer rifles 7.9 MM
 250 Belgium rifles of 8 MM Calibre
 100 Italian Carbine 7 MM Calibre
 10 American 1903 Springfield of .30 Calibre
 20 British rifles of 8 MM Calibre.

There was also about 20 absolute rifles of all Calibres.

The Corps had 55 light automatic weapons of 7.9 calibre. These weapons included German "Zorkas", Czech Zrbojevka models, British Sten guns, and a few Thompson .45 Cal. Sub Machine guns.

There were about 100 pistols in the Corps of all Models and Calibres; most of them in need of repair. The Corps had 300 hand grenades of Italian, British, and Yugoslav manufacture, and it was equipped with one (1) Light Anti-Tank Gun of 15 MM Cal. and 30 rounds of Ammunition. I inspected one (1) Heavy Machine Gun 7.9 Bally in need of repairs.

I saw no trench mortars, light or heavy machine guns, cannon, or medical supplies.

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II. MILITARY

Assignment-

My first assignment was to remain with Captain Pete Maynard, The British Liason Officer, for the purpose of doing S.O. work. Most of Maynard's work, however was centered on the social activities in the villages. Peter was one of the best "Kolo" dancer in the Corps. This type of "carrying on" was not in line of duty and I requested Maynard to transfer me to the First Rovno Gorski Corps where there were no Liason Officers and where I would have some freedom of movement. This request was granted and I became the Senior Officer in the Corps with two escaped British prisoners of War and one American Civilian under my command. I was directly responsible to Captain Maynard and my contact was through Mvich Radio which maintained a daily schedule with Maynard's set. My movements were restricted to this Corps only and most of my time was spent observing local conditions, talking to the natives, and covering the important events in the Corps such as the Youth Congress and the Peoples National Congress and Major Seitz's inspection visit.

Three times during my stay in this Corps I had to remove my HQ. to a remote section in the village due to German and Bulgar terrain inspection visits.

My work was strictly confined to the First Rovno Gorski Corps. This Corps was the life line of General Mvich's HQ. It was the connecting link with Belgrade. Supplies, couriers, funds and troop movements were directed through my Corps area and I was able to acquaint myself with many of Mvich's Corps Commanders and prominent people connected with the Yugoslav Army under Command of General Mihailovich.

STRENGTH

General Mihailovich's real strength has never been determined. He has more sympathizers than armed men. In my conversation with Mvich and some of his Corps Commanders, I was told that the Chetnik forces numbered anywhere from 60,000 to 90,000 armed men. There is really no way in which exact figures could be determined as strength reports no matter from what source, have a tendency to be highly magnified in Yugoslavia.

The strength of the Chetniks could only be determined in areas where there was a British Mission of British Liason Officers. I was the Liason Officer in the 1st Ravno Gorski Corps and I am qualified only to give a strength report on this area.

Mvich's real strength is massed in Serbia. There are Chetnik forces of undetermined numbers in Bosnia, Hercegovina, Montenegro, Lika and Slovenia. Mvich maintains daily a radio schedule with the Corps Commanders in the above mentioned Corps.

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It must be understood that the strength of a Corps varies according to the number of districts which compose its area. For instance, the Corps to which I was attached numbered 1230 men. This Corps consisted of two districts, Takovo and Dragacevo. There are other Corps comprising as high as six districts and numbering 4,000 men or more.

The above equipment was obtained from supplies of the old Yugoslav Army, captured German and Italian arms resulting from Italy's capitulation, and 4 British Supply planes. There was a critical need for ammunition. The soldiers had only 10 to 100 rounds of ammunition per gun.

British Battle Dress uniforms were issued to one out of each 50 soldiers. Only about 25% of the men in this Corps had shoes. The rest wore light, low-cut "Opankes" which are similar to our Indian Moccasins. Many of the men were barefooted and almost all were poorly clothed in native home made breeches and short coats. These were made on the primitive looms of the peasants. None of the men received a pay of any kind. The ages of these men ran from 18 years to 55 years of age. In a few cases it was possible to find even 14 year olds and 70 year olds carrying rifles. There were thousands of body lice. The soldiers had no change of clothing and bathing facilities were few. Medical facilities were most inadequate. Skin Diseases, body sores, and infection were of a high percentage.

