



ROYAL YUGOSLAV GOVERNMENT
INFORMATION DEPARTMENT

SUMMARY OF FIRST SIX
REPORTS OF THE STATE
COMMISSION FOR THE INVESTI-
GATION OF THE CRIMES OF
THE INVADERS AND THEIR
ASSISTANTS

FOREWORD

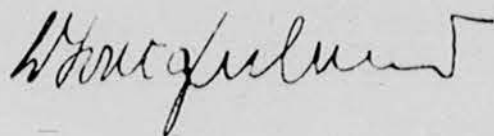
IMMEDIATELY after the liberation of Belgrade, 21 October, 1944, the Yugoslav State Commission for the Investigation of Crimes committed by the Invading Forces and their Assistants, published the first Six Reports giving the results of its work.

THESE Reports make it clear that the crimes committed by the invaders against the population of Yugoslavia, including the devastation of whole Yugoslav districts, were not the inevitable concomitant of military operations. They were committed according to a coldly calculated political plan. The intention was to effect the elimination of the population of certain important parts of Yugoslavia, to prepare in those parts, forcibly detached from the Yugoslav State, favourable conditions for their future German and Italian colonisation. That plan was inspired by the Nazi-Fascist idea of the absolute superiority of physical force in the work of enslaving the peoples of Europe.

THE exact number of Yugoslav citizens killed or deported by the German and Italian invaders is not yet known. One reason is that part of Yugoslav territory is still under German occupation. Also, neither the number of Yugoslavs deported nor their present location is fully known. Nor do the Yugoslav authorities know how many of the Yugoslavs deported or captured have died of ill-treatment while engaged on forced labour either within or without the concentration camps of Germany or Fascist Italy. Thus it will only be possible after the conclusion of the war to obtain an approximate idea of all that the German and Italian invaders have done to the citizens of Yugoslavia.

THE present Reports of the Yugoslav Commission for Investigation of Crimes committed by the Invading Forces and their Assistants show the methods employed by the Germans and Italians in occupied Yugoslavia. The enemy used such methods, being assured that in this way they could break the resistance of the peoples of Yugoslavia and destroy their loyalty to the ideal of liberty and state independence. Those methods and preparations for colonisation were an integral part of the German-Italian war plan, aimed at securing their domination of the whole of Europe. The fortunate development of military operations to the advantage of the United Nations has destroyed this German-Fascist plan.

MEANWHILE, the responsibility both of Nazi Germany and of Fascist Italy for the crimes which have been committed against the peoples of Yugoslavia remains, together with the responsibility of those persons who, either directly or indirectly, took part in the commitment of those crimes. The final victory of the United Nations should make it easier to establish all that has been done, and to ensure the punishment of all who are responsible for criminal acts.



*Dr Ivan Subasic
Prime Minister*

*LONDON,
1 February 1945.*



*Fig. 1. After Italian reprisals in Montenegro;
robbing the dead.*



*Fig. 2. Italians
carry out mass
reprisals with
machine guns in
Montenegro.*

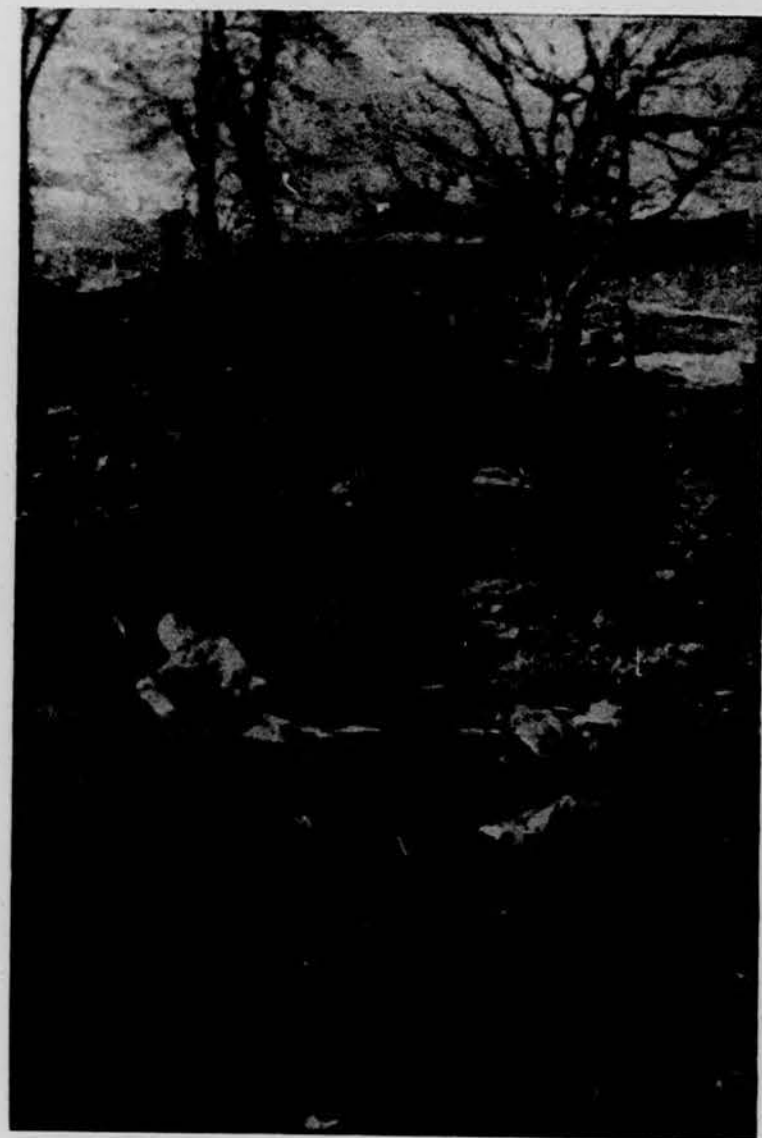


Fig. 3. After Italian executions.

