

HUNGARIANS BATTLE SERB GUERRILLAS

Rush More Troops to Areas Where Snipers Harass Sentries and Patrols

TERRIFIED RESIDENTS FLEE

Pictures of Horthy Ripped Down or Defaced—Death Is Penalty for Act

By RAY BROCK

By Telephone to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

ANKARA, Turkey, May 24—The Hungarian army of occupation in the Northern Yugoslav Bachka and Banat districts is conducting a violent campaign to stamp out Serbian resistance and destroy active bands of Serbian guerrilla fighters.

This correspondent, who recently motored from Belgrade to Budapest, was able to verify the reports current in Central and Southern Serbia; namely, that the seeds of bitterness and hate sown by the Austro-Hungarian armies in the last war, nourished by Serbian reprisals when the Serbian Army drove the enemy from Serbia in 1918, are bearing fruit.

Hungarian forces moved into Northern Yugoslavia on the heels of the German motorized columns that assaulted Yugoslavia from Szeged and other Hungarian bases. The Serbian guerrillas who had faded away before the German onslaught suddenly sprang up again when the Hungarian occupation began.

Sentries were killed by snipers, night patrols were ambushed and there was widespread sabotage. The Hungarian General Staff, startled by the success of the guerrilla operations and embarrassed by German demands that Hungary clean up or give up the Bachka, rushed more troops into the affected districts.

Sunset Curfew Ordered

Sunset curfew was ordered in a dozen cities and villages, including Bachka Palanka, Odzaci, Apatin, Sombo, Kula and Bachka Topola. The Hungarians posted warnings that sentries would shoot to kill any one who appeared in the streets after nightfall, that possession of arms would be punished by death and that no resistance would be tolerated. Resistance, nevertheless, continued.

Hungarian residents in the Bachka, terrified by the continued warfare, dynamitings and shootings in the night, fled in large numbers to Southern Hungary and to Budapest. Several wealthy Hungarian families—formerly Yugoslavs—had transferred whole fortunes to Budapest banks, and when the German invasion appeared inevitable in late March and early April they fled to the Hungarian capital to await the occupation and the restoration of order. These families are still in Budapest, residing in one of the capital's swankiest hotels and still waiting.

"We are beginning to wonder whether we will ever dare to go back at all," one well-to-do Hungarian Yugoslav refugee told this correspondent in Budapest. "We had many friends among the people around our estate—just north of Novi Sad—but the feelings of the Serbs there are so aroused against all Hungarians now that anybody who even speaks Hungarian is likely to have his throat cut or be shot by the chetniks."

And, he added, "I cannot say that I blame the Serbs." He hurried on to explain: "Oh, I know it sounds strange. I am supposed to be Hungarian again now. To have 'come home' to Hungary. But the ink was scarcely dry on the Hungarian-Yugoslav pact of eternal friendship, which everybody knows was signed after long negotiations and pressure from Budapest, when this government ordered its army to join the German attack on Yugoslavia."

Ridicules German Charge

"I have spent too much time in England," he went on, "to do anything but laugh at the German accusation that the British are the instigators of the war and the plotters of the scheme to spread the war throughout Southeastern Europe. The Hungarian Army—that is, the General Staff and most divisional commanders—is pro-German, and most Hungarians hate the Serbs. Nevertheless, this country's attack on Yugoslavia and the things the Hungarian troops of occupation are doing will ruin Hungary when this war is over and they begin to remake the map of Europe."

"Then you don't think Germany will win the war?"

"Good heavens, no! Nor do most Hungarians think so. But most of these people cannot see beyond next week, next month. They all say: 'What can we do? We know it's terrible, but what can we do!'"

In the cities and villages of the "New Hungary" in occupied Northern Yugoslavia, the Hungarian troops plastered pictures of Admiral Horthy, Regent of Hungary, in shop windows, on billboards, the

sides of buildings, public trams and buses. Night after night these pictures are ripped off, splattered with mud or defaced by chalk or penciled Serbian phrases.

The authorities warned that such activity constituted treason punishable by death. A Serbian chetnik told this correspondent that he saw three Serbs hanged near Pribichevichevo—one of them because he was caught destroying a Horthy poster, the other two because they resisted the confiscation of their horses and attacked Hungarian soldiers, armed with bayoneted rifles, with pitchforks.

"The soldier shot them through the legs and left them lying behind the barn under guard until midnight," he said. "We killed Hungarians the same night, eight of them; we stabbed them to death in their billet in a house near the village."

Hungarian directional road signs and the new Hungarian markers nailed over the old Yugoslav nameplates on the railroads and highways at either end of all cities and villages get treatment similar to that given the Horthy posters.

Hungarian pengoes were introduced almost immediately after the occupation as the only legal tender. The Serbian peasants and shopkeepers, however, continued to pay in Yugoslav dinars and openly expressed preference for the coins. Although the Hungarians warned that the use of dinars was forbidden and punishable by arrest and imprisonment, this correspondent was nevertheless able to buy a bottle of good wine, a huge portion of bread, several bunches of onions and radishes and cheese from a Serbian shopkeeper in the village north of Novi Sad, presenting dinars in payment and receiving dinars in change from the bearded little shopkeeper, who closed the transaction with a firm "Long live Serbia! Long live America!"