It must be remembered that these were the conditions in my operational area. Some areas were worse off: others were fortunate due to British Supply Sorties.

Many of the Corps never received a British Supply Sortie. In some cases as high as 50 planes were received by Evich Corps Commanders since Yugoslavia's entry into the war.

With the exception of a few American Arms and plenty of American dollars I never saw another item of American manufacture.

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MORALE

Morale among Kvich forces and the local population was good. The forests and the rugged mountains still echoed with the songs of Serbian patriots. Their troops were poorly dressed, underfed, and lacked equipment but their faith in general Mihailovich, King Peter, and ultimate victory was unshakeable.

"With faith in God, for King and Country" is their slogan. "Freedom or death" was their battle cry.

It was difficult to determine what effect Radio London's propaganda had on the morale of Kvich forces. The Corps commanders with whom I talked to about Anti-Kvich propaganda was satisfied to regard this propaganda as high level politics and subject to change without notice. The following are their remarks in substance:

It was sad to realize that our allies had turned against us. We went to war and committed suicide for Allied interests. We were the ones who created the "27th of March in 1941" and overthrew the corrupt Yugoslav government, just to remain loyal to our allies. After many British promises of aid which never came, we were forced into the mountains of Serbia to continue our resistance. Thousands of our people were killed and our villages were destroyed because of this resistance. It was the Serbs, they added, who said no to Hitler's demands. This all happened during the "black days" for the Allies. Germany had a pact with Russia. England's position was uncertain. America had not yet entered the war. Hitler was grinding the small countries into submission. Armed with nothing but pride and honor we Serbs faced the might of the German Armies. It wasn't German alone that forced us into capitulation. Italy, Bulgaria, Hungary, Roumania, and the traitorous Croats all played their parts. We retained our honor but we lost our lives to remain loyal to our British brothers.

We sacrificed our homes and our families. Thousands of our Serbs were slaughtered by the Ustasi and the German and Bulgar punitive expeditions.

Today we are called Quislings by our Allies. General Mihailovich, who was the first man to organize our guerrilla forces, has been branded a traitor.

We were asked to resist the Germans while the British warned the peoples of other countries not to start premature activity against the German monster, who was yet very strong and very dangerous.

The British sent us a few arms but these were inadequate for any operations of any kind.

The Partisan threat is a serious one. We cannot fight Germans and Partisans with the arms we have. The British have cut out all our supplies, saying that they were being used to create a Civil War. Now we are in a position where we cannot fight the Germans nor protect ourselves against the growing strength of the Partisans. England had disowned us and they are only aiding Tito's forces.

The allies are with Tito. The Quislings troops are fighting with the Germans and General Kvich stands alone. But we Serbs shall fight to the bitter end. We fought the Turks for five hundred years before we were liberated.

We don't want Fascism, Communism nor any other ism. What we want is a Democratic Yugoslavia. We want freedom free of all dictatorship. We want a "bit of" America for our people. That is what we expect from our allies as our share in the war effort.

We have a great desire to fight the Germans but we must also get a guarantee that the Partisans won't fight us. We need supplies, arms, clothes, food, and equipment. The equipment which the British have sent was not adequate to properly equip a thousand men. We cannot fight with broom sticks.

Tito is getting the full support of the Allies. He is getting air support, guns, ammunition, food and clothing. Allied soldiers help him to fight the Germans. When the Germans have left Yugoslavia, Tito will fight us. Our fate is sealed. We have nobody to turn to but America. America is our only hope.

We feel that the Four Freedoms will be guaranteed to our suffering masses.

We love America. We cannot tolerate the British who have broken promises and we fear the Russians.

The United States did not send us arms or equipment, but if they can give us a bit of freedom and democracy we shall feel that our efforts have been well repaid.

We are fed up on politics and promises. We don't want anyone to force us into accepting something which we don't believe. Give us some peace and a right to live in our country without interference from anybody.

This was the story of the people with whom I have lived with for almost eight months. It was hopeless for me to offer a solution.