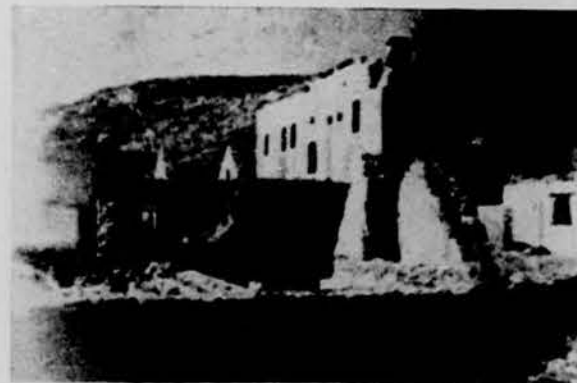


Fig. 4.



Fig. 5.

*Two scenes in the destroyed Dalmatian village
of Zrmanje.*

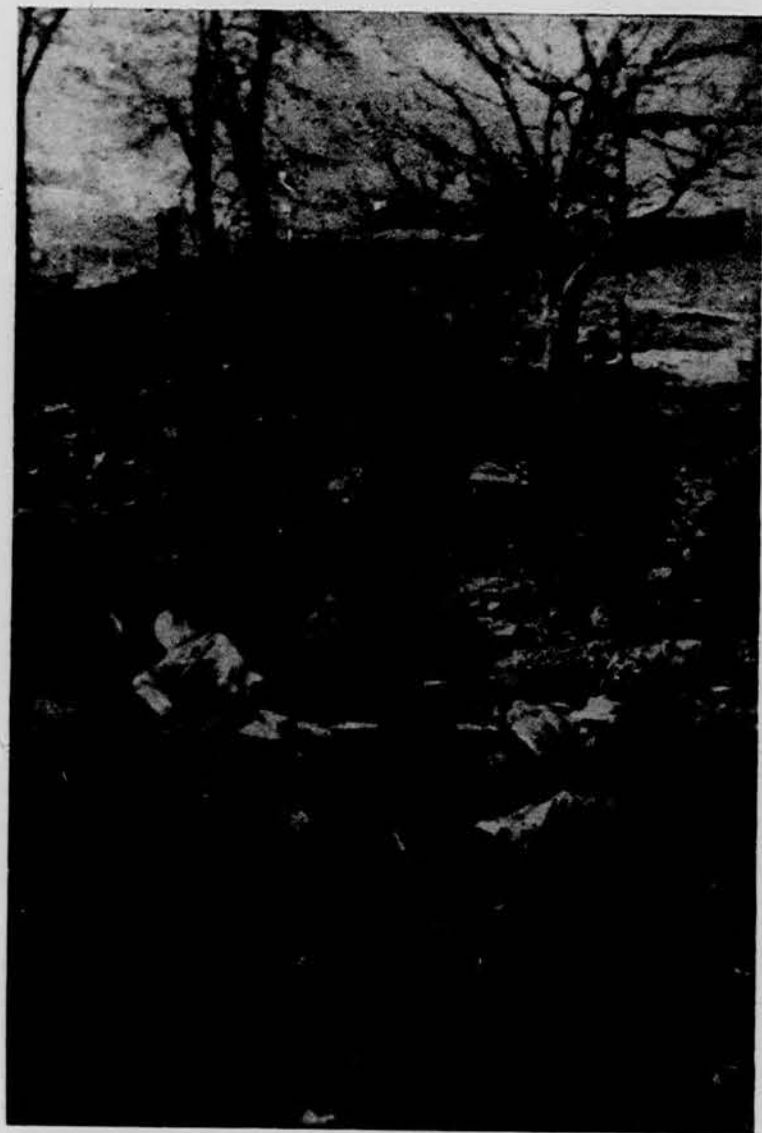


Fig. 3. After Italian executions.

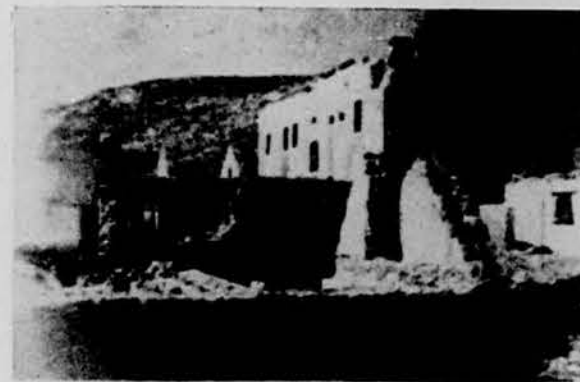


Fig. 4.



Fig. 5.

*Two scenes in the destroyed Dalmatian village
of Zrmanje.*

1. THE STATE COMMISSION for the Investigation of Crimes Committed by the Invaders and Their Assistants, under the chairmanship of Dr Dusan Nedeljkovic, Professor of Belgrade University, in November 1944 published in liberated Belgrade its first six reports concerning crimes committed by the Italian and German invading forces.

2. THIS STATE COMMISSION was set up by an Act of the Anti-Fascist National Liberation Council of Yugoslavia on 30 November, 1943 at Jajce.

At the same time legal form was given for six Regional Commissions, for the six federative units of Yugoslavia as established by the Anti-Fascist National Liberation Council on 29 November, 1943 ; namely, for Serbia, Croatia-Slavonia, Slovenia, Bosnia-Hercegovina, Montenegro and Macedonia. The purpose of these Regional Commissions is to conduct investigations in the federative units, the findings of these Regional Commissions being submitted for final decision and action to the Central Commission.

