

TOP SECRET
AFHQ MESSAGE CENTER
OUTGOING MESSAGE

10T SECRET JK VEKS
ms *dlc*
W
W Balkan
16 *Due*
TOP SECRET

OP PRIORITY
TOP SECRET

TO FOR ACTION: MACMIS

INFORMATION: 15TH ARMY GROUP : MAIN EIGHTH ARMY

REF NO: FX 75902

SIGNED: SACMED CITE: FHDSC

Pass following to Marshal TITO.

"Commander of Allied troops in AUSTRIA reports approximately 200000 Yugoslav Nationals who were serving in German Armed Forces have surrendered to him. We should like to turn these over immediately to Marshal TITO's forces and would be grateful if Marshal TITO would agree to instruct his commanders to accept them and to arrange with GOC V Corps the rate at which they can be received and handing over point on Austria frontier south of KLAGENFURT for return to JUGOSLAVIA.

ORIGINATOR: D C/S

AUTH: R T HANLEY, MAJ

INFORMATION: G-3
 CAO
 G-1 (B)
 G-1
 G-5
 G-2
 SACS
 **

AFSS
 G-2 (CI Plans)
 No 519
 Date 19/5

ACTION			
OI	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	TECH	AIR I
CI	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DOCS	NAVY
SGSI	<input type="checkbox"/>	TRNG	TEL
EXECA	<input type="checkbox"/>	CC	JIC
EXECB	<input type="checkbox"/>	P. B.	IS 9
	<input type="checkbox"/>	P. W.	WR

MC OUT 1741

15 May 45

1612E

REF NO:

FX 75902

f/M/GB

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COPY NO.

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TOP SECRET
AFHQ MESSAGE CENTER

INCOMING MESSAGE

TOO: 181700B

CI	DOCS	NAVY
SIGS I	TRNG	ISLD
EXECA	C C	JIC
EXEC B	P. B.	ISD
OPERATIONAL PRIORITY		

AFSC 358/18
bb

~~TOP SECRET~~

TOP SECRET

FROM : MACMIS

TO : AFHQ INFO REAR MACMIS

REF NO THIS MESSAGE : 804, 18 May 1945

Following message has been received from Yugoslav
GHQ for Field Marshal ALEXANDER:

"Will you please inform Field Marshal ALEXANDER that the Marshal has received his signal of May 16th about transfer of 200,000 Yugoslavs who are now in AUSTRIA and the evacuation your forces from the Island VIS. The Marshal is in full agreement with Field Marshal ALEXANDER's proposals and thanks him for them. The 200,000 Yugoslavs will be taken over by the Third Army HQ who have received necessary instructions to this effect. Will you kindly inform us where our delegates for reception of the prisoners are to meet the delegates appointed by Field Marshal ALEXANDER for handing over."

NOTE: ATTENTION INVITED TO FX 75902 MC OUT 4741 15/5/45 DC/S.

ACTION: G-3

INFORMATION: SACS CAO G-5
G-2 G-1(B) G-1
**

MC IN 13100 19 MAY 45 0305B REF NO: 804 w/V/J

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Circulated for the consideration of the Chiefs of Staff

J.P. (44) 133 (FINAL)

24TH May, 1944.

WAR CABINET

JOINT PLANNING STAFF

YUGOSLAVIA - SUPPLIES FOR THE SERBS

Report by the Joint Planning Staff

In accordance with instructions, we have, in consultation with the Special Operations Executive, examined a minute⁺ from the Foreign Secretary on the subject of increasing the size of partisan groups in Serbia owing allegiance to Tito, and the Prime Minister's reply.

Present Situation

2. As illustrated in the sketch map at Appendix⁺, Tito's partisan groups cover most of the area of Yugoslavia except Serbia where the influence of Mihailovitch is still predominant. In Serbia, however, Tito has a steadily increasing following. His Serbian Command, in three main groups, numbers about 11,000, while his Macedonian Command with a strength of about 2,500 is located in small pockets as shown on the map. These bodies are already active and supplies of arms on a limited scale have already started. They are well placed to interfere with German activities in the Balkans, particularly as regards communications and mineral supplies.

Potential Value of Serbian Effort

3. Two strategically important railways, Belgrade - Nis - Skoplje and Belgrade - Kraljevo - Skoplje, run through Serbian territory. The disruption of these railways would be of great strategic value to us under any conditions. In the event of a German withdrawal from Greece and Bulgaria, the importance of these lines of communication would be greatly increased.