Discipline among Mvich Troops was excellent. It was modelled after the old Yugoslav Army system of loyalty and blind obedience to Army command. Mvich's whole organization is still a remnant of the Yugoslav Army which would not lay down its arms after the capitulation. Mvich's staff is composed of regular Army officer, Junior Officers, and NCOs are regular army or reserve personnel. Promotions are difficult to obtain.

Officers must be in rank for two or three years before they are eligible for promotion. There has however been a few exception to this rule. Mvich has two sons in the ranks, one is a private the other is a Sgt. Schools for N.C.O.s and reserve officers have been established to teach guerilla tactics and strategy. Promotions have been held down to a minimum for fear of the "Favoritism" bogie.

I have never during my stay in Yugoslavia heard a soldier say "no" to a command by his superior officer or NCO. A soldier in Serbia commands the respect and admiration of men, women and children. Both soldiers and civilians salute anyone carrying a rifle. The old veterans of the Balkan and World wars take their hats off to passing troops. When a column meets an oxcart, the peasant owner immediately stops and pulls to the

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side of the road. Pomaze Bog Junaci (God help you my heroes) is his greeting. Bog ti Pomaga (God help you) chorouses the passing troops.

Mvich troops are fed by the local population. When mobilized each unit has its own supply wagons. Mvich Corps are only mobilized when needed. Small security groups are always maintained but most of the soldiers are sent home to maintain their farms, and families. This system relieves the necessity of requisitioning food for large forces on the march. Each village, town and district has a local commander who requisitions food from the population. This food is placed in Army storehouses and is only used when Mvich forces are fully mobilized.

MILITARY ✓

General Mvich has 14 enemies in Yugoslavia. They are the Germans, Bulgars, Croatian Ustasi, Partisans, Hungarians, Roumanians, White Russians, Arnauti, Moslem, Frewilligen Corps, Medich, Ljotich, Rupniks, Quislings, and the Quisling Chetniks under the command of Kosta Recanatz. Most of these forces, even if a potential threat to Mvich, are of little importance. They were created by the Germans in their "divide and conquer" policy.

In the early days of Mvich resistance the Quisling Chetniks and most of their leaders were liquidated. Some members of this organization including officers joined Mvich forces. It has been reported that that Kosto Recanatz, the old Chetnik leader, has been captured and is being held by Mvich to answer military court charges.

BULGARS ✓

Bulgarian troops are used in Serbia as interior guards and policing forces. In Southeastern Serbia border clashes between Bulgars and Chetniks are occasionally reported. Mvich has been making efforts to organize the Bulgarian followers of Stamboulski, the former peasant leader, for aid and support in the event of Bulgarian capitulation. I don't know the success of these efforts but Mvich contacts in Bulgaria are considered good. During his term of duty as Yugoslav Military Attache to Bulgaria Mvich made many acquaintances with former Stamboulski followers.

I met a young student who represented the Bulgarian Peasant Youth Movement at the Yugoslav Youth Congress held in Pranjane on January 15, 1944. I later met a Bulgarian newspaper correspondent who was going to Bulgaria to organize aid for Mihailovich.

Serbs who spoke to Bulgarian soldiers in Cacek report that their morale is very low. Bulgars show no willingness to fight and if left perfectly alone are quite harmless. Bulgar garrisons are staffed by German officers, whom they hate and fear. Most of the Bulgar troops in Serbia are men of middle age and older. Allied bombing of their cities has demoralized them considerable and they speak of peace and a desire to go home. "The Germans have tricked us again", they sadly explain.

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In recent months the Bulgarians in Cacak are selling arms, ammunition, shoes, items of clothing and cigarettes. The money received in exchange for these articles was being spent to purchase civilian clothing. The strength of Bulgar garrisons in Serbia has been estimated at four and a half divisions. Most of these forces are concentrated in Southern Serbia along the Bulgarian Yugoslav boundaries.

Quisling Troops of Dmitrija Ljotich

The Quisling Troops of Dmitrija Ljotich are the old Fascist Yugoslav political elements known as the Eborasi. They are used as a policing force in Belgrade and other cities and villages in Serbia. These troops are used exclusively within the boundaries of Serbia and their main purpose is to fight the Partisans.