This legal form given to the State Commissions for the Investigation of Crimes committed by the Invaders and their Assistants finally established the de facto Commissions which had already been working in all liberated parts of Yugoslavia for over a year. These earlier de facto Commissions collected their evidence through the special Committees for the Investigation of Crimes committed by the Invaders and their Assistants, which from the earliest days of the National Liberation Movement have been an integral part of the organisation of each independent unit of the National Liberation Army. These Committees attached to the units of the National Liberation Army continue to function, as special organs for the collection of evidence and the supply of this to the various State Commissions.

3. AS THE INTRODUCTION to these " Six Reports " states, the " Reports of the State Commission are legal acts of establishment of the crimes of the invaders and their assistants. They contain the names of persons, against whom there is factual evidence, together with a description of their crimes, based on those documents which the State Commission at present possesses, and which are sufficient to determine these particular crimes and criminals."

4. ONE BY ONE these Reports of the State Commission will be prepared and published. They will contain positive evidence of crimes committed by the invaders and their assistants for submission to the United Nations War Crimes Commission. It is the intention of the Yugoslav State Commission to reach every established war criminal, wherever he may have found refuge, in order to bring him before the National Courts of Yugoslavia.

5. IN THIS MATTER the State Commission has in mind the decision reached by our great allies the Soviet Union, Great Britain and the U.S.A. at the Moscow Conference, that all war criminals shall be " returned to the countries in which they committed their crimes for trial and punishment under the laws of those liberated countries."

6. THE FIRST SIX REPORTS deal respectively with the following subjects :
 - REPORT NO. 1 : Crimes committed by the Italian invading forces on the territory of Dalmatia ;
 - REPORT NO. 2 : Crimes committed by the Italian invading forces on Montenegrin territory and against Montenegrins interned in concentration camps in Italy ;
 - REPORT NO. 3 : Material supplementary to Report No. 2 concerning crimes committed by the Italian invading forces in Montenegro, with special reference to the responsibility of certain Italian officers and functionaries ;
 - REPORT NO. 4 : Crimes committed against the people of Slovenia by the Italian invading forces ;
 - REPORT NO. 5 : An examination of acts committed by the Axis Forces in the course of " cleaning up " operations, together with examples of planned and conscious " destruction " of civilian population, and, further, the systematic execution of every captured soldier and officer of the National Liberation Army.
 - REPORT NO. 6 : Further detailed examples of the deliberate destruction of the population of some parts of Slovenia and numerous examples of sadistic methods of terrorisation, both against Yugoslav Armed Forces and against the civilian population.
7. WHILE THE FULL TEXT of these Six Reports is in preparation in English, it has been decided to issue at once a brief Summary of the main details of the Reports, in order to make it clear that the German and Italian invading forces in Yugoslavia, together with their fascist assistants from within Yugoslavia, and from other European countries, have systematically, under direct instructions issued at the highest level, grossly exceeded the actions permitted or customary in the usages of modern warfare.
8. REPORT NO. 1 covers the deliberate efforts made by the Italian forces in Dalmatia, not merely to break the resistance of the local population, and generally to eliminate all those persons who were most conscious of their Yugoslav identity, but in some places to destroy the whole population.
 The report states that from the partial material so far gathered it is obvious that the Fascists had undertaken the planned extermination of our people as such and the destruction of all their means and conditions of life, in an attempt to make what they called " la Dalmazia nostra " of a destroyed and mutilated Dalmatia.
9. THE INITIAL METHOD used was the establishment of " courts extraordinary " and of " special courts," by which some semblance of legality could be given to wholesale executions and wholesale internment of the more active members of the local population. A number of examples of the work of these courts are given in the Report, and the names of a large number of Italian war criminals, all of high rank, against whom there is positive evidence.
10. IT IS ESTIMATED that the " special courts " dealt with some 5,000 Yugoslav citizens, of whom 400 were condemned to death, the remainder, with rare exceptions, being sentenced to internment or imprisonment, the average number of years of internment or imprisonment being no less than six.
11. BUT IN ADDITION to acts of terrorisation bearing a simulated legal character, innumerable group crimes devoid of " legal " form have been committed by Italian soldiers, fascists, carabinieri, and junior officers of these forces, against Yugoslav subjects.
 The report cites by name as many as fourteen different groups of such Italian criminals against whom there is positive evidence, and in some cases gives detailed statements concerning numbers of crimes committed by the same men.

12. A FURTHER IMPORTANT weapon of Italian military rule — to which again, under the suggestion that it is proper to carry out punitive expeditions and to shoot hostages, some kind of legal cloak was given — were the so-called "*rastrellamenti*."

The report details examples of *rastrellamenti* — of wholesale destruction of civilian house property, vineyards, stores, and the execution of civilian inhabitants — in, among others, the Dalmatian villages of : Gradac, Miljacica, Podaci, Bol na Bracu, Zivogosce, Smokvice on the island of Korcula, Zupanje, Brno, Orebicic, Zrnovo, Veli Iz, Vela Luka, Drvenik, Zaostrog, Vela Rava, Drage, Muce, Makorac, Porovac, Zrmanje (see Figs. 4 and 5, page 4) Nerezisce, villages in the environs of Zadar, villages in the Peljesac Peninsula, Dol, Vrbanj on the Island of Hvar, Milna, and in six other places, exclusive of Bol, on the Island of Brac.

13. THE REPORT RECORDS that these were not cases of resistance to the Italian forces, punished by the destruction of property, or by the "orderly" execution of francs-tireurs. These were acts committed for the purpose of intimidation, many persons who were shot being previously tortured.

14. THUS, CONCERNING the events in the village of Zivogosic, near Makarska on 27 August, 1942, the Report records that a Dalmatian girl, "... Berta Orlac from Drasnice was brought before Col. X, and in the course of her cross-examination was beaten, stripped naked and portions of her flesh torn off ... After cross-examination she was taken out and shot in front of the house."

