

# How Long Will He Defy Hitler?

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unity and full mobilisation in case of attack. The War Minister, Milan Neditch, now Hitler's Serbian Quisling, asked Mihailovich to withdraw his memorandum. He refused, and was sentenced to 30 days of military arrest for "disloyalty." He was freed at the instigation of the Inspector-General, Bogoljub Illich, who is now in London with the Yugoslavian Government-in-Exile.

## Into The Mountains

When Hitler's Stukas bombed Belgrade on April 6, 1941, Mihailovich had a coastal command in Herzegovina. As the Nazis overwhelmed General Dusan Simovich's bravely fighting army, Mihailovich retreated eastward into mountainous Sumadija, where Serbia had long fought the Turks. Thousands of disbanded or unmobilised Yugoslavian troops joined him, bringing their arms and equipment. The force was swelled by peasants and mountaineers.

The Nazi press has reviled Mihailovich's army as "rebels, Jews, and Communists." Unquestionably they are rebels. Unquestionably some are Jews, some are Marxist Communists of one shade or another. Many more, probably, are Balkan "Communists", which usually means partisans of the country as against the city, the farmer as against the businessman. These people in general have Slavic, pro-Russian (Tsarist or Stalinist) leanings. The United Nations press

has often referred to Mihailovich's forces as *Chetniks*—the name of a Serbian patriotic body which long fought guerrilla wars against Serbia's oppressors. Doubtless many are *Chetniks* or their descendants. But Mihailovich's army is best described as a patriotic Balkan force, with a majority of Serbs, built around a large nucleus of trained Yugoslavian troops.

In size, in the long military experience of its leader and the great number of its troops, it dwarfs the forces of such historic guerrillas as the Tyrolean patriot Andreas Hofer, the Philippines' Emilio Aguinaldo, and Mexico's Francisco ("Pancho") Villa.

## Some Legends

Tales about Mihailovich, apocryphal or smuggled out of his mountains, abound in Yugoslav circles. It is said that he has done some of his own espionage, eating with German officers in a tavern where the host, devoted to him, was panicky with fright. Nazi officers are said to have driven up to a farmhouse where Mihailovich and friends were staying. When he had convinced the Nazis of his innocence, one of his friends remarked: "That was a close one." Mihailovich replied: "It was close for them, too." He pointed to a bush behind which a guerrilla machine-gun crew had been ready for the Nazis. The General is also rumoured to have done a brisk trade exchanging Italian prisoners for Italian gasoline at the rate of one Italian private for one can of gas, one colonel for 50 cans.

To-day Draja Mihailovich seems legendary, but he is a legend with a big basis in fact: the fact that he has kept from five to ten Nazi divisions at a time fighting to conquer the country which they destroyed twelve months ago.



MOUNTAINS of Yugoslavia. From fastnesses like these Mihailovich's guerrillas strike back

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## Sugar Stories

NEW ZEALANDERS can tell amusing stories about what happened when they first registered for sugar rations. So can Americans. Here are some of them:

In Milwaukee, Fobes Ormsby Henderveld de Kaul — a cow called Mooie for short — received an allotment of one pound of sugar a day under the "Illness of Consumer" clause, because her owner, Farmer Harry Goebel, had a veterinary's certificate prescribing one pound of brown sugar daily, the only cure for Mooie's temporary insanity.

A Minneapolis woman brought her neighbour to testify that she had no sugar. "She knows," she explained, "because I always borrow from her."

A father in Secaucus, N.J., who had just registered for his family, rushed back to the ration board for an extra book — his wife had had another child while he was registering.

Judy, aged 2, and Steve, aged 1, children of the Harold Colverts of Oklahoma City, ate the family's ration coupons.

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