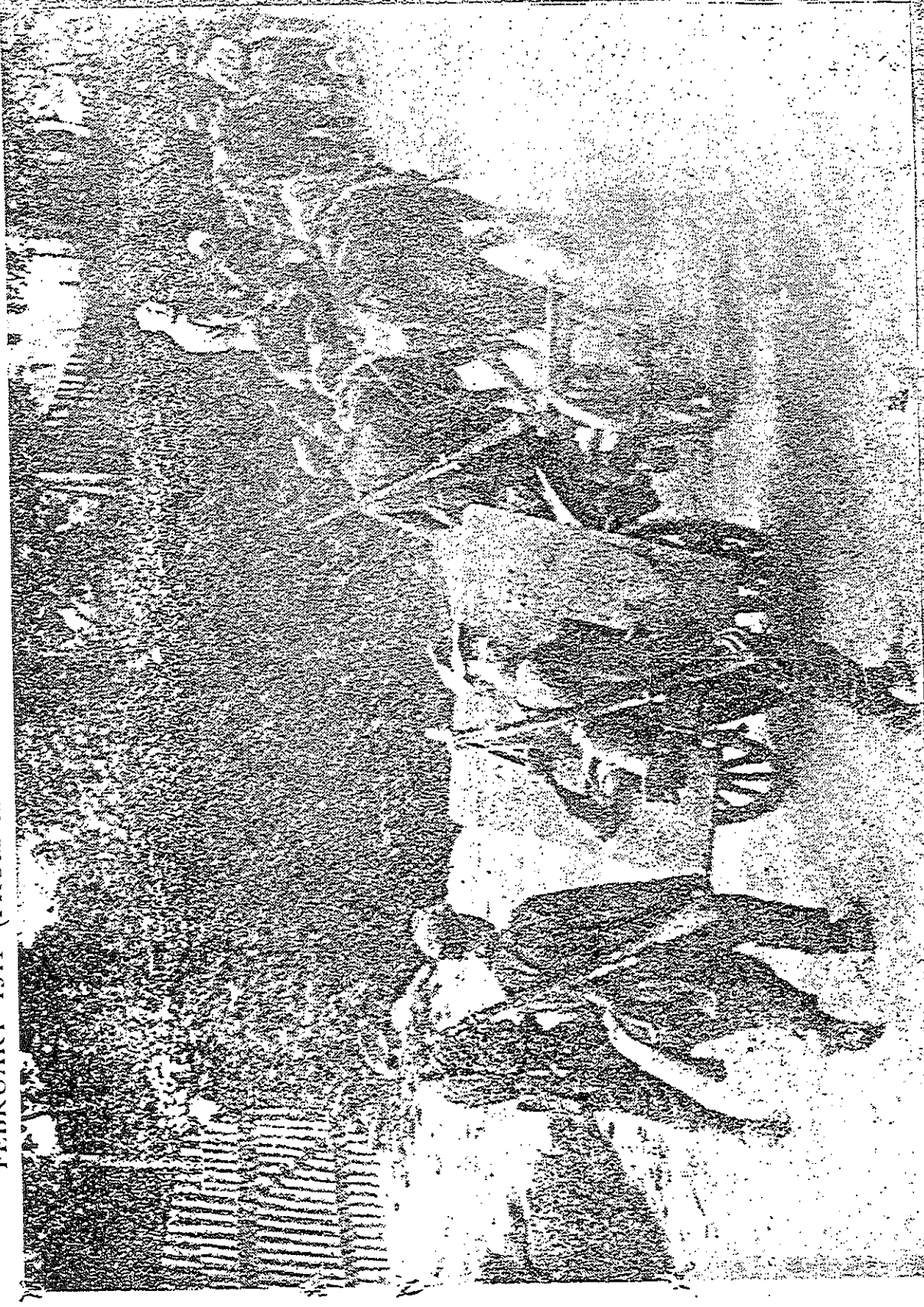
4. The best quality chrome and about three-quarters of present German supplies of the metal come from the Skoplje area and Northern Greece. Should resistance in this area be such as to deprive the Germans of these supplies, it would have the very gravest effects on their war production.

+ C.O.S. (44) 155th Meeting(O).

= C.O.S. (44) 412(O).

^ Not attached.

USTASHI TROOPS IN WEHRMACHT UNIFORM JOINING PARTISANS IN CROATIA
FEBRUARY 1944 (FROM A PHOTO TAKEN BY AN AMERICAN OFFICER)



COUNTRY Italy/Yugoslavia

ORIGINAL RPT. JR-2095

SUBJECT Military/Political

DATE OF INFO. Mid May 1945

DATE OF RPT.