15. A FURTHER EXAMPLE of these methods was the doing to death of an old man on the island of Brac by tying him to five goats and driving them over the rocky hillside till the old man was dead.

16. NOT IN EVERY CASE was the victim put to death after torture. Among those arrested by a group of eleven carabinieri (all of whom are named) stationed at Blato on the island of Korcula, was one Mirko Kraljevic. After being imprisoned for a month this man was taken to Korcula. On 30 February, 1943 he was "examined."

The cross-examination took ten hours, and was conducted by five Italian officers and carabinieri, whose names are also given. In the course of the cross-examination Kraljevic was tortured in many ways. His right leg was pierced with a red hot iron, his body was slashed with bayonets, his right arm was broken, he was branded with hot irons about the body, he was hung up by the hair. Burning paraffin was poured over his sexual organs, his left foot was crushed out of shape, his moustaches and beard were burnt and plucked out, and with their fists his torturers broke his jaw and nose.

17. CASES ARE EVEN RECORDED of the torture of small boys of 12, 13 and 14 years. Here again both the names of the boys — who are still alive — and of their torturers, are known and cited.

Among the means used to try to intimidate one of the boys was the pouring of petrol over his hands and setting fire to it.

18. THE REPORT INCLUDES a list of high Italian officers and other Italian functionaries and members of the armed forces who were directly responsible for this policy of destruction and annihilation and for its execution.

19. FINALLY, THIS REPORT gives details of the concentration camps set up by the Italian authorities on Dalmatian islands, and known to the local population as "living tombs" (*grobnice zivih*). It is estimated on evidence that tens of thousands of Yugoslavs, not only from Dalmatia, but also from Slovenia, Hercegovina and Montenegro, interned in these camps, were done to death in various ways.

20. REPORTS NOS. 2 and 3 : These Reports are similar, concerning acts committed by the Italians in Montenegro, to Report No. 1, concerning acts committed by the Italians in Dalmatia.

Besides detailing acts of violence known by the statements both of Yugoslav survivors and certain Italians, Report No. 3 gives, with photographs of the original documents, a résumé of the printed instructions issued to Italian soldiers fighting in Montenegro concerning the conduct to be adopted towards the Montenegrin population, and, further, photographs taken both during and after mass executions in Montenegro.

We reproduce below photographs of pages 1, 2, and 3 of the Handbook of "Special Instructions" issued to the Italian Army in Yugoslavia and on pages 3 and 4, photographs found among the captured material in Montenegro.

Soldati d'Italia. combattenti in Montenegro!

Mi rivolgo a tutti voi che combattete la guerra dell'Asse su questo aspro e difficile fronte balcanico.

Ma parlo specialmente a coloro che, nella dura guerriglia in questo infernale terreno, sanno contrapporre ai sistemi briganteschi dei "ribelli", lo spirito scanzonato e sbaraglinu che già animò gli arditi del Carso e del Piave gli squadristi della Disperala

E' questa la voce di un vecchio soldato che si rivolge a giovani soldati: è la voce di chi molti eventi ha vissuto e che conosce molto bene il vostro animo, le vostre gioie e le vostre sofferenze, e che a voi oggi parla cuore a cuore, occhi negli occhi, sapendo di essere compreso!

IL GOVERNATORE DEL MONTENEGRO
GENERALE D'ARMATA
Alessandro Pirzio Biroli

I

La guerra che state combattendo qui non è staccata dal grande quadro della gigantesca che divampa in tutto il mondo, dalle piane gelate della Murmania alle isole dell'eterna primavera del Pacifico, dal mare di Norvegia in cui galleggiano le mastodontiche montagne di ghiaccio, al dolce e tiepido nostro Mediterraneo.

Gli Italiani in Montenegro e in Croazia, i Tedeschi in Serbia combattono per dehellare nella Balcania quegli stessi nemici, soldati dell'ex Jugoslavia i quali, non avendo saputo difendere la loro Patria in una guerra leale, nello scorso aprile, tentano invece ora, col sistema del sabotaggio e dell'aggressione proditoria, di minacciare alle spalle gli eserciti che lottano contro il morente impero comunista di Stalin.

Perciò, la missione che svolgono qui le divisioni italiane, nel quadro complessivo della guerra, è altrettanto importante di quella delle unità che hanno piantato il tricolore e la bandiera del Reich nel cuore della Russia bolscevica.

Se, per esigenze di politica, i giornali non possono per ora parlare di questo vostro fronte, vi assicuro che da Roma siete seguiti da vicino, col l'interesse più vivo ed appassionato. I vostri sacrifici sono conosciuti: un giorno il velo cadrà e tutti sapranno e capiranno la portata e l'importanza della battaglia da voi combattuta.

II

Il nemico che vi sta di fronte lo conoscete!

A voi che portavate la millenaria civiltà di Roma, dimostrando da vincitori la più ampia generosità, ha risposto con l'aggressione vile e subdola, trucidando i vostri fratelli. Il comunismo di Stalin,

alleato all'oro inglese, ha avuto facile presa su uomini avidi, perfidi, presuntuosi, incostanti e vendicativi, che conservando nell'animo le stesse stigmate delle antiche orde asiatiche, non disdegnano di adottare modi di guerra ignobili.

Essi rifiutano la nostra civiltà romana in nome della falce e martello, odiano la nostra superiorità di razza e di ideali per lo stesso motivo che spinge il Male contro il Bene. Li sospinge l'atavico odio

21. A TRANSLATION of the first pages of these Italian instructions reads as follows :

SOLDIERS OF ITALY, FIGHTING IN MONTENEGRO !