Ljotich Quislings also fight the Chetniks whom they consider bandits. Ljotich-Chetnik troop clashes are frequent. Most of the Ljotich Quislings activity is centered in the Oplenacki and Grosacki Districts and clashes between the Chetniks have been frequently reported from the cities of Arandjelovac, Valjevo, Arusevac, and Bragujevac.

The morale of these troops is low. Recent German reverses and the capitulation of Italy has been a tremendous demoralizing factor.

Ljotich troops include a large percentage of young men from the ages of 17 to 35.

Dmitrija Ljotich, the fascist leader in Yugoslavia, and the commander of these Quislings, made attempts to infect the youth of Yugoslavia with the "disease" of Fascism so that they would become ideological fighters. With Italy's capitulation and German reverses Ljotich's ambitions were defeated.

Ljotich Quislings have been recently reported to be deserting and joining the Chetnik Partisan activity in Dragacevo. Ljotich forces placed themselves under the command of Mvich Corps Commanders. When Ljotich is liquidated, it is my opinion that most of his troops will place themselves under the command of General Mihailovich.

Ljotich Quislings are reported to number about five thousand well equipped men.

German : Chetnik Activities.

General Mihailovich is not fighting the Germans at the moment. He has his own reasons for not fighting the Germans, but the fact remains that during my stay in Serbia I did not see a German-Chetnik clash. Most of Mvichs operations were pattereded along the following lines of resistance :

On the 20th of May, 1944 a small group of Chetniks under the command of Captain Gaga Topalovich of the Mvich Corps stopped a passenger

train and on the railroad line between Belgrad and Milanovac. Fourteen Germans were escorted from the train and disarmed. The Germans were then forced to disrobe while the Chetniks collected their clothing. One German protested to the proceedings and his throat was promptly slashed. The fourteen nude Germans, including the corpse, were then permitted to continue on their journey.

There were earlier reports of disarming and disrobing Germans along the Cacak-Milanovac-Belgrad railway line. Earlier Mvich operations against the Germans is a matter of record and does not merit repetition in this report. It is significant to know that Mvich's last great effort against the Germans occurred in early October 1943. This operation was witnessed by members of the British American Mission. General Mvich's operations against the troops of occupation in Visegrad, Rogatica, and Sokolac resulted in the capture of these cities. Mvich immediately began to reorganize his forces for a push into Sarajevo, the fourth largest city in Yugoslavia.

During these operations the Chetnik forces were attacked from the rear by the Partisans and Mvich was forced to withdraw and terminate operations. Chetniks with the aid of British Mission Personnel also destroyed the bridge across the Drina river. A short time later Radio London credited the Partisans with the capture of Visegrad, Rogatica and the bridge across the Drina. British arms and equipment which was promised to Mvich after this operation never arrived. This was Mvich said that he would not plan another operation against the Germans until his efforts were safe from Partisan interference. There have been a few small incidents reported against the Germans by the various Corps Commanders but these are insignificant. The Germans are perfectly willing to leave Mvich alone as long as he does not attack them. With the exception of requisition parties and small German patrols who make routine appearances on the terrain, the Germans spend most of their time in the garrisons within the larger cities. German requisitioning units come to the villages and present their demands to the village president for the amount of food that his area must contribute. They then proceed to take eight or ten hostages from the village until the food is delivered to a designated German Collecting agency and the hostages are then released.

The Germans have taken an attitude of tolerance towards the Chetniks since Mvich continues fighting Partisans. The civil war definitely aids only the German interests in Yugoslavia.

Most of Mvich's activity in the last three months has been centered around both banks of the Drina and Lim rivers and the mountainous regions of Serbia. The second and fifth Proletariat Divisions, under command of Marshal Tito made efforts to infiltrate Serbia and gain a foothold. Mvich's armed strength was used to repulse these attacks. These operations started in the latter part of February and continued until May of this year. Mvich forces were very successful in these operations and the remnants of the Proletariat Divisions were routed into Bosnia and the Sanjak.