DISTRIBUTED 4 June 1945

ORIGIN Rome

THEATRE MED-HQ-DET

CONFIRMATION

SUPPLEMENT

SOURCE Z, Fabian

SUB SOURCE Cain

EVALUATION C-3

NO. OF PAGES 1

ATTACHMENTS

Location of Mihailovic and his Chetnics

1. Mihailovic is at present in Doboij in Bosnia with 80,000 to 100,000 of his men. Other Chetnics are located in eastern Bosnia, in Sangiaccato, in Slovenia, in Istria, and in the Gorizia region.
2. Toward to end of April, 3000 Chetnics fought above Fiume and at Kocevje. Others occupied Gorizia where they were well received by the population. According to orders issued by Mihailovic's Supreme Command, these men were going to cross the Isonzo river and seek refuge in Italy. Tito's bands and troops, however, reached the Isonzo at that time and blocked the transit. The two factions started to fight each other until General Freyberg wedged his New Zealanders between them and enabled the Chetnics to take refuge across the Isonzo in territory completely under Allied jurisdiction.
3. At present, about 15,000 Chetnics are located around Forlì and Cesena; they are disarmed but not prisoners. Among them is the Priest Giuic, who fought in Dalmatia above Knja.

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FOR
DJG

THE DESTRUCTION OF ANTI-COMMUNISM IN YUGOSLAVIA

Draza Mihailovic, an officer in the Army of Royal Yugoslavia who had studied methods of irregular warfare, became the first leader of Yugoslav military resistance against the invading Germans and Italians in 1941. He was supported by the Allies, described in America and Britain as 'The Balkan Eagle', 'The Robin Hood of Serbia' and the 'White Hope of the Allies'. In 1942 General Dwight D Eisenhower, then Allied Commander-in-Chief in the Mediterranean, sent the Yugoslav hero a telegram of congratulation on his valiant campaign of military resistance. General Charles de Gaulle, leader of the Free French Forces, awarded the Croix de Guerre to his fellow freedom fighter against 'the common enemy'. At that time the Wehrmacht, commanded in North Africa by Field Marshal Erwin Rommel, was less than 30 miles from Alexandria. Mihailovic's guerrilla campaign slowed the flow of reinforcements and war materiel to Rommel: He was showered with thanks by Britain's military leaders, and presented with a purse of gold on behalf of King George VI.

After the Teheran Conference between Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin in November 1943 Mihailovic's star began to wane. The wider course of the war influenced the perceptions of the leaders of the two democracies, Roosevelt and Churchill. But a critical factor, never appreciated at the time, was the role played by Communist agents in the British intelligence services. Eventually, the western allies were persuaded to back the Communist Partisans of Josip Bros 'Tito', and to effectively terminate their support for the much larger military formations commanded by Mihailovic. Subsequent research has cast doubt upon the 'facts' that were gathered and reported to the British and American authorities, including the supposedly objective basis that, as Churchill famously expressed it, 'Tito's partisans are killing more Germans'.

Much less well known are the lengths to which the allies were prepared to go to ensure that Tito should consolidate his victory in Yugoslavia at the end of the war. Two episodes stand out. One was the heavy bombardment of several cities where support for Mihailovic's cause was strongest. Belgrade was struck by allied air forces for three consecutive days over Orthodox Easter (7th April 1945). The Montenegrin towns of Niksic, Podgorica and Danilovgrad were destroyed on St. George's Day (6th May 1945). Fifty American B-29's flattened Leskovac in Serbia.

The other episode, until recently rumoured but almost entirely undocumented, was the hand-over to Tito of 200,000 Croat troops, in intact military formations. Allegedly these troops were killed or sent on 'death marches' by the Partisans. But after being handed over to Tito in the second week of May 1945 what *actually* happened? In fact most were enlisted as

Partisans – as numerous units that served the Croat Fascist regime of Ante Pavelic previously had been – and they were then directed against Mihailovic's forces in Bosnia and Serbia. This was a task for which, because of the genocidal anti-Serb nature of Croatian Fascism, they were ideally suited.

This immediately altered the balance of power in Yugoslavia. It meant that Tito's weaker forces could outfight the Royalists; and that Tito could dispense with what would otherwise have been his necessary dependence on military assistance from Stalin. In turn, the suppression of Serbian anti-Nazi patriotism – which had been the backbone of resistance against Hitler and Mussolini – allowed the creation of a new post-war Communist myth of fraternity and brotherhood.

Realising his difficult position in the aftermath of the agreements reached at Teheran, Mihailovic in August 1944 made the following prophetic statement:

'More than three years ago I took up arms to fight for Democracy against Dictatorship in the form of Nazism and Fascism. In fighting for this cause there were ten occasions on which I almost lost my life. If I must die in fighting against a new form of Dictatorship, I shall die bitter because I have been deserted by those who profess to believe in democracy, but satisfied that I myself have fought bravely and honestly and have refused to compromise my cause.'

'Titoism' was an ideology of such profound mendacity that when it eventually collapsed in Yugoslavia that unhappy country was subjected once again to a barbarous civil war, rooted in the ethnic nationalism that had been inflamed and suppressed during the Second World War.

26th April 2004

With compliments from