I am addressing myself to all of you who are fighting the war of the Axis on this harsh and difficult Balkan Front. But I am speaking specially to all those who, during the hard guerrilla warfare in this infernal country are confronting the brigand system of the rebels with the decisive and brave spirit which animated the warriors of the Carso and the Piave and the legionaries of Disparata. This is the voice of an old soldier addressing himself to young soldiers, and the voice of one who has seen many events and who knows your spirit well, your joys and your sufferings, and today is speaking to you heart to heart, eye to eye, knowing that he will be understood.

(Signed) Army General Alessandro Pirzio Biroli,
Governor of Montenegro.

The war which you are fighting, which is not separate from the great war which is developing in the whole world, from the frozen plains of Murmansk to the islands of eternal spring in the Pacific, from the Norwegian seas to which descend mammoth icy mountains, to our warm sweet Mediterranean.

The Italians in Montenegro and Croatia, and the Germans in Serbia, are fighting to destroy in the Balkans those very enemies, soldiers of the former State of Yugoslavia, who, unable to defend their Fatherland in proper warfare, in the month of April, are now attempting by a system of sabotage and predatory aggression, to bring harm to the cause of the soldiers who are fighting the dying communist Empire of Stalin.

Therefore the mission which the Italian divisions are accomplishing here is, in the general frame of this complex war, quite as important as that of the unity which the Tricolour and the Reich flag have planted in the heart of bolshevik Russia.

If for political reasons the newspapers cannot at present speak of this front of yours, I assure you that Rome is following you very closely, with the liveliest and most passionate interest. Your sacrifices, too, are known; one day the veil will fall and all shall know and understand the extent and importance of the battle you are fighting.

II.

Know the enemy who confronts you !

You who bear the thousand-year-old civilisation of Rome, demonstrating the greatest generosity as victors, have been answered with vile and underhand aggression, and the murder of your brothers. The communism of Stalin, allied to English gold,

has made easy victims of these greedy, faithless and insolent men, treacherous and vengeful as they are, who, preserving in their hearts the same marks of the Asiatic hordes of ancient time, are not above adopting base methods of warfare. These people reject our Roman civilisation in the name of the hammer and sickle, and hate our racial superiority and our superiority of ideals for the very same reason that Evil is driven against Good. Their atavistic hatred drives them. . . .

22. REPORT NO. 4 is a brief summary of the findings of the Slovene "Zemaljska Komisija" (National Commission) concerning Italian war crimes. It contains the following main points :

23. DURING ITALIAN occupation of the Ljubljana district from April 11, 1941 to September 8, 1943, some 1,000 hostages were shot and further, over 8,000 other persons were done to death with accompanying acts of violence. Among these were also a number of persons who had previously been released by the Ljubljana Court Martial.

In addition, over 35,000 persons were removed to concentration camps in Italy, and 800 villages were completely destroyed.

Large numbers of persons were further done to death in Italian prisons. For example, in a camp set up on the Dalmatian island of Rab over 4,500 Yugoslav subjects died of starvation. Finally, in direct contravention of the laws of international justice, particularly the Second Hague Convention of July 29, 1899 (Articles 1-4, 23, 25, 27, 28, 44, 46, 47, 50) prisoners of war and also wounded men of the National Liberation Army were regularly killed. There were also occasions when even whole hospitals of the National Liberation Army were killed in cold blood.

24. THE LARGEST SINGLE Italian attack on the civilian population of Slovenia was that instigated directly by Mussolini himself by a speech made in July 1942 in the Slovene town of Gorica (from 1920 to 1943 on Italian territory). An Army of 60,000 men, hitherto held in readiness for the purpose, was sent to "pacify" or annihilate the Slovene people.

25. LATER, IN THE COURSE of military operations, the Yugoslav authorities captured, at Novo Mesto in Slovenia, the Field Archives of the so called "Isonzo" Italian Brigade. Some of these documents are worthy of mention here. They are :

(a) Order ZS, of March 1, 1942 issued by General Mario Roatta for the shooting of all Yugoslav soldiers, the shooting of hostages, and the internment of whole families or villages, if considered "suspicious." By this circular the civil population as a whole was placed at the disposal of military courts.

(b) Field Order 02/1537, of March 23, 1942, issued another order ZS, by General Alessandro Maccario. By this all members of the families of partisans, together with other persons living in the same place, were to be shot ;

(c) Divisional Order No. 7,000 of April 7, 1942, issued by General Roatta. By this civilians were made responsible for all acts of sabotage committed in the environs of their homes, with the penalties of confiscation of movable property and destruction of immovables, if sabotage were committed, or, should any persons be found in the neighbourhood of military operations, the penalty of death ;

(d) Field Order 02/6029, of July 2, 1942, issued under Circular ZS, by General Mario

Robott. By this, only persons of under 18 years and wounded are to be brought to trial, the remainder shot on the site of capture.

Here it must be observed that cases are on record of the Italian authorities exceeding even this Order, and executing out of hand both wounded prisoners and persons under 18.

(e) Orders issued in Ljubljana, repeated in Field Orders on August 5, 1942. By these any person on whom any papers connecting him or her with the People's Liberation Movement are found, was to be shot out of hand, and the house in which that person was captured, razed to the ground.

(f) Field Order 05/1036, of March 3, 1943. By this, persons shot were not merely to be simply recorded as "shot," but as "killed in conflict with Italian units."

26. THE MEASURE to which these various orders were carried out can be judged by a further series of captured Italian documents :

(a) A Minute No. 350, dated July 27, 1942, of an Italian Civilian Commissar, to the effect that in his district 120 houses had been razed, and 280 persons brought in for internment ;

(b) A Minute, No. 317, of August 1, 1942 reporting that the number of persons (civilian) seized had reached 500, that fires were blazing all round, and that a certain Italian General in person was conducting the operations.

(c) A further Minute, dated August 8, 1942, stating that the Civil Commissar, acting under orders from the Commanding Officer of a certain Regiment, had razed to the ground a number of villages in the Cernomelj district, and arrested a further 200 civilian men, raising the total number arrested in the Cernomelj district to 900.