On May 10, 1944 I intercepted the following radio message instructed to the Mvich Corps Commanders. This message came from Mvich HQ and the original is in my possession. This cable clearly defines Mvich's present policy.

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The message follows:

"No. 707 May 7, this year

Most Confidential

The attempt of the Communists to penetrate into Serbia has been repulsed by us and now we are to further our operations until their extermination, which can be accomplished if our units are not in conflict with other forces. German forces have not interfered with us in this last operation even though we do not have any contact or agreement with them. So that we will not make difficult or jeopardize the arranged operations against the Communistic group, it is necessary to stop all operations against the Germans, but the propaganda must continue. This is necessary because whoever attacks Germans would directly aid the Communists and make the situation grave for our forces. Therefore, until further orders all armed operations against the occupying forces will cease. Let it be known that we have large number of enemies.

We cannot fight against all simultaneously. Now, the most important enemies are the Communists. Let it also be know that the Communists attack only us and evade contact with the Germans and Bulgars."

My observations strongly lead me to believe that Mvich, with his present armed strength, prevents him from engaging the German invader. Mvich is concentrating all his efforts against the growing strength of the Partisans. Contrary to many opinions the Partisans do attack Mvich in strong force. Mvich is now in a position where he cannot fight the Nazis and defend himself against the Partisans. If the Germans are forced to withdraw into Northern Yugoslavia, the Partisan forces will then have their hands free to mass their forces against Mvich in an effort to liquidate him.

Reprisals: ✓

Any form of resistance or act of sabotage against the Germans brings up the question of reprisals. The German forces put the reprisal menace on a very business like basis. For every one German killed a picked number of hostages are shot. For every act of sabotage a number of peasant homes, in the vicinity where the sabotage occurred, are destroyed.

It's quite a simple task to liquidate a few Germans who appear on the terrain, but when a punitive German expedition arrives Mvich and his Chetniks must take cover in the mountains while the Nazis destroy villages and kill defenseless peasants.

General Mvich is committed to save and protect his people, who to date have paid a terrific price in reprisals. Mvichs opinion is that small clashes of his guerrillas with the Germans are adventurous and suicidal and do not amount to much in the allied war effort. It is

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Movich's plan to use his strength in a cooperative plan for joining allied military operations in Yugoslavia. Movich will not start any activity which will only divert a few thousand Germans from another front and which will cost more Serbian lives and homes. The task of chasing the Germans out of the Balkans belongs to our great allies. The only thing that I can do is to smack the Nazi monster across the tail on his way out of Yugoslavia "says Movich". Before I can do this, however, the Partizan renace to my plans of operation must be removed and the Allies must arm, equip, and, aid my forces.

Enclosed photos are an example of German reprisal measures. These photos were obtained from a photographer who was accumulating them to present to a War Criminals Board after the war. Some of the pictures, also depict Ustasi terror among the Serbian population.

German: Chetnik Collaboration. ✓

During my entire stay in Serbia I have never seen evidence of Chetnik-German collaboration. If there was a state of collaboration I did not witness it nor did I get evidence to substantiate these charges. I did receive reports which revealed that certain Corps Commanders were obtaining ammunition and arms through dubious means from the Germans. I also learned that Chetnik wounded were treated at the hospital in Cacak where the Germans had a small garrison. Movich himself told me that he had men who were assigned to beg, borrow, buy, or steal ammunition from the German ammunition dump in Gorenovac. A reliable source told me that three truck loads of ammunition arrived in Gorna Gorvnica. The German chauffeurs parked their vehicles and "lost" themselves while the Chetniks hauled the ammunition away on ox carts. This incident occurred in the II Ravno Gorski Corps under command of Captain P. Makovich.

Peasants told me that truck loads of ammunition were piled along the road by Germans. The Germans would then drive away and Chetniks would appear to haul the ammunition away. This incident also took place in the II Ravno Gorski Corps. There were reports which could not be confirmed of Chetnik Corps Commanders receiving large supplies of arms and ammunition. in Montenegro, Hercegovina, and Southern Serbia.

I did not see any increase in arms or other evidence of German equipment in my Corps area.