The Minute includes the following words :

" I will not report on the despair of the families of the persons interned, but according to your instructions, have refrained from any intervention; although I must admit that innocent persons were involved, I was compelled to remove them."

27. NUMEROUS OTHER official Italian papers, in the same spirit, are cited. Among these is the original order No. 72/6/4, dated December 16, 1942, signed by the Italian General Gastar Gambari, by which nine captured Yugoslav soldiers, among them the Slovene writer, Ivan Rob, were to be executed.

Further, there is Telegram No. 3232, from the Italian Colonel, T. Sordi, asking for the bombing of a Yugoslav Hospital, and also the Order of the Italian General Maccario, dated July 12, 1943, ordering the bombing of the village of Sopot, because of a report that a hospital was situated there.

28. IN THE FIRST WAVE of the Italian punitive offensive, nine peasants at work mowing (July 6, 1942) were taken as guides. Later, their corpses were found at Jermen-Dol.

29. IN THE SECOND WAVE of attack, 98 civilian men were arrested in Babno Polje. Of these 40 were tortured and shamed, and then executed by machine-gun on the hill known as Vrazji-Vrh. Four others were thrown alive into the common grave of these 40. The remainder, 58 in number, together with others arrested later, making the total number 83, were interned. Of these 83, as many as 19 later died in internment on the island of Rab.

This village, Babno Polje, was partly destroyed on two occasions, by incendiary action (July 2 and 25), and then, on July 30, completely razed to the ground.

30. TO COMPLETE THE PICTURE given by Report 4, the treatment of two young Yugoslavs, on the River Kupa, on July 21, 1944 may be mentioned. These two, one of them a Slovene mechanic from Ljubljana named Poje Zvonok, the other a Reserve Captain of the old Yugoslav Army, origin and name unknown, were taken by Italian soldiery, and requested to reveal the position of the Yugoslav forces. On Poje's giving an indignant refusal, he was made to run the gauntlet of the whole unit, each Italian giving him a blow. Poje fell before he had received the whole 160 strokes. He was unable to stand. The Italians drove two nails into a wall at the level of his head, and tied his arms to the nails, crucifying him, and thus shot him.

31. TO THE SUMMARY OF REPORT 4 are appended reproductions of photographs of typical events in Slovenia, taken and treasured by the Italian criminals themselves. (Figures 13, 14, 15, page 20).

32. REPORT NO. 5: This brief report, including photographic reproductions from three military documents, deals exclusively with the slaughter of non-combatant civilians, and the shooting of captured officers and men of the People's Liberation Army.

33. THE FIRST DOCUMENT COMMUNICATED is "Divisional Order No. 121 by which the German Lieutenant-General Neidholt orders (file No. 240/44 of July 11, 1944) the 369th Infantry Division to undertake the "cleaning-up" of Hercegovina, action to commence July 13, 1944. See Fig. 6, page 17 (pages 1 and 5 of Neidholt's Divisional Orders).

Clause 8 of this Order reads: Die Orte Zagnjezda und Udora sind zu vernichten. Die männliche Bevölkerung dieser Orte ist aufzuhängen, die weibliche Bevölkerung u. die Kinder nach Stolac abzuführen." "Zagnjezda and Udora are to be totally destroyed. The male population of these places is to be hanged, the female population and children are to be conveyed to Stolac."

34. THE SECOND DOCUMENT communicated in Report 5 is a Confidential Minute, a "Feindnachrichtenblatt" ("Enquiry Report Form"), issued to regimental commanders before an offensive, under No. 1025/44 by the chief of intelligence attached to the division. See Fig. 7, page 17. These strictly confidential reports concluded with two points of instruction:

The first point was: In reports of enemy losses, only those persons seized or killed in fighting, arms in hand, are to be counted as prisoners and enemy dead. The remainder are all to be considered as "arrested civilians and other dead. This differentiation is important."

The second point was: "Every dead person is to be searched and all usable articles of clothing collected, and brought in."

35. CONTINUING, Report 5 deals with material supplied by the Croat National Commission, concerning German massacres of Dalmatian villages which had apparently shown no sign of previous resistance to the enemy. This material is based on reliable documents possessed by the Croat Commission, principally, the report of an ustasha officer made to Pavelitch's "Ministry of Armed Forces" in Zagreb.

36. THE EVIDENCE SHOWS that a punitive expedition, working according to plan, moved out from Sinj on March 27, 1944, against the villages of Otok, Ruda, Odovicic, Krivodol, Vostane and Grab.

In three villages, 834 persons, old and young together, male and female, were killed and 500 houses first systematically plundered, then burned down. Nobody was spared, not even infants in arms. Execution was effected by machine-gun and hand-grenade. In some cases petrol was used to start fires, and consume the corpses. In other cases (for example, one house in the village of Otok) the corpses remained piled, but unburned.

37. CONCERNING THE EXECUTION of prisoners-of-war, the Report reproduces the beginning of a secret "General Instructions for the conduct of Occupying Forces," used by the German Major-General Rübler under Number 1418/43 (marked "Geheim"—"Secret," being issued by Department IS) of May 12, 1943.

Paragraph 2 (see Fig. 8, page 18) runs: "Prisoners; any person taking part in the struggle against the German armed forces, if captured, is to be cross-examined and then shot."

38. FOLLOWING THIS DOCUMENT, Report 5 gives the names of 20 German officers (of whom 10 are Austrians) responsible for thus murdering Yugoslav prisoners-of-war, and examples of their work.

There are numerous cases of torture among these, cases of tying Yugoslav prisoners to guns and blowing them to pieces, and cases of men being buried alive.

39. IN CONCLUSION, Report 5 quotes from a document which establishes beyond doubt collaboration between chetniks and the German invader.

In orders determining the sectors to be occupied by various units, in an offensive against the Yugoslav National Army of Liberation, General Neidholt includes: "Chetnik Units in sector Odzak-Kifino Selo and Ulog" (Fig. 6, page 17, right-hand sheet); while a junior officer in his report says (Fig. 7, page 17): "Chetniks: the headquarters of chetniks organised by D. M. (sc. Draza Mihailovic) are at present at Gacko, Kifino Selo, Nevesinje, Stolac, Bilece, Gorica. These chetniks are fighting with the German army."

40. REPORT 6 DEALS with German acts of violence against the population of Slovenia, in particular in the districts of Lower Styria (Donja Stajerska), Gorenjska and Eastern Dolenjska.

In these districts it has been the German policy to attempt to transform the whole population into Germans. The German inhabitants numbered 2 per cent. of the population. Those of the remaining 98 per cent. who continue to consider themselves Slovenes, have been subjected by direct orders of Adolf Hitler, to elimination by deportation, execution, and intimidation.

To this end all forms of Slovene life were suppressed — schools closed, libraries and books destroyed, intellectuals and peasant public workers imprisoned.

12,000 Slovenes were deported to Neditch Serbia, 18,000 to Pavelitch Croatia, and 60,000 to Silesia, to forced labour.

41. THESE MEASURES were executed with great brutality. The report communicates the evidence of a railway official, according to which even small children were separated from their parents. In one coach, during transportation, 42 children died of hunger. Their corpses were removed at the end of the journey.

42. IN THE PRINCIPAL TOWNS of the districts concerned, Maribor, Celj, and in Graz (Austria) and Begunje (a penal establishment) there were executions almost daily. It is estimated that over 50,000 persons were shot in these districts as hostages.

43. AT MARIBOR hostages were regularly shot in groups of five, each following group being made to remove the corpses of the preceding five.

44. AT CELJE executed hostages were hung up publicly on meat hooks, the hook being stuck through the neck of the victims.

45. AS EXEMPLARY EVIDENCE of these executions may serve a German proclamation of June 16, 1944, recording the execution, by order of the S.S. officer Rösener, of a group of 25 Slovenes in the village of Fram near Maribor. (See Fig. 9, page 18.)

46. THROUGHOUT SLOVENIA, that is to say, until the Italian collapse, in all parts of the country, the German forces have repeatedly locked groups of Slovenes in houses and then fired the houses.

As example may serve the case of the village of Tominje, where on May 19, 1944, the German forces locked all the remaining male population in a barn and fired it.

Two men who were unable to walk were done to death with picks.

Three women who tried to help these men, were also burned to death.

Report 6 gives the names of 34 persons slaughtered on this occasion.

Furthermore, the same group of Germans continued to the village of Zalesje. Here the population had mainly fled, but two old men were killed and burned, and a woman shot down as she fled and then finished off with the bayonet.

Altogether in Zalesje seven persons were done to death, six by burning.

47. ON THEIR WAY to the village of Pregare, the same group of Germans was dispersed by a partisan ambush, but they then went on to Podbeze, where at the mill they killed an 80-year old woman, her son and four-year-old grandson, and fired the house, while in the village itself they killed 40 men, burning the bodies, some after death, others alive. Here again precise details are known.

48. FROM PODBEZE the same group of Germans continued to the villages of Pregarje and Gaberk, where two and three more persons respectively were caught and killed, and many houses fired.

49. THESE GERMANS were an S.S. unit from Trieste, under the command of Major-General von Zangen and General Kübler. They were assisted by members of the Slovene White Guard. The names of the officers responsible are all cited in the report.

50. REPORT 6 CITES numerous other cases of similar shootings, in some of which the children were compelled to witness the death of their parents.

51. ACTS OF PERVERSION on occasion accompanied shootings. Thus, on June 6, 1944, at Radovnica (near Mirna), Jozevka Kolenceva, after death, was stripped and sexually mutilated with knives.

52. AS EXAMPLE of lack of respect for the Red Cross, the following is cited : On May 9, 1944, a mixed unit of Slovene White Guards and Germans captured a partisan field hospital; 35 patients were bound and marched off to an unknown destination; 10 who could not walk were shot and their corpses burned. One of these 10, wounded in the head, but not mortally, succeeded in escaping from under the burning brushwood which had been piled on the corpses, and has made a deposition.

53. IN REPORT 6, after the material so far summarised, there follow several pages of detailed accounts of shootings, burnings, and acts of perverted violence.

The following may serve as example : On June 17, 1944, a German unit collected seven girls of from 14 to 18 years of age in the village of Trnovo, and took them to the village of Krnica, where they were locked up and told they would be killed if they did not yield to their captors. Three captured partisans were then brought before the house. Their hands were tied behind their backs, their faces were bloody, and they could scarcely walk. They were strung up in front of the window on wire nooses, and then, to the accompaniment of peals of laughter from the Germans, police dogs were set loose on them, to tear their flesh before they had expired.

The village was then burned. One girl succeeded in escaping.

54. AS A FINAL EXAMPLE of the methods employed by the German forces, the following case, supported by photographs captured by the Yugoslav forces, may be cited. On June 9, 1944, an S.S. unit captured two Yugoslav soldiers. They slashed their faces with bayonets and gouged out their eyes, then asked them if they could see Comrade Tito. They then decapitated them with an axe, photographing various stages of the operation. (Figs. 10, 11, 12). They then placed the heads on a table, with a mocking inscription, and afterwards tossed the heads on to the ground, photographing them again.

55. REPORT 6 also makes specific reference to the dregs of other European nations, recruited in a notorious special division commanded by a German General, von Pannwitz. This international fascist division assisted the Germans and Slovene White Guards (fascist units) in all their operations in Slovenia.