Whatever there was Partisan activity one was sure to hear of Germans, Bulgars, Medich, Ljotich, and Chetnik operations. I do not know if these forces were under a unified command. From all the reports that I received I was told that the Chetniks operated separately of the Germans and Bulgars. I was told Medich and Ljotich troops would place themselves under the command of Movich Corps Commanders. Movich Corps Commanders were reported to be using German vehicles to transport troops. Being confined to a small area I could not investigate and obtain absolute evidence of these collaborations charges. I don't believe that Movich would approve of this conduct by his Corps Commanders. When I asked Movich about some of these charges, he replied in substance only a fool could believe that I am collaborating with the Germans after what the German invader has done to my people. I have a deep hatred for the Nazi and I owe them a bitter debt of revenge. The whole world knows that the Germans are losing the war. I

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shall clear myself (these charges when I begin operations against the Germans.

It is important that one should realize the loose amount of control that Mvich has over his Corps Commanders. Much of what happens on the terrain in the various Corps may not be known by Mvich himself. Mvich's army is not made up of the purest specimens of manhood. The guerilla army consist of many rouges, cutthroats, and undesireable elements. General Mvich's forces do not always conduct themselves along the conventional army standards. Three years of soldiering in the mountains and forests of Serbia under the most primitive conditions have their effect on a man. Morals are sapped and personal health and hygiene habits are ignored. Disease and malnutrition undermine the characters of men.

I don't believe that Mvich is a collaborator and Mvich will clear himself of all charges when he launches his attacks against the Germans. It is not logical that a man like Mvich, a soldier, a man of high character, and the representative and protector of his people would remain in the mountains for three years and become a collaborator when he could very well have remained in Belgrade as a Quisling of Medich's type.

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CHEJNIKS VS PARTISANS

General Mvich is fighting the Partisans and he will continue to fight them as long as they remain a menace to his position in Yugoslavia. It must be clearly understood that in Serbia Mvich has been fighting a defensive war against Partisan elements. The Second and Fifth Proletanat Divisions have made determined efforts to invade Serbia from the North and Northwest. These operations commenced in February and continued until early May, this year. The results of these operations were made available to me through Mvich intelligence reports and I sent them on to Major Greenlees of the British mission for transmittal to Cairo. Members of the British Mission were not on the distribution list for Mvich reports.

These Partisan attempts to invade Serbia and liquidate Mvich were unsuccessful. My last meeting with Mvich occurred in May, prior to my evacuation from Serbia. Mvich was in an infuriated state of mind due to Partisan activity against his forces and it was at this time that Mvich revealed his plans for large operations against the Partisans. Mvich's plan was to detach fifty to one hundred men from his various Corps, and form a powerful striking force of 10,000 well armed men. This force was to be placed under Command of Major Racich, and the mobilization was to be completed by June 15th 1944. Mvich was then going to send these forces into Bosnia, Sanjak, Montenegro and Herzegovina in an effort to cleanse these areas of Partisans.

Mvich also needs an outlet to the sea and he has prepared large scale operations to establish his positions in Montenegro and Herzegovina. General Mvich considers the Partisans movement as purely communistic. Mvich also believes that the Partisans are his first enemy since he feels that the Germans will one day leave Yugoslavia and the Partisans will remain to continue their political war against him. There is no doubt in my mind that the Partisans and Chetniks will arrange their forces in a "show down" fight as soon as the Germans withdraw from Yugoslav soil. The Yugoslavia "affair" will assume the characteristics of the Spanish Civil War unless the great allied powers intervene to stop it.

Mvich and his supporters are making every effort to contact Greek, Polish, French, Albanian, Hungarian, and even Bulgarian elements for support and eventual aid against the Partisans movements in the Balkans. Mvich must still be considered a powerful political if not military factor in Yugoslavia and unless the Civil war can be extinguished at a very early date it may assume an international complexion.

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It is interesting to note that the Chetniks and Partisans were allied at one time. After Germany's attack on Russia the Communistic elements in Serbia collaborated for a short time with Mvich forces. This communistic element never placed themselves under Mvich command. They had their separate staff and a separate Headquarters. Tito was their commanding officer. This happy medium did not last long and political differences arose between Tito and Mvich. General Mvich who is the powerful figure in Sumadya, the heart of Serbia, forced Tito and the remnants of his Communistic forces into Bosnia where they became Partisans and the Peoples Liberation Movement took root.