56. IN CONCLUSION, the first six Reports of the Yugoslav State Commission concerning War Crimes, cite by name 199 officers and men of the enemy forces (Italian and German and men in German employ) and 33 Yugoslav subjects.

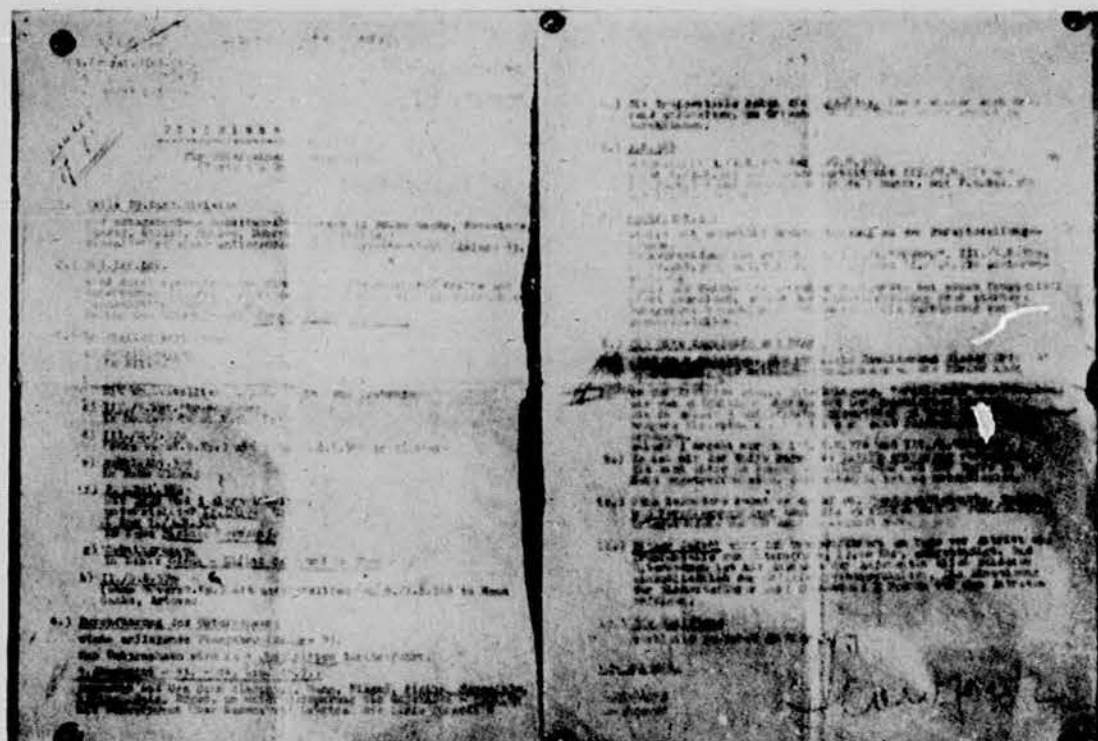


Fig. 6.

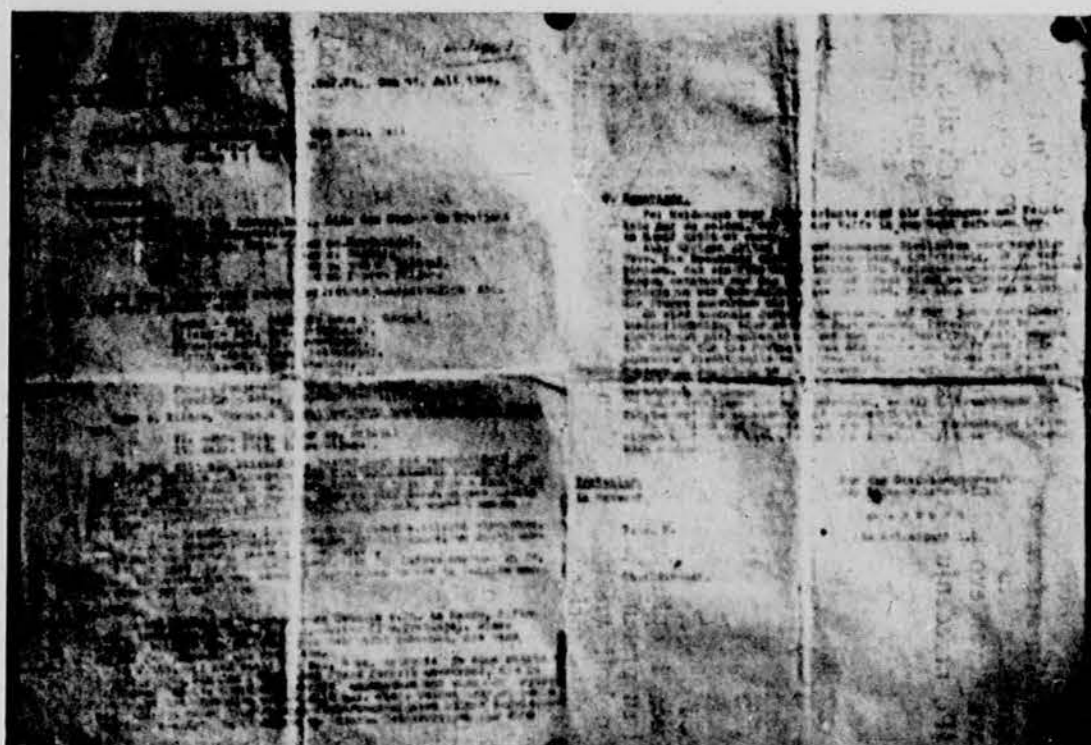


Fig. 7.



Fig. 10.

GERMAN-
FASCIST
METHODS



Fig. 11

Fig. 12.



PHOTOGRAPHS
OF ITALIAN
TERRORIST ACTS
IN SLOVENIA



Fig. 13.



Fig. 14.



Fig. 15