British indecision has been partly responsible for the wide chasm which exist between Partisans and Chetniks. Both Chetniks and Partisans were supplied by the British. These arms were mainly used to fight a civil war. It was strange to hear Chetniks talk about their operations against the Partisans. Both sides wore British dress and the British supplied the arms and ammunition to both factors. The only difference between the opposing forces was that the Chetniks wore the Yugoslav emblem on their caps and the Partisans displayed a red star.

In my conversation with a Chetnik Brigade Commander after a Chetnik, Partisan clash, I asked him about the utter confusion which must prevail in a battle where both sides were dressed identically. He very dramatically and with a bit of humor replied to the contrary. It is very simple, he said, "I attach a Yugoslav emblem in front of my cap, then I simply keep switching my cap according to the situations which arise during the battle. If it goes well for us I display the Yugoslav emblem, If things go bad I switch my cap and display the red star."

The Chetniks and Partisans are one people. Their differences are political. Without the Red Star or the Chetnik emblem to identify the individual no one could tell them apart. During the course of a battle, shouts of "Long Live Comrade Stalin" and "Death To Fascism, Freedom For The People" emerge from the Partisan ranks. The Chetniks reply with "Death To All Dictatorships, Long Live The King and General Draza."

Mvich fears Communism in Yugoslavia and he has begun to organize all elements within Yugoslavia who are anti-communistic. In this respect Mvich has been able to contact Croatian elements. Representatives of the Croatian Peasant Party with Mocak as their leader, have held recent conferences with Mvich. It is Mvich's plan to organize a strong Croatian front against Tito.

Mvich has considerable support in Slovenia, also Major Novak, the Corps Commander in Slovenia, is busy organizing all Slovenes who are Anti-Tito.

This new attempt on Mvich's part has very dangerous implications. Almost all the Croatians and a very large percentage of Slovenes are devout Catholics. If Mvich is successful in his attempt, the Civil war in Yugoslavia will have a religious angle to it.

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Tito has been able to recruit Germans, Austrians, Bulgars, Hungarians, Albanians and other Nationality groups in the Yugoslavia Liberation army. There isn't anything which will prevent Mvich from recruiting the Nationalistic groups who are sympathetic to his fight against Tito. If this is permitted to happen then the Civil War in Yugoslavia will assume an international character.

It is true that Tito has been using a very effective "Left jab" against the German forces, but Tito is saving his "Sunday punch" for Mvich and his Chetniks. Mvich and his forces are the only stumbling block to Titos ambitions of becoming the uncontested figure in Yugoslavia and the Blakan mosaic of Partisans ambitions. Mvich and his forces are the only link which separates Tito from complete association with the Bulgars, Greek, Macadonian and Albanian Partisan elements. Mvich is the wedge which prevents this coalition.

If someone could convince Mvich that the Partisan movement is not communistic then there may be a possibility of some agreement to prevent further blood shed among the turbulent masses involved in the Yugoslav Civil War. This however, cannot be accomplished until Communist Commisars, Red Stars, and Communist propaganda are eliminated from the Yugoslav scene.

The people of Yugoslavia will choose their own form of government after the war. Political attempts to regiment and indoctrinate the peoples of Yugoslavia can only cause repercussions which will hinder any allied military plans in the Balkans. The Partisans have certainly been responsible for great political maneuvering in Yugoslavia. Mvich however, was content to allow the political angle to rest with the King and the Government in Exile as they were recognized by the United States and Great Britain.

Chetniks and Partisans have saved the lives of hundreds of American air men. Even Nedich men have been responsible for aiding American personnel. This is proof enough that America enjoys a tremendous reputation with the Yugoslav people as long as we pursue the military aspects of the war and do not get involved in the political cauldron in Yugoslavia. We may however injure our standing in Yugoslavia if we continue to send arms and equipment marked "United States Property" to people who are using these materials to fight a Civil War.

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